LSC-ONLINE

DIGITAL DIGEST

August 2023

Startup Support

LSC-Online will be providing **extended hours** on:

Saturday, Aug. 26th
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

via a virtual open lab and ticket support.

Course Homepage Layout Choices

You can now apply different course homepage layouts to suit your D2L course. Perhaps you'd rather have your announcements in the right column. Or you'd like to have a more visual way for students to navigate through the content modules.
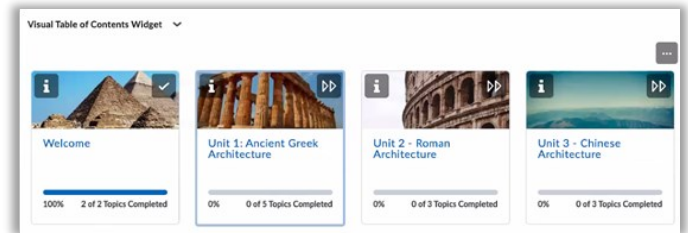
The most noticeable addition is a welcome widget that will display a pop-up window of a module you create under Content with the word "Welcome" in the title. There is also the choice of a widget that lists contact information for your instructional team right on the course homepage.

Before changing your homepage layout, there are some careful considerations to make regarding how your course is set up. If you desire some advice before using them, please schedule a consultation with one of our online course designers. The default course homepage layout is staying the same, so choosing one of the new layouts is entirely optional. Visit VTAC for more information about the new Course Homepage Layouts.

New Quiz Experience

The new quiz create/edit experience left the "preview" phase in July and is now the only experience offered in D2L. In addition to the new, two-paned layout, D2L also delivered new timing options for quizzes. Instructors can now set the quiz to be automatically submitted when the timer runs out. Also, obsolete timing options like the grace period have been removed to make quiz set up simpler.

When The Time Limit Expires

⦿ Automatically submit the quiz attempt
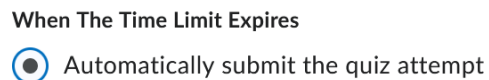
Student-facing changes include the ability to hide/show the timer, a warning pop-up when time is running low, and an improved quiz results page when students submit their quiz.

For more information from D2L regarding these changes, see Quiz Timing Improvements - Pilot Summary.

Video Newsletter

Want to see some of these topics in action? Then watch *The Online Update*, our video newsletter. Topics include homepage layouts, the new quiz experience, page templates, assignment dates, and more.

Need D2L support? Visit the Virtual Teaching Assistance Center.

Semester Start Reminders

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Semester at Lone Star College! Here are some links to help you prepare your course:

Faculty Assistance ……………………………… Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC)

Student Assistance ……………………………… Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC)

Prep Your Course ……………………………… Semester Start Checklist   (Video Series)

Rosters not matching? ………………………… Reconcile D2L and iStar Rosters

Not sure what to include in your course? …… Design Checklist and Syllabus Template

Need help designing your course? ………….. Meet Your Instructional Designers

Need some technology help? ………………… Meet Your Campus Representatives

Want some training on D2L? ………………… VTAC Upcoming Events

Integration Upgrades

Just a reminder, new McGraw Hill Connect and SIMnet integration upgrades went live in D2L on August 18th, discontinuing support for the old versions. For faculty using these integrations, you should have already received correspondence from your McGraw Hill representative concerning the transition. The upgrades come with improved security, additional features, and an updated look and feel.

If you copy a D2L course from a prior semester with Connect or SIMnet content or paired your course before the 18th, give it a fresh start. It's imperative that you delete all old Connect and SIMnet content and grade items before gearing up for Fall 2023. Here's a video to guide you. The same process will apply for both Connect and SIMnet.

For assistance on preparing your course for the Fall, please contact your McGraw Hill Connect or SIMnet representative. You can also refer to our new Connect and SIMnet VTAC articles for further information.

Page (HTML) Templates

We've added a new tool for creating stylish and engaging Content pages in D2L. Now when you create a new file, you can click on the "Select a Document Template" button and a drop-down menu will give you a selection of different page layouts in a multitude of colors.

There are also various elements you can add to your pages such as more appealing lists, dynamic tabs, accordions, and callouts.

For more information and to see examples, visit our VTAC section on HTML Templates.

Assignment Date Options

Helpful changes are here for assignments! Now you have the power to decide if students can see and access assignments before the start date and after the end date. Options include Hidden, Visible with access restricted, and Visible with submission restricted. Plus, these availability dates can easily show in your Calendar for a quick view. You can also customize the default option for dates on new assignments and discussions on the Course Admin page.
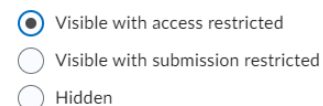
We're keeping things neat and tidy too—there's no more Due Date column clutter in the assignment list. Instead, you'll see all the important dates right under the assignment name, with more details when you hover your mouse over them.

Inaugural Conference This Spring

Coming this spring, LSC-Online will be hosting a nationwide conference on online teaching and learning, featuring faculty and staff from across the LSC system. Be on the lookout for a Call for Proposals and Save the Date email coming in the near future.

D2L Student Training

Recently, LSC-Online instructional designers worked with faculty to complete a major upgrade to the D2L Student Training course (previously called Student Orientation for Online Courses). Only students with fully online or hybrid courses are required to complete it. For more info, students can review the D2L Student Training article in VLAC.

Virtual Assistant

Since our last issue, D2L has joined the AI party with its own AI-powered feature, the "Get Help" virtual assistant. A virtual assistant is a small software program that attempts to mimic human conversation through text interaction. The D2L assistant allows users to type in their course content questions in their own words and get answers immediately.

There's no need to do anything to install it! The "Get Help" virtual assistant automatically pops up after you log into D2L, appearing in the lower right corner of your screen.

Not to worry, it does not replace live assistance. Rather, it serves to extend the capacity of the online service team, to handle simple, low-level questions, and offer support in the evenings and on weekends and holidays.

Quality Matters Update

Attention all Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR) completers! The updated Quality Matters Rubric is out. In July, Quality Matters released the 7th edition of their QM Rubric. Those who have previously completed the APPQMR workshop are highly encouraged to complete the free, self-paced 7th edition rubric update before January 5, 2024. Register here for the 7th Edition QM Rubric update using your Lone Star College email.

Interested in taking the APPQMR workshop? Check out myWorkshops for available sessions offered by QM-certified Lone Star College facilitators. Look for the course called "FD: Quality Matters" to register for an upcoming workshop. Curious about QM? Visit the Quality Matters FAQ page in VTAC for more information or feel free to contact Lone Star College's QM Coordinator, Alex Suchon at Alexandra.Suchon@Lonestar.edu.

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