e-Bytes

A Newsletter from e-Learning Services

December 2019

Just in time for the Holidays…Canvas!

The time has finally come for LC State to transition away from Blackboard and into our new Learning Management System (LMS), **Canvas**! Just before Thanksgiving, a contract was signed with Instructure to start a pilot semester of the Canvas LMS during the spring 2020 semester.

The decision to move to Canvas came after extensive research and review by e-Learning Services Staff, a committee of faculty from all divisions, and input from campus stakeholders. After the closing of the most recent RFP with the State of Idaho, it was determined by review that moving forward with a contract with Canvas was the best option for our college.

Setup and training for faculty participating in the pilot semester is still being finalized. Each Canvas "pioneer" will attend training and work with their instructional designer over winter break to be ready to launch in January. As the pioneers work in Canvas, they have been asked to share tips and pitfalls with the instructional design team in order to help us guide the rest of campus through a smooth transition over summer and fall.

What does the migration to Canvas timeline look like?
- Start of spring 2020: pilot of roughly 20 courses begins
- During spring 2020: training sessions held campus-wide for all faculty to learn Canvas; development shells for all summer and fall courses will open to faculty in Canvas mid-March
- Summer 2020: All courses will be delivered to students in Canvas; Blackboard access phased out
- Fall 2020: Blackboard no longer offered; all courses delivered to students in Canvas
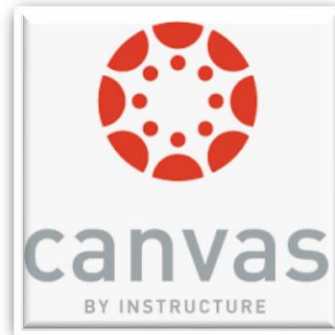
Today's Tech Byte: Squash this Grading Bug

A bug in the Blackboard Needs Grading tool is currently checking a setting that should not typically be checked. **Uncheck** "Show attempts that don't contribute to user's grade" to remove submissions that don't require grading, then click "Go." You'll have to do this every time you go to Needs Grading.

☑ Show attempts that don't contribute to user's grade

THANK YOU!

e-Learning Services would like to thank everyone at LC State for your support, patience, and understanding during the search for a new LMS. We know it has been a long process, with bumps in the road, and we are excited to move forward with the new system. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming months as we migrate to Canvas!

What is Canvas?

Canvas from Instructure is a cloud-based learning management system (LMS) designed for higher education institutions. The Canvas platform offers full-fledged LMS functionality including standards-based grade books, formative assessment, course authoring, mobile communication, and integration with a school's SIS and other teaching tools. The Canvas App Center offers mobile-ready teaching tools that can be added to bring new functionalities in the application.

Canvas also offers native mobile apps for iOS and Android devices, allowing teachers and students to view key information, share and receive updates, or submit results from anywhere and at any time, creating a truly mobile learning experience.

LC State feels that Canvas fits the ever-changing needs of students and faculty learning and teaching in a technology-driven world.