



Online Services

DIGITAL DIGEST

August 2026 Issue

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Start Up Support

We will be providing extended hours on:

Saturday, Aug. 22nd
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

via a virtual open lab
and ticket support.

Welcome to the Fall 2026 Semester at Lone Star College! The **Online Services** team is here to keep you up-to-date on new features and changes to D2L Brightspace and other instructional technologies.

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.



Want to see some of these topics in action? Then watch The Online Update, our video newsletter. Topics include D2L updates, using a second camera in Respondus Monitor, and accessibility... all in about 6 minutes.

Need D2L support? Visit the Virtual Teaching Assistance Center.

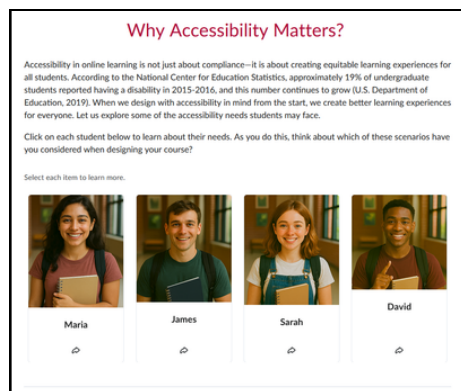
Certification Refresh

Are you brand new to online teaching at Lone Star College? Then you're in luck!



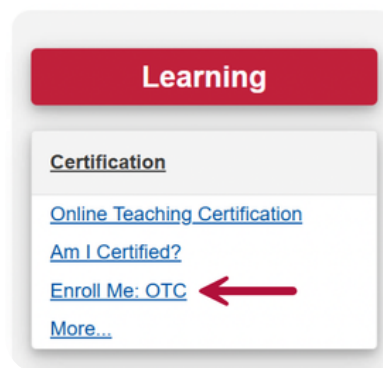
D2L
Essentials

The LSC **Online Teaching Certification** (OTC) course, which is required for faculty teaching online or hybrid courses, has recently been updated and refreshed. It is divided into two levels, the first of which is available now and covers Online Teaching Essentials. The topics covered in Level 1 include online learning best practices, accessibility, D2L essentials, and more. This level is the minimum required before teaching online or hybrid courses.



Once you complete Level 1, you'll be given a link to enroll in Level 2, which you'll need to complete within a year for full certification. This certification is valid until there is a major change to the learning management system. Level 2 will consist of multiple electives, which will be added over the coming months.

Enrolling in the OTC is the same as before: by using the [VTAC Support page](#). In the Learning column, under the Certification heading, click on [Enroll Me: OTC](#).



If you previously completed the Full OTC, don't worry. Your certification is still valid, and there's nothing you need to do at this time.

For more information, visit the [Online Teaching Certification page](#) in VTAC.

Need D2L support? Visit the Virtual Teaching Assistance Center.

Recent and Upcoming D2L Updates

As we move into the fall semester, there have been several recent and upcoming changes in and around D2L. Here are a few highlights.

Streamlined Group Management

Faculty who use groups in their courses will see a new Manage Groups experience. After opting in, instructors can view all group categories from a single page, making it easier to verify configurations and manage group structures efficiently. The new experience can currently be enabled or disabled using the dropdown menu in the upper-right corner of the Manage Groups page. While optional for now, D2L has indicated that this interface will eventually become the standard Groups experience.

Turn it on



Expanded Award Sharing Options

Students who earn badges and awards through D2L now have additional options for showcasing their achievements. In addition to sharing awards on LinkedIn, students can choose to make awards public and share them with external badge repositories or digital backpacks.

Faculty who prefer not to allow external sharing can disable these options through the Course Awards settings page.

Rubric Icon



Now, when a rubric is attached to an Assignment, Discussion, or Quiz, there is a new rubric icon that appears beside the activity in each respective activity list. Written response questions on the Quiz Creation page also display a rubric indicator when a rubric is attached. The rubric icon is purely for informational purposes and does not link to the rubric.

Easier Access to Sandbox Courses

The My Courses widget now includes a dedicated Sandbox tab, making it easier to locate and navigate sandbox courses and community groups without sorting through active teaching assignments.

Recent and Upcoming D2L Updates

(continued)

Name Changes in myLoneStar

This semester, you'll notice updated names for some of the D2L-related tiles in myLoneStar:

- LSC Online now says **Virtual Learning**
- Online Tutoring now says **Virtual Tutoring**



D2L courses, links, and virtual learning resources are not changing. These updates simply provide more consistent naming across our tools.

Improved Quiz Protection with Autosave

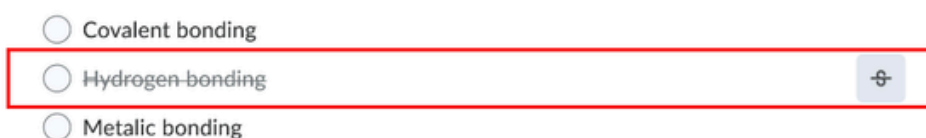
To help prevent lost student work, D2L now automatically saves responses every minute for written response quiz questions that use the HTML Editor. Previously, autosave functionality was only available for written response questions without the HTML Editor.

New Quiz Annotation Tools for Students - **COMING SOON**

Scheduled for August 28, D2L will release new quiz-taking tools that can help students stay organized and make more informed choices during assessments.

Students will be able to:

- Flag questions they want to revisit before submitting a quiz.
- Strike through answer choices they believe are incorrect, helping narrow down possible answers.

A screenshot of a quiz question with three radio button options: "Covalent bonding", "Hydrogen-bonding", and "Metallic bonding". The "Hydrogen-bonding" option is highlighted with a red rectangular box, and a small icon is visible in the box's top right corner.

As with every semester, D2L will continue rolling out new updates monthly. Make sure to keep an eye on the D2L Announcements found on the Homepage for future updates. And as always, you can find more information about everything D2L by going to the [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center](#).

Add a Second Camera to Respondus Monitor



Respondus Monitor now supports the use of a second camera during online proctored exams, giving instructors an additional video angle to help promote academic integrity and provide greater confidence in remote testing environments.

When the new option is enabled, students use their primary webcam to record their face and a second device, such as a smartphone or tablet, to provide a side view of their body, hands, and workspace. No app installation is required on the secondary device, just the ability to scan a QR code. This additional perspective can help deter the use of unauthorized materials and gives you more visibility when reviewing proctoring results.

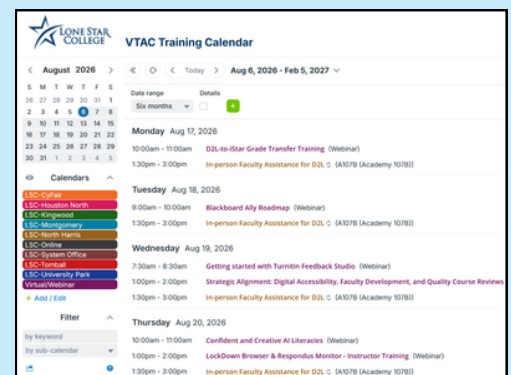
For more information about using a second camera with Respondus Monitor, visit [this help article](#) and view our [student video of the process](#).

VTAC Training Calendar

Whether you're teaching your first online course or you've been at it for years, our [VTAC Training Calendar](#) makes it easy to discover something new to learn.

Our calendar brings together sessions from across our main campuses and our supported software vendors, all in one place. You'll find workshops covering the tools you already use every day, including D2L Brightspace, Turnitin, and YuJa Lumina, plus broader sessions on online teaching best practices. Here are some highlights:

- [STAR Bundle Training](#) (various dates)
- [IntelliWriter Faculty Training](#) (Aug. 21)
- [AI Practices for Learning](#) (Aug. 24)
- [YuJa Lumina \(Video\) Overview](#) (Sept. 3)



Be sure to bookmark the calendar and check back often! New sessions are added regularly.

Fusion Conference Recap

The Online Services team headed out to Phoenix for D2L's Fusion conference this year, themed "Beyond the Horizon." Between the July desert heat and the conference buzz, it lived up to its billing as the hottest Fusion yet, in more ways than one!

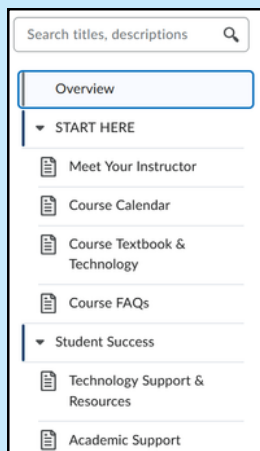
In his opening keynote, D2L founder and CEO John Baker talked about how AI is reshaping education, making the case that trust, thoughtful design, and partnership matter most as institutions adapt. He reminded everyone how central a role educators still play in guiding students through this change.



D2L also used the conference to preview upcoming updates across the Brightspace platform. One session dug into cloud security, where CTO Andrew Datars compared D2L's safeguards to blast doors on a submarine: If something goes wrong within one institution's account, those doors are built to keep it contained rather than let it spread elsewhere.

If you'd like to see more, D2L posted session recordings to a YouTube playlist: [Fusion On-Demand 2026](#). Stay tuned for updates as we learn more about which features may reach LSC in the future!

D2L's New Content Experience



D2L's New Content Experience is a fresh, modernized redesign of the Content tool in Brightspace, bringing a cleaner, more streamlined interface for organizing, navigating, and building out course materials. It's also more mobile-friendly than the "classic" experience we currently use.

Our students are the highest-volume users of the Pulse mobile app among all D2L institutions by usage count, so a more mobile-friendly content layout will directly improve how most of our students already access their courses day to day.

A firm timeline for LSC hasn't been finalized yet, but it's on the horizon for 2027. There's no need to take any action yet; it's just something exciting to look forward to.

Need D2L support? Visit the [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center](#).

Continue with Accessibility

For the world at large, April 24th, 2026, was something of an ordinary day. It was the 114th day of the year—a Friday—and the 36th day of spring.

But in the field of education, it was a momentous day, for this was the day that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act was scheduled to kick in. On this date, public entities with populations greater than 50,000 were required by federal statute to make their online and mobile services accessible to people with disabilities. This statute had state and local governments and federal financial assistance recipients, such as Lone Star College, scrambling to reach compliance before the deadlines.



In a dramatic reversal, however, the compliance dates were set back by one year. Now, the new ADA guidelines are not due until April 26, 2027. This reprieve gives institutions of our size a bit of breathing room. However, just because we can breathe, does not mean that we can relax. It is

critical that we continue the accessibility momentum we had going prior to April 24.

You may want to start with our article [**Accessibility, Getting Started!**](#), which is one of the many helpful resources in VTAC's Accessibility Section. Then, take advantage of the 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. In addition, LSC Libraries have built out significant [accessibility resources](#) to help you along this road.

So let's not get caught "by surprise" again next year. Let's do what we can now to make our courses accessible for all in the future.



Semester Start Reminders

It's the Fall 2026 Semester at Lone Star College! Here are some links to help you prepare your course in D2L:

Faculty Assistance	Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC)
Student Assistance	Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC)
Prep Your Course	Semester Start Checklist (Video Series)
Update Your Syllabus	Use Simple Syllabus
Rosters not matching?	Reconcile D2L and iStar Rosters
Not sure what to include in your course?	View the Course Design Checklist
Need help designing your course?	Meet Your Instructional Designers
Want some training on D2L?	VTAC Training Events and Training Library

uCertify Integration Upgrade

uCertify has upgraded its D2L integration from LTI 1.1 to LTI 1.3. This upgrade brings stronger security, better grade synchronization, and a smoother user experience.



What does this mean for you and your fall courses? If you use uCertify in your courses, you'll need to collaborate with your uCertify representative, Vartika Yadav (vartika.yadav@ucertify.com), to set up or migrate your courses to the new LTI 1.3 integration in preparation for the Fall 2026 term.

Additional information can be found on the [uCertify page in VTAC](#).

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