LMS implementation updates, November 2022

John Georgas <000005b19249b17e-dmarc-request@LISTS.NAU.EDU>

Wed 11/16/2022 10:08 AM

To: STAFF-L@LISTS.NAU.EDU <STAFF-L@LISTS.NAU.EDU>;

LMS implementation updates, November 2022

Dear colleagues,

Continuing our updates toward adopting Instructure's Canvas as our next Learning Management System (LMS), this month we share another feature highlight and more information on faculty development opportunities.

Feature highlight: What-If Grades
Canvas's What-If Grades feature allows students to independently explore how their final grade in a class would be impacted by entering hypothetical grades for remaining assignments, based on the grading structure and relative assignment weights that the instructor has determined. This feature provides an easy way for students to explore various grade scenarios, better understand their progress in classes, and is likely to be particularly powerful near due dates for major assignments or final exams. More details on this feature can be found in the Instructure Community topic *What are What-If Grades?*

Faculty development and training opportunities
As part of our transition to Canvas, we are happy to be able to invest in supporting faculty in the LMS transition through training opportunities and stipends.

The Canvas Conversations course is a self-paced Canvas course that faculty complete independently through the Canvas Training Portal, accessible through Canvas's Help menu on the left sidebar. A series of complementary live fully-remote sessions facilitated by our instructional designers from the Teaching and Learning Center and Instructional Design and Support teams are an optional part of Canvas Conversations and will enrich the training experience. These are key learning opportunities that will help faculty master foundational Canvas capabilities and features. We welcome all faculty to join this course—registration information is available near the top of the Canvas Conversations page.

During the spring 2023 term, we will also be offering a second Canvas course for faculty with more advanced training that will focus on course design best practices and will coach participants through the application of these practices in their own course shells. We will share more information on how to register for this course in future communications.

For eligible faculty, completion of these two courses will be accompanied by training stipends when completed before the end of the summer 2023 term: Those that that complete, or have already completed, the Canvas Conversations online course will receive a $350 training stipend, while completion of the advanced training course will be accompanied by an additional $650 training stipend. Eligibility will be limited to full-time faculty

in the teaching, clinical, practice, and lecturer streams, tenure-track and tenured faculty, and full-time staff who have course supervision as a core duty. Part-time instructional faculty teaching classes in the summer and fall 2023 terms will also have access to the Canvas Conversations training opportunity through a separate transition-support program that we are finalizing. Our project team will be able to handle the administrative steps necessary to process these training stipends, so no additional work will be needed by academic unit faculty or staff.

Our next immediate priority is to solidify the remaining details of our course migration planning and to ensure we fully understand the technical constraints that frame this planning – and we will share more information on how faculty will be supported in course migration as soon as this work is completed.

Many thanks,

--
John C. Georgas
Vice Provost for Academic Operations
Northern Arizona University
vpao@nau.edu