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Accessibility Session by D2L

Friday, May 1
1:00-3:00 PM
ENROLL NOW!

Learn simple, effective ways to improve course accessibility.

The end of the semester is right around the corner! Whether you're teaching online, hybrid, or face-to-face with digital components, the **Online Services** team is here to help you bring your course to a successful close.

If you've ever wanted a better way of entering grades in iStar, be sure to check out our article on the new Export to iStar option in D2L.



Even though the ADA Title II deadline has been extended, that doesn't mean you should stop making accessibility improvements to your course. Read further to discover helpful resources available to you.

Curious about why you should use Microsoft Teams in your D2L course? Keep reading for some answers.

And remember, we have staff on all main campuses, as well as virtually, who can provide training, support, and course design assistance to help keep your courses engaging and running smoothly.

Getting help is easy. Visit the [VTAC site](#), your one-stop shop for instructional design and technology support, or email us directly at vtac@lonestar.edu.

Accessibility Work Continues

The deadline for bringing courses into compliance with ADA Title II and WCAG 2.1 (Level AA) has been extended by a year, but don't let that stop you from improving the accessibility of your course today. Accessibility is not a one-time task. It is part of building courses that support all students and improve the learning experience for everyone.



Faculty are encouraged to keep reviewing and improving course materials, content, and design. Small updates can make a meaningful difference. If you need support, meet with a technologist or instructional designer for guidance.

Some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Use captions and transcripts so everyone can access video and audio materials.
- Add clear and meaningful alternative (alt) text to images so screen reader users understand what they show. Ally can help you get started with the recently enabled AI assistance.
- Structure pages and documents with proper headings to make navigation easier for all.
- Ensure documents, slides, and PDFs are readable with assistive technology.
- Choose tools and activities that work smoothly on different devices and with accessibility features.



To help facilitate these guidelines, take advantage of our easy-to-use Ally tool, D2L's included Accessibility Checker, Equatio for math and science, as well as automatic captioning provided by YuJa Lumina Video.



You can also explore the accessibility resources available in VTAC for other tools, training, and practical help as you continue this important work.

Export Grades to iStar

Starting earlier this semester, you're now able to export final grades from your D2L course directly into iStar, allowing you to spend less time on manual entry and more time focusing on your students. This new D2L-to-iStar integration offers a quicker and easier way to submit final grades, reflecting faculty feedback and our shared focus on continuous improvement across our learning and student information systems. For faculty who choose to use it, this option exports final letter grades directly from D2L to the iStar Grade Roster, reducing duplicate entry.

Importantly, the current manual grade entry process in iStar is **not** going away, and faculty may continue submitting grades using the method that works best for them.

This feature **only supports courses using a letter grade scheme**. CE courses, Pass/Fail, Pass/No-Pass, IP (In-Progress), and I (Incomplete) grades are not supported and will continue to be submitted manually.



To learn how to use this new feature, sign up for [training webinars](#). You can also view our [Export Grades to iStar VTAC](#) article for instructions and videos.

Recent Updates to D2L

- The Enter Grades page now has left and right navigation arrows on either side of the grade columns, along with a scroll bar at the bottom of the grid, so you can move across columns without hunting for the scroll bar. Dropdown menus have also been fixed so they no longer disappear behind other fields like student names.
 - The Classlist page now includes an **Export** button, letting you download your class roster to a CSV file for offline or administrative use. If you prefer to print, the printed Classlist now also includes pronouns and course identifiers.
 - The quiz evaluation experience now includes an **Incorrect** filter that lets instructors review only the questions a student answered incorrectly.

Microsoft Teams + D2L

Microsoft Teams is an organization-specific messaging app. It facilitates collaboration and communication among the team members, all in one place. D2L Brightspace is a learning management system that supports course delivery, student engagement, performance tracking, and skill development. So what happens when these two forces merge? Something like magic!

Since the start of the semester, we have had Microsoft Teams embedded in D2L. It is located on each course home page, directly beneath the Microsoft 365 widget.



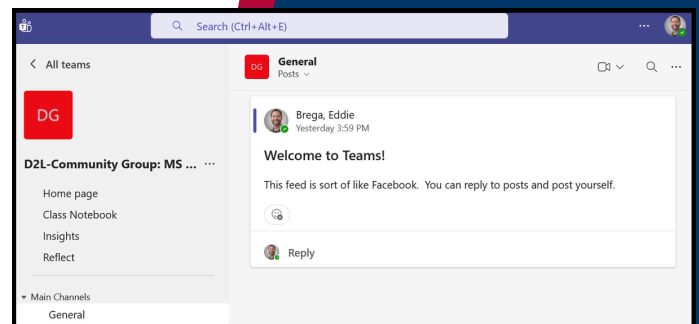
Create Course Team

You might be tempted to think that the group feature of D2L offers all the collaborative capacity you need; and to be fair, it is pretty nice. You can assign a group to its own discussion question; a group can also have its own file storage locker. You can set a group to an assignment. And you can filter by groups in the gradebook.

But with Teams, you can go so much further. Teammates can engage in real-time chats with each other. They can collaborate simultaneously on a shared file. Your students can conduct polls, share links and images and memes, get to know each other, bounce ideas off each other...all the things we already do in Teams, but confined to just that section. The best research indicates that student engagement is a leading factor in student retention and success.

If you're interested in using Microsoft Teams to enhance interaction in your course, check out the [Microsoft Teams VTAC article](#) for more information.

And let us know what you think!



Semester End Reminders

Here are some links to common close-out tasks for your courses:

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
Ready to send grades from D2L to iStar?	Export Grades to iStar
Have a student with an incomplete?	Extend Course Access for a Student
Thinking about next term?	Review the Semester Start Checklist

D2L Purge of 2018 Courses

It's time for our annual maintenance to ensure peak performance and a high-quality user experience within D2L. In accordance with Office of the General Counsel policy, Online Services will purge data for the earliest courses still present in D2L. The purge process will result in the *complete deletion of course data*.



Starting on May 4, all courses from 2018 will be purged.

If you have 2018 course data that has not been backed up, please do so as soon as possible. You can either [export your content to a .zip file](#) or create a sandbox and [copy the content to it](#). The latest information and answers to common questions can be found on the [D2L Course Purge page](#) in VTAC.