



eLearning ACUMEN

August 2018

a newsletter from the Office of Online Learning at MSUM

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome Back to the New Academic Year!

As the new academic year approaches, the Office of Online Learning would like to share some changes within our office. Dean Julie Zaloudek's last day here at MSUM was July 24th and we would like to thank her for her leadership with the Online & Extended Learning team and University. We wish her the best as she transitions into her new position at Century College! We are in the process of searching for a new Director of Online Learning.

On August 1st, Heather Schneider joined the Office of Online Learning as an ITS1 - Instructional Technologist and will be working with faculty, staff and students on D2L Brightspace, Qualtrics, and Scantrons. Heather is a Dragon alumna - Speech Communication '02. Please join me in welcoming Heather back to her Dragon home!

In 2018-19, we will continue to demonstrate care for students, each other, and MSUM by launching many initiatives. One is a series of faculty development opportunities on the theme *Using Multimedia to Elevate Your Course*. These monthly workshops and short courses will focus on leveraging D2L Brightspace to improve the faculty student engagement and online learning experience for our students.

To strengthen MSUM's role in online education, let us pursue opportunities to invest in the care of our students: what programs and courses we offer, how we offer them, how we advise, how we address Distance Education students on our websites and communications.

The Office of Online Learning looks forward to working with you this year!

With Dragon Pride,

Lisa Karch
Interim Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning

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Captioning: It's Not Just For Those with Disabilities

By Jane Melander

Whom do you envision uses captioning of video and audio presentations in course content? Is captioning used only by those with hearing issues such as the deaf and hard of hearing? Do you often think, "*I don't have any deaf students enrolled in my courses and, if I did, I will deal with an accommodation request at that time*"?

You may be surprised at how students are using captioning to enhance their learning, regardless of their variation of ability. According to an article published by Educause Review titled "[A Rising Tide: How Closed Captions Can Benefit All Students](https://er.educause.edu/articles/2017/8/a-rising-tide-how-closed-captions-can-benefit-all-students)" (<https://er.educause.edu/articles/2017/8/a-rising-tide-how-closed-captions-can-benefit-all-students>), more than half of the respondents to a national study conducted in Fall 2015 used closed captions at least some of the time.

The article, by Dello Stritto & Linder, provides a summary of a study conducted by the Oregon State University Ecampus Research Unit, in conjunction with 3Play Media. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about how all students, regardless of ability, used captioning in their learning.

Of those surveyed, just over 19% reported having a disability while the other respondents reported no disability or did not respond. What was most revealing was how students from both groups (those with and those without disabilities) used captioning as a learning aid. "Figure 3 shows almost two-thirds of respondents indicated that closed captions help them focus, retain information, and overcome poor audio. In addition, more than 40 percent indicated they use closed captions for reasons related to sensitive environments (i.e., public places or libraries in which they cannot use sound)." Other reasons the respondents gave were to learn difficult vocabulary, the student had a hearing disability, their professor had an accent, or English was their second language.

The article went on to say... "Due to the large number of responses (913) under the theme of captions as a learning aid, these responses were coded into four subthemes:

- **Comprehension:** 51.9 percent of the responses were related to how captions help students understand, organize, and learn the information in videos.
- **Accuracy:** 33.4 percent were related to how captions help with details, terminology, and spelling in videos.
- **Engagement:** 20.3 percent were related to how captions help students focus on the content of videos.
- **Retention:** 14.6 percent were related to how captions help students retain information in the videos through reading and studying."

How can you, as an instructor, incorporate captioning in your own academic videos?

Our campus is taking a major step in the coming months to aid in student learning and allow an equal opportunity to all regardless of their ability. Professional captioning of academic media is coming!

As part of a Minnesota State system-wide captioning project, MSUM applied for and received funding in the form of seed money to bring academic media into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and to aid learning for all students.

This initiative was spearheaded on campus by the Universal Design for Learning & Digital Accessibility Committee (UDLDAC). The Captioning sub-committee, represented by Robert Schieffer (chair), Justin James, Atif Osmani, Shirley Johnson, Tim Harms, Greg Toutges, Catherine Artac, and Jane Melander, worked through the Captioning Toolkit provided by the Minnesota State system to apply for the seed money. Media Services successfully piloted a captioning workflow this summer and now captioning services for academic videos is up and running!

You may ask, "How do I get started?" More information will be coming soon. Faculty will learn more about the captioning initiative during Faculty Development Day in October. However, if you have immediate captioning needs you can submit an inquiry to support@mnstate.edu and we can discuss options.

In the Spotlight

Meet the newest team member in the Office of Online Learning!

Heather Schneiter is the newest member of the Office of Online Learning team at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM). Heather is a 2002 MSUM alumna and although she also has a degree from NDSU as well as Rasmussen College, she feels that her time at MSUM was the most fulfilling! Prior to joining OOL, Heather has worked at NDSU, Microsoft, and Swanson Health Products.

Heather loves to travel and spend time with her fur kids. Heather has an Italian Greyhound (Henry Bean), German Shorthair Pointer (Lizzie), and



two cats (Frodo Finn and Alfie). Heather is passionate about education technology (EdTech) and is excited to share her enthusiasm with her new colleagues and the whole campus at MSUM.

"The future of education technology is so exciting and I am happy that I get to be a part of it! I feel the Office of Online Learning is one of the most exciting departments on campus. We get to search and discover the latest technologies for students, faculty, and alum! We work to help you succeed in this technological world of education," Heather Schneider.

Please join us in welcoming Heather to the Office of Online Learning!

QM Corner: **New Semester, New Rubric**

By Catherine Artac

Integral to the [Quality Matters](#) (QM) philosophy and process is continuous quality improvement, including improvements to the QM Rubric. Every few years the QM Rubric goes through a review & revision to stay current with the latest research in online course design. The Rubric was just updated this summer and copies of the Rubric Workbook 6th Edition are available to all MSUM faculty at no charge.

How can you use the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric?

While the QM Rubric was designed specifically with online and hybrid (blended) courses in mind, the instructional design principles behind QM are applicable to any course – online, hybrid, or face to face.

- The Rubric can be used **informally** by faculty looking for pedagogically-sound, student-centered course design strategies. Faculty can use the QM rubric to guide their decisions while designing new courses and as the foundation for review and revision of existing courses.
- The Rubric is used in the **official** peer review process. The course peer review process is voluntary. It involves a comprehensive review by trained peer reviewers who utilize the Quality Matters Rubric to provide feedback on the design of a course.

*Request your copy of the QM Rubric Workbook 6th Ed. today!**

Getting a Course QM Certified

Over the past year, four MSUM faculty have taken courses through the official QM review process, earning QM Certification for their course. Congratulations to your colleagues on this endeavor: Michael Coquyt (STL), Rebecca Rudel (NURS), Rochelle Bergstrom (PSY), and Boyd Bradbury (STL).

*Interested in taking a course through a review? Get the scoop and start planning!**

QM Training

Multiple online QM workshops are offered throughout the year. Whether you want to learn more about the QM process and how to apply it to your course design, best practices in online course facilitation, or even want to become a Certified QM Peer Reviewer, there are many opportunities for you to engage in QM professional development to meet your goals.

*Let us help you find the right workshop for you – we'll even pay the registration fee!**

**Send your inquiries and requests to campus QM Coordinator, Catherine Artac (catherine.artac@mnstate.edu | 218-477-2390).*

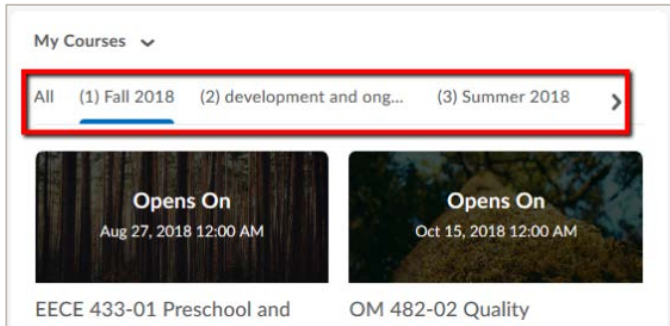
D2L Brightspace: **What's new?**

By Brandyn Sauer

Changes to D2L Brightspace have been happening at the speed of light! Okay, maybe not that fast, but many changes happened over the summer. On June 6th we migrated to D2L's Cloud. This means that we get monthly updates and are always on the latest version/release of their product. Some of the most notable features in the updates over the summer include:

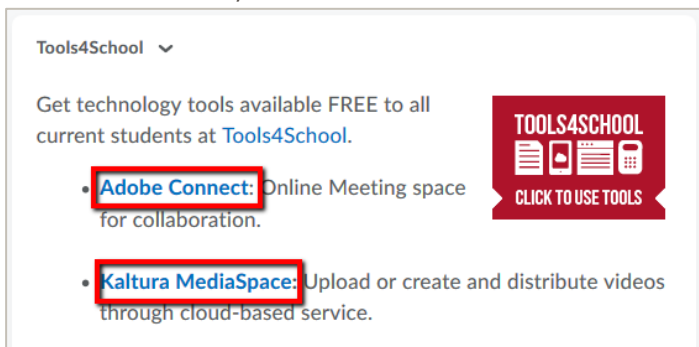
My Courses Widget:

Courses can now be filtered/grouped by semester. Once you log into D2L Brightspace you can scroll down to the My Courses widget and filter to specific semesters.



Easier Access to Adobe Connect & Kaltura MediaSpace:

The Tools4School widget on the D2L Brightspace Homepage has updated links that will automatically log you into both Adobe Connect and Kaltura MediaSpace. These tools are available to Faculty and Students alike.



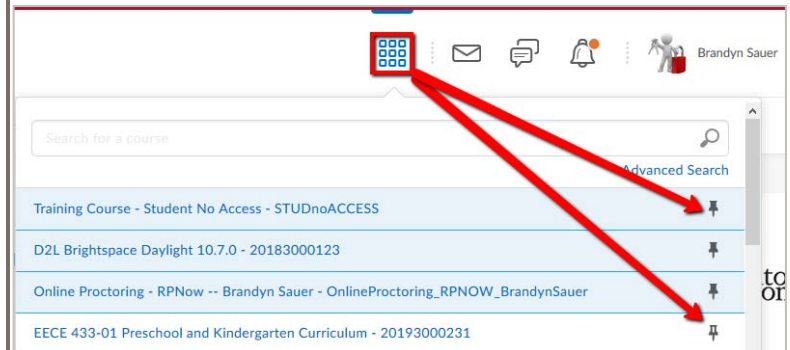
Manage Dates:

This tool now allows the ability to modify any date that you set within your course. This is especially helpful for courses you copy from one semester to the next! This feature is found under Course Admin | Manage Dates.

At the time of this publication we are on version 10.8.4, however we are set to take version 10.8.5 on September 19th.

Course Pinning:

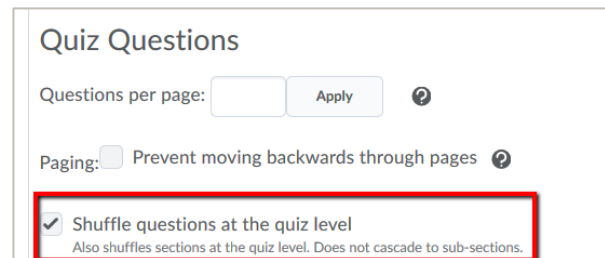
Courses are no longer automatically "pinned" for you. Many faculty and students were confused by courses being automatically pinned/unpinned. Courses you pin will be pinned until you unpin them.



Quizzes:

Quizzes can now have "due dates" in addition to start and end dates.

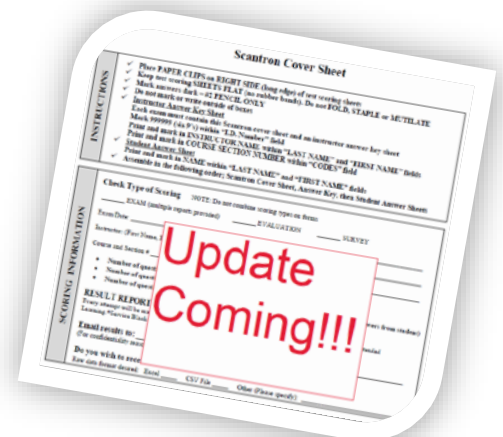
Randomizing questions is also easier thanks to the addition of a checkbox that allows you to shuffle the questions at the quiz level.



Scantron Update: Changes to cover sheet

By Gloria Sheldon

The Office of Online Learning is in the process of making major changes to the Scantron cover sheet. Once that has been completed, we will be emailing a sample to all of the Office Secretaries. Please replace your previous version of the coversheet with the one we send to you.





PD Opportunities

Light up your learning!

Workshops, Webinars & More

OOL and FDC Workshops

- Transitioning from Panopto to MediaSpace
 - September 6, 2018 3:00 pm
 - September 12, 2018 3:00 pm
 - November 16, 2018 2:00 pm
- An introduction to Kaltura MediaSpace
 - November 1, 2018, 3:00 pm
 - November 2, 2018, 2:00 pm

All are in Library 124. Watch your email and Dragon Digest for information on how to register for OOL & FDC workshops.

Minnesota Online Quality Initiative (MOOI) Webinars

Due to staffing changes at MOOI, all previously advertised webinars have been postponed until spring.

QM Workshops

Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR)

Sept. 11 - 25, 2018

This online, asynchronous, 2-week workshop is QM's flagship workshop. It is intended for those who wish to

gain a deeper understanding of the QM Rubric and process of course review.*

Improving Your Online Course (IYOC)

Oct. 23 – Nov. 7, 2018

The IYOC is a 2-week online, asynchronous workshop. It explores the QM Rubric, examining 21 essential standards. Participants come away with a plan for course improvement.*

Prerequisite: must have an existing online course to examine during the workshop.

*Contact our campus QM Coordinator, [Catherine Artac](#), for registration details!

OLC Workshops

Multiple workshops are offered throughout the year by the Online Learning Consortium. Email onlinelearning@mnstate.edu to find out what options are available to you!

Conferences

STAR Symposium

2019 tentative date February 8 (*stay tuned!*)

The STAR Symposium celebrates excellence is a **virtual one-day conference** consisting of presentations that focus on pedagogical approaches including delivery via face-to-face, blended, flipped and online classrooms.

Watch Dragon Digest for an announcement of the 2019 symposium agenda. For a peak at the last [STAR Symposium](#) agenda visit minnesota.qualitymatters.org/symposium/

Office of Online Learning

Formerly known as **Instructional Technology Services**

203 Livingston Lord Library

 <https://www.mnstate.edu/instructional-technology/>

 Phone: 218.477.2603 option 3

 support@mnstate.edu

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