DIGITAL DIGEST

November 2024

How'd We Do?

Please take our survey to let us know what you like.

Creator+ Now Includes Lumi AI ✨

Creator+, which was announced in our last issue, has already received a major update. As a reminder, the D2L Creator+ package includes Elements, Layouts, and Practices—all designed to help you create engaging, interactive content for your students.

Now, D2L's new generative AI model, Lumi, can assist in generating some Creator+ Practice questions. If you have an HTML content page full of information and want to add a multiple-choice question based on it, simply click "Generate Question."

> ✨ **Generate questions** based on your page content.　　✦ **Generate Question**

You still have full control to edit the question, generate a new one, or discard it entirely. Hopefully, this feature can help spark your creativity when you're experiencing writer's block. Just remember to verify the question and answers for accuracy before you insert them into your content.

For more information about using Lumi with Creator+ Practice questions, including a video demonstration, visit our VTAC article.

Reminder: Major Changes Coming to Email in D2L

Remember that starting on December 18, D2L Brightspace's internal email system will be discontinued and replaced with the Microsoft 365 email integration, which hosts LSC Employee Email (@lonestar.edu) and LSC Student Email (@my.lonestar.edu). This change enables faculty and students to manage course-related communication alongside their regular LSC emails, consolidating all messages in one familiar platform.

As we recommended in our last issue, be sure to **forward any D2L emails that you wish to retain** to your Lone Star College email account before December 18.

Course-related emails—such as announcements, assignment feedback, and discussion notifications—will now be delivered directly to LSC Email as well as any email you send via the Classlist. However, the Sent box in D2L will no longer be available, meaning sent emails will not be automatically saved. To retain a copy of sent messages, instructors should follow the instructions provided in our VTAC article.

Now is a great time to become familiar with the Microsoft 365 widget, which is available on most D2L homepages. It shows your most recent emails in your inbox, as well as calendar and OneDrive items. For more information about the email transition, visit our FAQ in VTAC.

Need D2L support? Visit the Virtual Teaching Assistance Center.

Semester Wrap Reminders

The fall semester is coming to a close. Here are a few links to common end-of-semester tasks as well as ways to get prepared for the Spring.

Faculty Assistance ……………………………… [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC)](#)

Student Assistance ……………………………… [Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC)](#)

Converting a Word doc to a D2L quiz? ……… [Use Respondus 4.0](#)

Need to print your D2L gradebook? ………….. [Export Grades](#) and [Print Grades](#)

Want a paper copy of an exam in D2L? ……… [Print a Copy of the Final Exam](#)

Have a student with an incomplete? ………….. [Extend Course Access for a Student](#)

Thinking about next term? ……………………… [Review the Semester Start Checklist](#)

Need help designing your course? ……………. [Meet Your Instructional Designers](#)
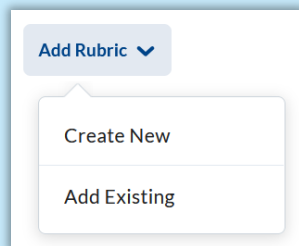
Rubrics and a New Experience Come to D2L Quizzes

D2L has answered a long-requested suggestion, by adding rubrics to quizzes. When we return from Thanksgiving, this new feature should be available; however, you must turn on the New Quiz Evaluation Experience in order to use it.

> **A new quiz evaluation experience is available!**
>
> The new experience is **off**.
>
> We're continually improving the experience. To learn more about what features are available, or if you have comments or suggestions, please contact your administrator. You can return to the new quiz evaluation experience at any time.
>
> [Turn it on]   [Leave it off]

This new experience can be enabled by starting to grade a student's quiz attempt (after Thanksgiving break). You will be prompted to turn the new experience on or leave it off; you can change your mind at any time.

Once the new experience is on, attaching a rubric is quite simple. Rubrics will be attached to the Written Response—aka essay—question type. You will be able to attach an existing rubric or create a new one on the fly.

Turning now to grading, you may notice something that feels familiar about the New Quiz Evaluation Experience. That is because it is designed to have the same look and feel as Discussions and Assignments. Once you navigate to the Written Response question that has the attached rubric, using the rubric functions the same way as it does with Assignments and Discussions; you simply click on the achievement value within each criterion, and the rubric will calculate the score for you.

> **Add Rubric ∨**
> Create New
> Add Existing

A word of caution is in order when using rubrics attached to a quiz: unless it is set otherwise, students can see the rubric during the exam. This might be a problem if the rubric contains the actual answer to the question.

Finally, as with Discussions and Assignments, you do not have to use your rubric; you may still enter a grade value manually. For more information, look for VTAC documentation on the new features after Thanksgiving break.

A Visit from D2L to Showcase New Features

We were pleased to welcome representatives from D2L this past week for the D2L Showcase, which was livestreamed from LSC-SOUP to a wide audience of faculty and staff. The representatives from D2L gave information on upcoming D2L features like the upcoming New Content Experience (which will change the way students view course content in a big way), D2L Lumi (D2L's generative AI model for Creator+ practices), and D2L Lumi Pro (the upgraded version, which uses AI to generate quiz questions and discussion ideas based on your course content).

In addition to the Showcase, D2L held in-person meetings with various stakeholders from LSC-Online, Academic Affairs, and other departments, as well as with our D2L Support Technologists and Instructional Designers, to go over future D2L updates, evaluate the success of various tools and features within D2L, and communicate feedback collected from across the system.

We hope everyone who watched the livestream appreciated this chance to hear directly from D2L about what upcoming features to look forward to in our D2L environment. If you missed out on watching the D2L Showcase, you can view a video recording of the livestream.

Back to Academic Affairs

Effective September 1st, LSC-Online Support Services was moved back under Academic Affairs. As a result, LSC-Online now refers solely to the online campus. Our department has not yet settled on a new name, as there are other structural changes underway. Once the reorganization is finalized, we will share more details in a subsequent newsletter.

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Academic Affairs

So, how does this change affect you? It doesn't. The online support entity is still here to provide excellent service to the entire LSC system. Each main campus still has a technologist and instructional designer available to assist you. The VTAC site remains your one-stop-shop for support, and you can still reach us at vtac@lonestar.edu with any questions. We're happy to help!

Design in the Evening

We are pleased to announce that evening appointment hours with instructional designers are now available to support faculty members—including both full-time and adjunct instructors—who prefer to work on their courses after regular business hours. Instructional designers can assist with online course design, course building, group training requests and facilitation, as well as a variety of other specialized, one-on-one strategies to enhance your course materials. These evening hours are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. To schedule an appointment, please visit the Designer page in VTAC.

At this time, Alana Kubeczka, Maria Block, and Amberly Vela are the Instructional Designers available for evening support. You do not need to be assigned to their campus to make an appointment with them.

YuJa Video Platform Improvements

Over the past several months, the YuJa Video Platform has rolled out an exciting set of updates designed to enhance usability and efficiency for faculty.

The **Video Editor** offers a streamlined sidebar menu for quicker access to advanced tools and light and dark modes, enabling faculty to customize their workspace. A new audio control option enables muting audio streams while preserving video playback. The upgraded Blur tool now delivers stronger effects, enhancing privacy and video clarity.

Accessibility improvements include enhanced screen-reader compatibility and keyboard functionality as well as improved live captioning quality. The new multi-language audio dubbing feature, supporting over 25 languages, further broadens content accessibility and engagement.

Faculty looking for detailed data will benefit from updated graphs and analytics in the Content Report under **Usage & Analytics**. The time it takes to generate reports has also been greatly reduced.

The refined **Media Chooser** now displays folder locations during searches and introduces a Show Files option, making it easy to view all media in a folder. Media sharing has also been streamlined with an updated search function that filters results based on specific queries.

These updates aim to improve YuJa's platform, empowering faculty to manage and deliver content more effectively while enhancing the student learning experience. For a comprehensive list of updates, visit the YuJa Product Updates page.

Screenshots Made Easy

TechSmith's Snagit is a powerful tool now available to all LSC faculty and staff, offering significant advancements over the basic Windows Snipping Tool. In addition to capturing screenshots, Snagit allows users to edit images, add annotations, blur sensitive information, and create quick videos, making it ideal for enhancing courses.

Faculty can use it to create visually engaging tutorials, add callouts to instructional materials, or record video demonstrations for students. This versatile tool makes it easy to incorporate more interactive and accessible content into both in-person and online learning environments.

For more information, including the installation serial number, visit our Snagit article in VTAC. For information and installation of TechSmith's video offering, Camtasia, visit our Camtasia article.

From Examity to ProctorU

Meazure Learning has acquired Examity and will retire the Examity live proctoring service at the end of this semester. Starting next term, all pre-approved courses will transition to ProctorU for online live proctoring. ProctorU offers continuous human monitoring, active intervention for suspicious behavior, the Guardian browser, comprehensive reporting, and more, ensuring academic integrity in online exams. Look for more information about ProctorU in future issues of this newsletter.