



INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE

Supporting faculty in the creation and development of high-impact learning opportunities



TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC

Teaching and learning during a pandemic has brought an extra set of challenges. Planning for several modes of course delivery and making human connections with our students has been especially difficult. The typical mid-semester slump—when both professors and students often struggle with all that needs to be accomplished—feels particularly challenging in 2020.

Supporting students' learning has been and should continue to be our primary goal in the classroom. Below are some strategies that can help you make important connections with students while supporting their learning during this unprecedented time.

- **Communicate with students.** Let students know that you care about their success. An encouraging word from a professor in an email, text, or phone call can do much to motivate a student who may be struggling, as well as boost the energy of those who appear to be doing well. Communicate deadlines early and keep to the schedule to help students stay informed and on track. Posting frequent text or video announcements in Canvas can also send the message that “we’re in this together.”
- **Nudge students in need of extra support.** The “Message students who…” feature in the Canvas gradebook allows you to send individual emails to students who have not submitted an assignment or to students who scored less than a certain percentage. In a matter of moments, you can email encouraging words or helpful advice to students who may be struggling.
- **Collect student feedback to gauge course climate.** Asking the following three questions can help you gauge students’ feelings regarding learning in your course. These questions communicate that you want to know how things are going and care about student success.
 - **What else is important for your instructor to know?**
 - **What could your instructor do to better facilitate your understanding of the content in this course?**
 - **What is working well for you in terms of your learning in this course?**

- **Examine Your Assumptions.** The assumptions we make about students influence the ways in which we interact with them, which in turn impacts their learning. Remember that our students are human beings who are feeling the stresses of life just as we are. Many of them are worried about their grades, their health, or the health of loved ones. 2020 has brought life-altering changes to many of them. It might serve us well to assume that everyone is doing the best they can right now.

We will never be sorry that we taught with empathy during this time, offering grace to both ourselves and our students. Especially during this uncertain time, remember that the best college teachers convey fairness, compassion, and concern (Bain, 2004).

[Read More](#)

Featured Events



Leading Students through Difficult Conversations

A critical life skill is the ability to have a difficult conversation with others — in the family, the workplace, etc. Yet it is a life skill that is seldom taught and one that many never master. This hourlong webinar provides instructors with insight and tips on helping students build the skills to be successful in difficult conversations. The focus is on how to incorporate the skills into role plays, activities and case studies – opportunities for students to actually apply the skills and then receive constructive feedback.

Presenter: Charles E. “Ed” Kirtley

Nov. 12 . . . 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Canvas Webinars for Fall 2020

ITLE is providing several Canvas-focused webinars to help faculty this semester. These sessions will be useful for instructors who are using online, face-to-face, hybrid or flexible course delivery models.

Oct. 28, 9 a.m. — Using Quizzes for Student Assessment in Canvas

Nov. 4, 9 a.m. — Supercharge Your Grading with Canvas SpeedGrader

Nov. 11, 9 a.m. — Maintaining Academic Integrity when Using Quizzes in Canvas

Nov. 18, 9 a.m. — Setting Up Your Course in Canvas

Dec. 2, 9 a.m. — Grades in Canvas: Sorting, Commenting, & Submitting to Banner

Dec. 9, 9 a.m. — Introduction to Canvas: Looking Ahead to Spring

Early Career Faculty Support Program

ITLE has prepared a series of workshops and presentations to help new faculty. Sign up once and attend what you like. A reminder and attendance link will be sent for each event.

[Downloadable PDF Agenda](#)

*A *Microsoft Teams* webinar link will be emailed to each registered participant prior to the

webinar.

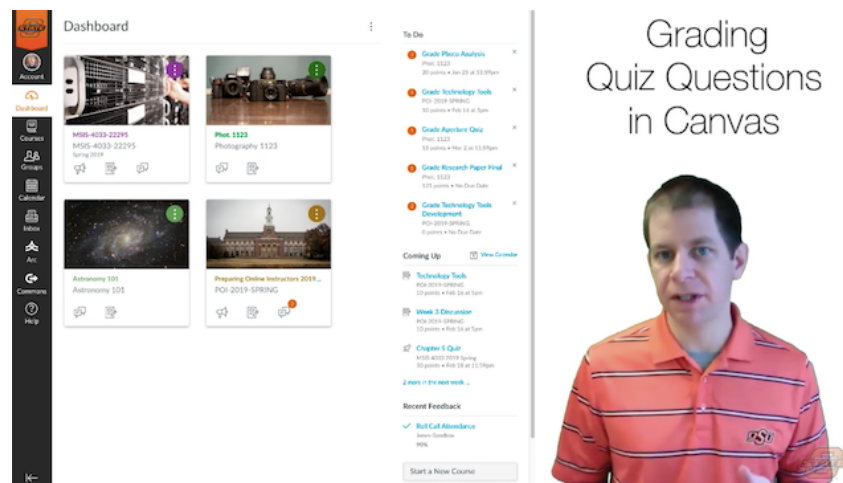
[Register for Events Here](#)

Self-Paced Online Teaching Workshop

This self-paced online teaching workshop covers a variety of topics such as outcome-oriented course design, engaging online learners, creating an online activity and assessment plan and more. Whether you are new to online teaching or need a refresher, this course is designed to meet your needs in a flexible format. While working through modules in the workshop, participants will create an Online Learning Assessment Portfolio, which will be submitted to the instructor upon completion of the final module. After receiving your portfolio, the instructor will set up a time to discuss your experience in the workshop with a one-on-one video conference.

To sign up, contact Elaine Johns at itleevents@okstate.edu. You will be asked to provide your CWID so we can add you to the course.

[Self-Paced Online Teaching Workshop Syllabus PDF](#)



Quiz Grading in Canvas

[Updating the Score on a Quiz](#)

Canvas lets you update a student's quiz score by adding Fudge Points or by giving points to individual questions.

[Re-Grading a Quiz Question](#)

If you enter the wrong answer as correct when setting up a quiz in Canvas, you can re-grade the question after students have already taken the quiz.

[More Canvas Tips](#)

Need Help with Your Course Design?

As you begin creating your upcoming courses, remember that ITLE teaching support specialists are happy to assist. Although we are not in our offices every day, we are still available to help with all aspects of online teaching. Contact us at kdickey@okstate.edu, gina.morris@okstate.edu, or simon.ringsmuth@okstate.edu.

Have Questions About Teaching Online?

Contact ITLE for assistance with your online teaching questions.

Phone: (405) 744-1000

Email: canvas@okstate.edu

Shifting to Online Teaching

With a shift to teaching a course online, instructors need a plan to produce high-quality instruction. To accomplish this, it is helpful to think about key elements of learning as you prepare. For more information visit the [Teach Online Effectively](#) webpage.

[Visit ITLE Website](#)

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[Events Calendar](#)

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