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IntelliWriter, which is replacing Grammarly, will soon be available to all LSC students, faculty, and staff. More information is coming in Spring 2024.

Connecting Online Experts

On April 11 and 12, LSC-Online will be hosting a *nationwide, virtual summit* on online teaching and learning, featuring faculty and staff across the LSC system. It will be an exciting virtual event that brings together passionate experts to share their experiences, insights, and best practices in the realm of online education. There will be three different learning tracks available: Pedagogy & Best Practices, Instructional Technologies, and Student Services & Support. Be on the lookout for more information in future emails and the next issue of this newsletter.

ONLINE TEACHING & LEARNING SUMMIT

Presented by
LONE STAR COLLEGE

DATE **April 11 & 12** | TIME **9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE

COMING SOON IN
2024

D2L to Allow Negative Grading in Quizzes

The question of negative grading has been a thorn in the side of academia for decades. Negative grading penalizes test takers for incorrect answers; as such, it discourages guessing. Proponents say it encourages preparation and understanding, emphasizes accuracy, and prepares students for the real-world. Opponents point out that it may reduce students' motivation, increase anxiety, discourage risk-taking, and does not necessarily reflect true understanding.

D2L is agnostic on the issue, and as of the last update, offers the opportunity for instructors to incorporate negative grading. When enabled by the instructor, a quiz can deduct a percentage of a question's point value for incorrect answers submitted. This feature applies specifically to question types that can be auto-graded, for example, multiple-choice and true or false questions. The only question type that can't be auto-graded is written response.

Deduct points for incorrect answers

Deduction

25 %

To ensure that learners are fully aware that negative marking is enabled for a quiz, the Summary page of a quiz explicitly notifies the learner that for each question answered incorrectly, a percentage of that question's point value is deducted from the final attempt grade. For more information, 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

SoftChalk Migration

LSC will soon be moving SoftChalk Cloud to our own enterprise environment, which will utilize single sign-on for easier login and provide us unlimited licenses. All faculty SoftChalk accounts and all existing SoftChalk content will be migrated to this new environment.



For faculty who use SoftChalk Cloud, you will no longer need a separate login and password for SoftChalk. However, you will need to update **all** D2L links to your SoftChalk lessons once the migration is complete, as the old links will no longer function after the update. This includes links copied over from a previous semester.

The migration will be taking place December 14th-19th; during that time, SoftChalk will be unavailable. Once the migration is complete, you will need to go through the process of updating your SoftChalk links for the new environment.

A D2L announcement will be coming soon with more details, and you can also visit [Add a SoftChalk Cloud Lesson to Your D2L Course](#) for more information.

Copy Announcements

Have you ever made a course announcement that also needed to be in other courses you were teaching? In the past, you would likely copy the text from the first course, go to the destination course, start an announcement, and paste in the content. A new [Announcements](#) feature streamlines that process. Now, in the original course, you will have the option to Copy to Other Courses.

Copy to Other Courses

Once copied, the announcement is in a draft state and you must publish the copied announcement in the destination course to complete the copying process. The new feature copies everything about the announcement except for Release Conditions, if any.

Another recently added feature is the ability to [Pin Announcements](#) to the top of the Announcements list, thus allowing important information to remain visible to your students.

The Essential Role of Instructional Designers

In higher education's dynamic landscape, instructional designers play a pivotal role, enhancing teaching and learning. Their partnership with professors is a powerful synergy. Here's how they can help YOU:

- **Course Design and Pedagogy Expertise:** They can collaborate with professors to create effective, outcome-driven course structures, ensuring alignment between learning objectives and content.
- **Incorporating Innovative Technologies:** They guide professors in adopting the latest tech tools, enriching the learning experience within D2L, collaboration platforms, and multimedia resources.
- **Personalized Learning Paths:** Recognizing diverse student needs, instructional designers assist in crafting tailored learning journeys, allowing students to progress at their own pace and focus on areas of improvement.
- **Assessment and Feedback Enhancement:** They help professors design assessment strategies and transparent grading criteria and refine assessment techniques.
- **Professional Development:** They also can offer training, workshops, and resources to keep professors updated with the latest educational trends, fostering professional growth and innovation.

The partnership with instructional designers equips professors with the tools to create effective, engaging, and student-centered experiences, benefiting the entire Lone Star College community.

[Make an appointment with an instructional designer today!](#)

For more technical assistance, like information about D2L, third-party integrations, fixing the gradebook, merging rosters, and copying courses, [contact a Technologist](#). Review [this article](#) to learn the difference between the two.

Discussion Experience

We're thrilled to announce that the "New Discussion Creation Experience" in D2L will become the default option at the end of December 2023. This is your last chance to [opt-in to the improved discussion creation experience](#) before it becomes the default option.

We understand that change can be a bit daunting, but we assure you that this update is all about streamlining the teaching experience to be consistent with the creation process for Quizzes and Assignments.

To ensure a smooth transition, please refer to the following articles for detailed explanations on the updated interface: [Edit Discussion Topic – Properties](#) and also [Edit Discussion Topic – Right Panel](#).

Quality Matters Update

Attention all Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR) completers! This is your reminder to finish the free, self-paced 7th edition rubric update before January 5, 2024. After that date, you will have to retake the entire APPQMR course. [Register here](#) for the 7th Edition QM Rubric update using your Lone Star College email.



Never taken the [APPQMR workshop](#) before? 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.