Assessment & Proficiency Tools in Canvas

Course Description

In this six week course participants will learn, use, and build a variety of assessments using the vast array of tools available in the Canvas learning environment. You will learn everything from the theory of best practices to how to create and deploy assessments. This course will cover all of the major assessment types including assignments, quizzes, and graded discussions. Further participants will learn how to create rubrics and align assignments, quizzes and question banks to facilitate proficiency based grading.

Schedule

This class will be 100% online and take place over six weeks from the start date.

Credit

Participants who successfully complete all requirements will earn a certificate for 15 hours of professional learning. In order to receive a certificate, participants are required to complete the course requirements by eight weeks after the start of the class.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Create and Modify Assessments
- Use Question Banks in Quizzes
- Create and Use Rubrics
- Add new Outcomes to Canvas
- Link rubrics to Outcomes
- Use the Learning Mastery Gradebook
- Use Mastery Paths to personalize content

Standards:

This course provides the educator the opportunity to practice and demonstrate the following iNACOL National Standards for Quality Online Teaching :

- **Standard B:** The online teacher understands and is able to use a range of technologies, both existing and emerging, that effectively support student learning and engagement in the online environment.

- **Standard D:** The online teacher promotes student success through clear expectations, prompt responses, and
- regular feedback.
- **Standard F:** The online teacher demonstrates competencies in creating and implementing assessments in online learning environments in ways that ensure validity and reliability of the instruments and procedures.
- **Standard H:** The online teacher develops and delivers assessments, projects, and assignments that meet
- standards-based learning goals and assesses learning progress by measuring student achievement of
- the learning goals.

Prerequisites

Participants are expected to have regular access to online computers and be proficient with email and current Internet browsers.   Participants should also have used at least one Learning Management System as a teacher.

Course Requirements

Course Requirements In order to successfully complete this course, participants must meet the following requirements:

1. **Discussion Postings.** Participants are expected to participate in each module's discussion forum by responding to the discussion prompt and responding to at least two other participants posts. At least one of the three posts should be during the first half of the module.
2. **Readings and Activities.** Participants are expected to complete the readings and activities given in each of the modules.

Required Books & Resources

All resources will be available online.

Course Outline

Module One: Research in Online Assessments

In our first module we will look at the limited research available around online assessments. We will focus on both the teacher side of assessing students, including personalizing assessments, giving feedback, and grading, as well as students' responsibility in assessing their own learning including peer assessment.   Finally we will discuss our experiences in creating and modifying online assessments.

Module Two: Canvas Assessments

We will continue with an in-depth review of all three of the Canvas assessment types; quizzes, discussions, and assignments. We will practice creating and using Question Banks for our quizzes as well as try out creating equations in our quizzes to make one question do the work of multiple questions. Our discussion in the module will involve tips and tricks that have been used in Canvas to make the three assessment types work in many situations.

Module Three: Successful Online Discussions and Collaborations

Many of the recent studies around online learning have emphasised creating a learning community to improve student success. We will look at different ways to make a learning community through assessments, focusing on discussions and collaborative projects. We will discuss ways to make these interactive activities fesibile in our online environment.

Module Four: Canvas Rubrics and Proficiency Based Grading Theory

In our fourth module we will focus on creating and using Canvas rubrics. We will learn how to setting up generic rubrics that can be saved and used with slight modifications for multiple assignments. We will also look at theories of grading for proficiency and how that can work in Canvas. We will share our best rubrics to use in our classes.

Module Five: Canvas Outcomes and the Learning Mastery Gradebook

We will start the week looking at how to create new outcomes in Canvas, and some of the issues that still exist in Canvas around outcomes, including not being able to modify them later and trouble combining them with other assessment data in rubrics. We will look at the Learning Mastery gradebook from both a teacher and a student perspective. We will discuss how best to set up our classes to align our curriculum to proficiencies and to grade for proficiency.

Module Six: Canvas Mastery Paths

In our final module we will look at Canvas' new Mastery Paths, and what they can, and can't do. We will try out several ways to implement them in our classes. We will also discuss ways to use Mastery Paths to motivate students and personalize content.