Stanislaus State
ENGAGING · EMPOWERING · TRANSFORMING

OAT News

SUMMER 2020

Upcoming Events

Virtual Fall Institute (VFI) - Beginner/Intermediate Level

August 10th-13th, Monday-Thursday
August 17th-19th, Monday-Wednesday 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.,
11:00a.m.-12:00p.m., and 1:00p.m.-2:00p.m.

The Virtual Fall Institute (VFI) is structured to help faculty who are interested in developing and/or teaching with Canvas and other technological tools. The VFI Canvas course explores the backwards design process beginning with learning outcomes, followed by assessments, activities, and content. It also includes topics such as online presence, course structure, usability, visual design, accessibility, multimedia, syllabi, and course management. It is augmented by a series of synchronous presentations by Faculty Canvas Ambassadors (FAC), external presenters, and instructional designers. The VFI course will remain available after you have finished so you can refer back to any module or resources as needed. Spots are limited! Earn a digital badge! You can sign-up at VFI August 10-19.

Content

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VFI
Virtual Fall Institute
REMOTE TEACHING PRACTICES
Office of Academic Technology

Instructional Training Opportunities

We understand you are busy; if you cannot make it to the VFI, here are other Instructional Training Opportunity options.

Office Hours - Faculty Ambassadors for Canvas (FAC)

Faculty Ambassadors for Canvas act as a primary point of contact for their department and college peers in the use and adoption of Canvas. The Ambassadors are experienced Canvas users who are available within each College. Please email your Ambassador to schedule a one-on-one consult. Look out for their badge!

Course Migration- Office of Academic Technology (OAT)

OAT can assist in the migration of your Blackboard course to Canvas! Please email oat@csustan.edu, book an appointment, or fill out the form. Visit Microsoft Team and search for **OATHotline** to chat with a staff member! **Please Note**: OAT will transfer only a single version of a course per instructor. OAT staff will train instructors to convert additional versions of that course.

Canvas Student Guide

The guide helps students get acquainted with how to use Canvas. It is now available on our Stan State Portal and Student Resources.

Ally

OAT is very excited to announce Ally, a new tool we are making available to Stan State to help support student success!

OAT is working on a plan for fully deploying Ally in all Canvas courses at Stan State in the Spring 2021 semester and look forward to your support. More information will be forthcoming about these plans.

CALLING FOR FACULTY ALLY CHAMPIONS!

What Is Ally?

Ally is a new feature that promotes inclusivity for all learners. Ally integrates into Canvas to gauge the accessibility of our institution's content, provide guidance and tips to faculty/instructors for making lasting improvements to our academic content, and allow students more autonomy in personalizing the learning material.

Benefits to Students

Additionally, Ally automatically generates accessible alternative versions of files and makes them available to students in all courses while leaving the original file untouched. The alternative formats benefit all students, regardless of their learning needs, their device (laptop, phone, desktop, tablet), or their learning environment (classroom, commute, library, gym, home, etc.).

Benefits to Faculty and Instructors

Ally provides guidance and tips for faculty in making lasting improvements to content accessibility in their courses. Ally will flag accessibility issues, describe what the issue is, the impact of the issue, and walk the instructor step-by-step through the process of fixing content. This is an easy way to provide in-context information about a faculty member's content.

Benefits to Campus Leaders

Finally, Ally is going to provide a high-level view around the state of accessibility of the LMS digital content. This data can help to prioritize resources, support decision-making, and track progress. We know student success is important, and Ally is one way that we are demonstrating that commitment.

The **Ally Champions program** is a chance for us to recognize heroes and to help other faculty become heroes. We want to create a network of empathy both towards students who benefit from universal design and accessible course materials and towards faculty who provide those materials.

What do Ally Champions Do?

Click **here** for a list of requirments

What do Champions get?

This program is incredibly important to us. We believe that all students deserve an equal shot at success no matter what. To this end, OAT will support you in many ways:

- $750 - Any time during the academic year upon achieving an overall Blackboard Ally score of 85% or greater for all your courses in the 2020-21 academic year.
- Campus recognition via outlets such as Stan News/OAT newsletter. Plus, this is a university level service opportunity.
- Ally Champion Digital Badge!

Who is eligible and how do I apply?

We're looking for both full-time faculty or part-time faculty with a one-year contract who can commit to the program for the academic year. Champions need to teach at least one course in the academic year as online, hybrid, or web-assisted. Champions need to be enthusiastic Canvas users! To apply, fill out the online Ally Champion Form.

Canvas or Blackboard? You Decide!

Instructors are welcome to use Canvas for their Fall courses, no request necessary. All courses already have both a Canvas and Blackboard shell. In Canvas, just "Publish" your course for students to access it. In Blackboard, you must change the Availability setting to "Yes" in Control Panel > Customization > Properties. Contact oat@csustan.edu or book an appointment if you need assistance enabling your course.

You Get A Canvas Sandbox, and You Get a Canvas Sandbox, and You Get a Canvas Sandbox!

All instructors at Stan State now have a personal Canvas sandbox course added to their account. You can use it to experiment with Canvas. In addition, all Canvas courses have a "Student View", which generates a Test Student that can interact realistically with most areas of the course, including submitting assignments and being graded on them.

Campus Organizations and Canvas

The answer is yes! Canvas shells can be created for campus or department organizations and groups. Simply contact oat@csustan.edu or book an appointment with details about the need.

Cross List Courses and Sections

Canvas How-To: Cross Lists Courses and Sections in the case of courses that are offered in more than one department as well as cases where the same instructor is teaching multiple sections of the same numbered course.

Importing Course Content From Blackboard to Canvas

The Teacher role in Canvas/Blackboard allows you to import content from another course that you have previously taught. Check out Canvas How-To: Importing and Migrating Courses for more information.

Canvas
SUPPORT

Option 1: Remember to check out the <u>Canvas Support</u> for faculty and students from the OAT website.

Using Canvas for the 1st Time

Canvas Guides

OAT Canvas Workshops

Canvas Community

Option 2: Directly from your Canvas course, click "Canvas Help" to contact Canvas support via web, chat, or phone: 1-844-516-5962 (24x7)

Option 3: Book an <u>appointment</u> with the OAT Team!

Canvas Enhancements (LTI)

Instructors do not have the ability to install new 3rd party apps (e.g., via LTI) into a Canvas course. To request installation of a 3rd party app, consult the Canvas Enhancement Request Form. Current available tools (or soon to-be):

- Respondus
- Folio (ePortfolio)
- VoiceThread
- Zoom
- Panopto Recordings (Pilot)
- Ally Accessibility (Pilot)
- Hypothesis
- Flipgrid
- TurnitIn
- Screencast-O-Matic

For a list of regular tools, please visit the OAT site.

Virtual Summer Institute

OAT hosted three Virtual Summer Institutes and over 50 faculty participated from across the campus. We purposefully designed our VSI in small cohorts (no more than 20 faculty) per institutes. The rationale behind such exclusive intimate cohorts is to invigorate a sense of teaching, social, and cognitive presence (Garrison, Anderson, & Archer, 2001) among faculty across the disciplines, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to engage with one another. OAT designed a Canvas course shell that systematically provides faculty on how-to-get started in Canvas along with a series of asynchronous modules--such as establishing your online presence, building your syllabus, engaging in discussions--while the cohorts meet synchronously for approximately 20 hours for two weeks to learn on a variety of topics related to accessibility, information literacy, and Canvas tools. At the end of each cohort, participants are strongly encouraged to build a "Start Here" and "Week 1" module in Canvas to prepare them for virtual instruction in the summer and fall.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

"The VSI helped me to familiarize myself with Canvas and become aware of how I might more effectively utilize technology to enhance my delivery of online instruction. I was introduced to some of the nuances of the Zoom conferencing platform, virtual group management, and community building in an online learning environment. I was also provided with a chance to experiment with Canvas peer review, assessment/grading, and VoiceThread." - Dr. Andrew Dorsey, Professor of English

"I thoroughly enjoyed the time at VSI, being challenged in many ways to enter into unknown technological and instructional territories, and growing as a result of the opportunity to receive exposure to knowledge, information, instruction, and experience." - Dr. Sarah Chan, Associate Professor of Music (Keyboard Studies / Music Theory)

"One thing this pandemic has made clear to me is that I want to build courses that make my students' lives better. That doesn't mean that I want my classes to be easy, but I want to cut down on any needless confusion and do everything I can to help students see the relevance of the work I assign and how it will help them to improve themselves. By thinking about what I want them to get out of my classes, communicating that information clearly, and nixing any pointless busy work, I hope that I can construct courses that motivate students intrinsically, whether online or face-to-face." - Dr. Jennifer Whitmer, Assistant Professor of Sociology

ACADEMIC RESILIENCY CHECKLIST

Smoke days, sick days, power outages, viruses, etc ...
You can continue with class even if you cannot physically meet with
your students. Start preparing for possible events by ticking the items
off this checklist:

- Academic Resiliency Checklist
- Sample Syllabus Checklist
- Course Evaluation Checklist

Tech Checkout For faculty and students that need WiFi access or other hardware to work remotely.

☑ **I know how and where to receive general I.T. and Academic Technology support.**

- Email the Office of Academic Technology at oat@csustan.edu

- Book a one-on-one consultation with an OAT Team Member.

- Email Technology Support

- Visit the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for additional resources

- Become familiar with the Technology Services Available from Off-Campus

☑ **I am able to contact my students via email and/or text messages.**

- Use Canvas Announcements to announce important reminders or messages that will also be emailed to the entire class.

- Use Canvas Inbox to send email to individual students, student groups, or the entire class

☑ **My syllabus states the technical requirements students need to connect online successfully.**

- A good Internet connection

- A laptop (less than 5 years old) or smartphone with webcam and microphone

Congratulations if you have made it thus far! This has been an unprecedented time in our history. We launched the Office of Academic Technology (OAT) last Fall and unbeknownst to us, we were forced (like all of you) to transition rapidly. We packed our bags, and started offering Instructional Continuity workshops in Spring, and as summer came around, we realized that more remote instructional supports were needed to prepare the entire campus for virtual instructions. Needless to say, it was no easy feat! We are truly grateful for your patience and support as we work to support you and one another for the instrumental role you play at Stan State--- educating the hearts and minds of our students. As always, my virtual door/tech is always open; I also want to acknowledge my wonderful staff, without whom I would not have made it thus far. They work tirelessly and around the clock to meet your needs. Please join me in thanking Glenn Pillsbury, Maribel Duran, Christian Pinedo, and Mikaela Warde, as well as the unsung heroes behind the Provost Office. Our gratitude to you all! Go Warriors!

Jase Teoh