College of Alameda
Distance Education Newsletter

"Exciting graphics may pull learners in, but meaningful interactions make learning memorable and effective."

-Tim Slade

New Canvas Features

You may have noticed recent Canvas upgrades. Two updates are summarized below.

- Users now have access to the Portfolium Network, which is an ePortfolio platform where students can create a digital portfolio of their work in school and continue adding to it as they enter the professional world. For more information, take a look at the Portfolium Guide published by Canvas.
- Canvas also released "New Course and User Analytics." You can opt-in to this new feature by going into your course "Settings," selecting "Feature Options," and turning on "New Course and User Analytics" (you must do this for each individual class section). For a brief video overview, please refer to October's Features Screencast and skip to 2:00. As of now, New Analytics is scheduled to replace existing course-level analytics for all Canvas users on **March 21, 2020**.
    - Additional Resources:
        - New Analytics - Table of Contents
        - New Analytics FAQ

New and updated functionality is enabled in Canvas on a monthly basis. Visit the Canvas Release Notes website monthly to learn about the latest releases.

Accreditation Update

ACCJC will review COA's distance education courses during their Spring 2021 visit. An accreditation team will review a random selection of distance education courses offered at COA during the Fall 2020 semester. ACCJC Senior Vice President Dr. Stephanie Droker visited COA for an accreditation training back in September. She said the accreditation team is specifically looking for regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students in distance education courses. If you have questions about this standard please contact Distance Education Coordinator Jennifer Fowler at jfowler@peralta.edu or see examples on our faculty resources website.

Online Student Attendance

The Federal Financial Aid Handbook provides guidance for documenting attendance in online courses, especially in relation to census and attendance verification roster reporting. Please view the Online Student Attendance page on our faculty resources website for examples.

Free Online Professional Development

Looking for free online professional development to enhance your skills as an online instructor? Check out the resources below.

- Byte-Sized Canvas– short videos on getting creative in Canvas.
- Free Self-Paced Courses– learn about accessibility, teaching on Canvas, and more through free self-paced courses.
- The Can•Innovate Conference, hosted on October 25, 2019, is now archived. Sessions include tips on using Zoom, audio feedback, and embedding quizzes. Check out Laney colleagues' session on the Peralta Equity Rubric!
- Free Canvas webinars– live, online training sessions conducted using videoconference tools related to Canvas. These webinars will help you learn Canvas features. There are 20+ sessions at different days and times every week.
- Vision Resource Center–12,000+ free learning modules from LinkedIn Learning (now offering all Lynda content), Skillsoft, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
- Meet with your Distance Education Coordinator Jennifer Fowler in office hours every Thursday from 11:00AM-12:00PM on Zoom or in room D-218 for individualized trainings. You can also email Jennifer to set up an appointment outside of office hours at jfowler@peralta.edu. Jennifer is also available limited hours during Winter Break.