LONE STAR COLLEGE
Online Services

DIGITAL DIGEST

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Contact Online Services

Email D2L questions and issues to
VTAC@lonestar.edu

A New Look for Your D2L Content

Big things are coming to D2L Brightspace! Over the next year, all LSC courses will transition from D2L's Classic Content to the **New Content Experience** (NCE). It offers a clean, visual layout, intuitive navigation, and a mobile-friendly, accessible design.

Classic Content is being retired, so all courses will be making the switch. The rollout will happen in phases, including a pilot and training, as shown in the table on the next page.

Why We're Excited

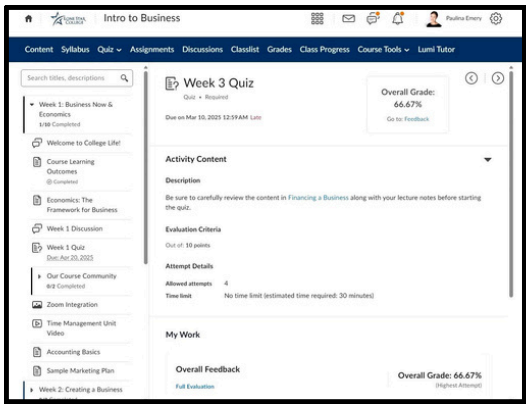
Students should not have to adapt to technology; technology should adapt to students. Every student interaction either supports learning or creates barriers to learning, and students succeed when learning is simple, intuitive, and accessible.

The NCE also meets students where they already are. More than 77,000 active students use D2L Brightspace, and nearly 50,000 already use the Pulse mobile app. In fact, LSC has the highest Pulse adoption of any D2L client, with approximately 30,000 more users than the next institution! The New Content Experience is built for

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New Content (cont.)

exactly that kind of on-the-go learning, and it supports LSC's work on persistence and fall-to-fall retention for First Time in College students.



Students Can Look Forward to

- A clean, visual layout with color-coded modules
- A responsive design that works on mobile, tablet, or desktop
- Less time searching, more time engaging

You Can Look Forward to

- No extra work required for migration
- Accessing Assignments, Quizzes, Discussions, and LTI tools right inside Content, with fewer clicks and no tab-switching
- Simplified workflows that reduce time spent on course management
- Better presentation of your course content without significant changes to how you teach

Term	Phase	What to expect
Fall '26	Awareness Campaign	Get to know the New Content Experience.
Spring '27	Pilot and Training	Pilot faculty can try it out for 8W2 courses, and training will become available.
Summer '27	Soft Launch	NCE is on by default in every course shell, including Fall 2027 shells. Faculty can opt out with a simple toggle at the top right of the page.
Fall '27	Full Go-Live	Everyone's on board! The New Content Experience will be live in all D2L course shells.

Faculty interested in participating in the Spring 2027 8W2 Pilot can complete the Spring 2027 Pilot Participation Form. See the New Content Experience in action and reach out to the Online Services team with any questions: VTAC@lonestar.edu.

Please note that submitting the form indicates interest in the pilot; final participation is subject to approval by your dean and Vice President of Instruction (VPI).

Upgrading Old Integrations

Beginning in February 2027, D2L will start to retire an older method used to connect third-party tools to courses, called LTI 1.1, in favor of the newer LTI 1.3 connection method. The newer method provides improved security and reliability for third-party external tools.

Why This Matters to You

Some faculty may be using tools that still rely on the old method, particularly in courses that have been copied over multiple semesters. When a third-party tool is copied from one course to another, the connection method is often copied as well. As a result, some courses may still be using tools that rely on the older method, even when a newer version is available. Once support for the old method ends, courses with **tools still relying on the old method will stop working** unless the tool is updated to the new method.

Tools Already Offering LTI 1.3 Versions



- Labyrinth
- Top Hat
- Vista VHL

You should use the new LTI 1.3 versions of the above tools going forward. If you are unsure which version you are currently using, please contact your publisher's representative to help verify that your course tools are using the new connection method, LTI 1.3. If a publisher's representative has recently assisted with your course setup, there is a strong possibility that your integrations have already been updated.

Tools That Will Have LTI 1.3 Versions in January (Wait to Integrate)



- Lumen OHM
- Lumen Waymaker

DO NOT include these tools during a **course copy**. You should **wait to integrate** these tools for Spring 2027 until after January 12, 2027.

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Upgrading Integrations (cont.)

If you have previously copied one of these LTI 1.1 tools, delete it. Wait until the LTI 1.3 version becomes available after January 12, 2027. Once available, add the tool to your course using the updated instructions that will be available in VTAC. For additional course setup assistance, work with the publisher's representative.

Beyond Labz and **Goodheart-Wilcox** are exceptions to the other integrations. If you have already copied these integrations into your course, the links will continue to work in the Spring, and you will not need to replace them.

What Is Next?

In the coming months, we will continue to work on upgrading any remaining LTI 1.1 integrations to LTI 1.3. Be on the lookout for D2L announcements letting you know which publisher tools will be impacted.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation as we continue to improve the security and functionality of our learning technology integrations.

MH Connect Redesign



McGraw Hill Connect is working on an integration redesign, which is coming by the end of the year. Existing McGraw Hill tools, courses, and configurations will remain unchanged. However, when instructors pair new courses, they will benefit from:

- Simplified and faster course setup for copied or reused content
- Smarter section matching with recommended Connect sections
- Easier assignment deployment directly from the LMS, reducing the need to switch between platforms

Learn more about the Connect redesign by visiting McGraw Hill's website or contacting your McGraw Hill representative.

Semester End Reminders

Here are some helpful links for common end-of-semester course tasks:

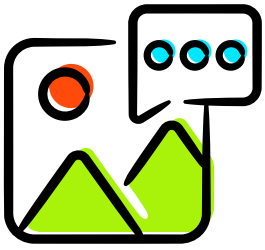
Faculty Assistance	Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC)
Student Assistance	Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC)
Converting a Word doc to a D2L quiz?	Use Respondus 4.0
Need to print your D2L gradebook?	Export Grades and Print Grades
Want a paper copy of an exam in D2L?	Print a Copy of the Final 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

The March to ADA Compliance

The April 2027 deadline for bringing courses into compliance with ADA Title II and WCAG 2.1 (Level AA) is fast approaching.



Fortunately, you have several tools available to help improve the accessibility of your courses. Take advantage of our easy-to-use Ally tool, D2L's built-in Accessibility Checker, Equatio for math and science, as well as the automatic captioning provided by YuJa Lumina Video.



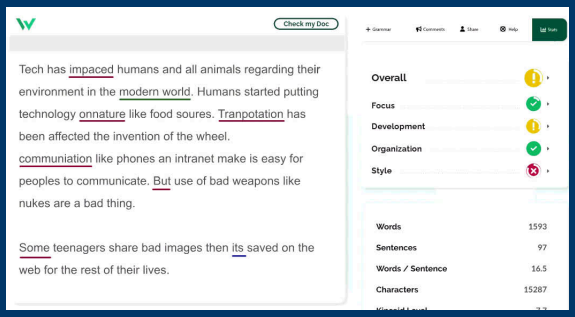
Visit Lone Star College's Digital Accessibility site for guidance, tips, checklists, official communications, and video trainings.

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

IntelliWriter Updates

Helping students become stronger, more confident writers just got a little easier! IntelliWriter is an AI-powered writing support tool that helps students strengthen their work before submitting it for grading. With features such as **Write-Ahead**, students can receive feedback on their writing, review citations, and make revisions before submitting their assignments to faculty.

Students can now **submit their completed work directly to an assignment in D2L** through IntelliWriter, creating a more seamless process from writing and revision to final submission. The goal is to encourage students to take ownership of their writing by reviewing feedback, making improvements, and checking citations before submitting their work.



IntelliWriter's Write-Ahead feature can also be customized to incorporate course-specific rubrics through collaboration with the IntelliWriter support team. This allows students to receive feedback aligned with your assignment expectations.

Check out our article in VTAC for more information about IntelliWriter.

Expanding Mental Health Support

You probably noticed the new banner at the top of the main D2L homepage. It's part of Lone Star College's commitment to student mental health and well-being. The banner gives quick access to the Office of Mental Health & Wellness, where LSC students can connect with trained mental health professionals, get legal assistance, and learn more about meeting their basic needs.



Coming soon, the banner will also help connect students to TimelyCare, which offers live crisis support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Visit its website or call 281.290.5988 for more information about the Office of Mental Health & Wellness.

Online Proctoring Center

Lone Star College is preparing to launch its Online Proctoring Center on January 19, 2027. Modeled after the work of Professor Sarada Moturu and the Chancellor's Design Lab initiative, the Center will provide secure, live virtual proctoring services to support academic integrity and student success. Eligibility will be limited to designated, fully online courses in Mathematics, Science, and Accounting during the initial Spring 2027 implementation, with services restricted to approved LSC assessments.



The Online Proctoring Center will allow students to complete their exams remotely using Respondus LockDown Browser & Monitor simultaneously with Zoom. It will utilize multiple Zoom breakout rooms, each continuously monitored by a trained proctor. This structure ensures students are actively supervised throughout the entire exam, promoting a secure and consistent testing environment.

Additional information will be shared with vice presidents of instruction, deans, and curriculum team leaders for distribution to participating faculty. The list of approved courses and faculty resources will also be available in the Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC), while student information will be posted in the Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC).

D2L 2026 Showcase Recap

On October 27 and 30, Lone Star College Online Services hosted a virtual D2L Showcase featuring D2L experts and Lone Star College leadership. The sessions provided faculty and staff with a preview of several upcoming and in-testing D2L Brightspace tools, including the New Content Experience (see cover story for details), Createspace, and Outcomes.



Faculty in attendance explored features including streamlined course navigation, improved mobile responsiveness, collaborative content creation, and a more intuitive learner experience. The showcase also outlined Lone Star College's implementation roadmap and reinforced the college's commitment to student success and teaching excellence.

You can view recordings of both sessions in the VTAC Webinar Trainings Library.