
[WOU-Notice] WOU's Transition to Canvas

Rob Winningham <winninr@wou.edu>
Reply-To: noreply@wou.edu
To: wou-notice@wou.edu

Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 4:26 PM

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to update you on the current status of WOU's transition to Canvas, the learning management system (LMS), which will ultimately replace Moodle. We are wrapping up our pilot phase and have been pleased with its tremendous success.

Where we are: Right now, we are still in our pilot phase of the transition, during which only a limited number of courses are in the system so that we can ensure adequate time to integrate the system with Banner and single-sign-on, as well as prepare to offer support and training on a larger scale. The pilot phase will continue through Summer term.

What's next: Beginning in Fall '20, instructors and divisions will have the option to teach courses in Canvas or remain in Moodle. WOU will gradually continue to transition to Canvas over three terms (Fall '20, Winter '20, and Spring '21). I encourage you to consult with your division and program leadership when selecting the learning management system for your course.

During this time, both Canvas and Moodle will be supported. You will also be allowed to create course development shells in Canvas even if you remain in Moodle. In addition, you may elect to move only some of your courses to Canvas during the transition and keep others in Moodle.

As you make your decisions about whether to adopt Canvas or stay in Moodle this fall, we want to share some context that may help your selection process.

Phased Implementation Goals

WOU will gradually transition to Canvas from Fall '20 to Spring '21. A staggered transition was chosen to:

1. Ensure divisions can transition on a schedule that fits their specific needs
2. Provide time for Academic Innovation to develop programming and capacity to offer robust support to faculty making this transition
3. Support ongoing evaluation and quality improvement during the transition; users will be asked to provide feedback each term on their experience in Canvas so that challenges and solutions can be identified
4. Manage timelines and quality assurance for integrating Canvas with WOU's existing systems (e.g., Banner)

Transitioning learning management systems is a significant undertaking and so your patience and willingness to engage with the process is greatly appreciated.

Support Available for Transitioning to and Using Canvas

- 24/7 Technical Support for Canvas

Support for Canvas includes technical support for faculty and students provided directly by Canvas' team of experts. This support is available 24/7 and can be accessed directly through Canvas using the "Help" tab on the left-hand menu or by calling 866-901-5128.

- Canvas Development Shells

You can request a course shell to begin designing and converting your existing courses at any time. Development shells are not live courses and will not automatically register students. Instead, these are course shells available to the instructor so that you can start building and designing now. The content from the development shell can be easily imported into a live course later on. To request one, please use this form: <https://forms.gle/dRej9Snukn5mfuMm8>

- Moodle-to-Canvas Course Conversion Support

Academic Innovation will provide resources to support converting existing Moodle courses to Canvas.

Academic Innovation has created a guide for the course conversion process can be found here: <https://wou.instructure.com/courses/368> This resource is for those who would like the flexibility to convert their course at any time.

For those who would like staff assistance converting a Moodle course to Canvas, Academic Innovation will be holding group consultations. During these consultations, a facilitator will demonstrate the process so that you can follow along. Once the course has been uploaded into Canvas, additional Academic Innovation staff will be available to assist you with addressing any challenges with the course conversion process. You may register for one of these sessions here: <https://forms.gle/XSBwFHSoZz9DnKhv6>

- Canvas Training Sessions

Academic Innovation will be facilitating Canvas training in August and September. Canvas Training will be offered on:

- August 17 (Monday) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- August 25 (Tuesday) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- September 2 (Wednesday) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- September 10 (Thursday) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- September 16 (Wednesday) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- September 22 (Tuesday) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Each training session will cover the same content, providing an introduction to Canvas' structure, navigation, features, and gradebook functions. To register for a training session, please use the following form: <https://forms.gle/nPRtVeXPR9WA5jqc6>

- Self-Paced Canvas Training and Support Materials

Canvas also provides a comprehensive set of guides to support navigating the new system and its different features. These can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10460-canvas-instructor-guide-table-of-contents>.

In addition, all faculty Canvas accounts will be automatically enrolled in "Growing with Canvas," a Canvas-sponsored course that provides a robust introduction to the learning management system.

I hope you share our excitement about this update and the potential Canvas has to improve the LMS experience for both students and faculty. If you have any questions about available support or need additional information to determine which LMS is best for you this fall, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Reis, Director of Academic Innovation, at reism@mail.wou.edu.

Rob

Robert G. Winningham, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Western Oregon University
[345 N. Monmouth Ave](#)
[Monmouth, OR 97361](#)