Carleton University

Teaching and Learning
Services News

May Newsletter

Top Stories This Month

Classroom Support Changes

As of May 2025, Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) will no longer offer:

1. Equipment loans, like laptops, tablets, webcams, home/office microphones, video cameras and digital recorders. Loans were established as a response to the needs of the teaching and learning community during the pandemic.
2. Adapters (USB-C, DisplayPort, Thunderbolt, etc) and cables (HDMI) that may be needed to connect personal devices (i.e. a laptop or tablet) to classroom technologies or office equipment.
3. "Just in Time" service requests to bring chalk, whiteboard markers, an adapter, cable or other materials to a classroom.

The TLS Learning Spaces service desk will maintain an extra supply of chalk and whiteboard markers in Loeb D299 which can be picked up during the Service Desk's hours of operation. Chalk and whiteboard markers

in classrooms continue to be replenished overnight and classroom technologies continue to be maintained and renewed.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your continued efforts in supporting teaching and learning.

Carleton Students Showcase Research and Collaborative Teaching Projects

The Carleton community came together on April 9 to celebrate student research and collaborative teaching projects at the 2025 I-CUREUS and SaPP Showcase.

The annual event provides an opportunity for students who participated in the Internship-Carleton University Research Experience for Undergraduate Students (I-CUREUS) and Students as Partners Program (SaPP) to share their work and celebrate their achievements.

This year, 144 undergraduate students participated in these two experiential learning programs, building their communication, teamwork and research skills, and applying their disciplinary knowledge in an impactful way.

Read the full story here

Educational Technology
News & Updates

As you begin preparing for your summer and fall courses, here are a few important updates and reminders:

Check Copied Courses for Broken Links

- **New Brightspace setting goes live April 30:** To improve course integrity and data security, Brightspace will no longer allow links to files stored in previously copied courses.
- **What this means for you:** After copying course content, be sure to verify all file links to ensure they are not broken or referencing materials from an older course. Any links still referencing an older course shell will stop working.
- **Recommended action:** Re-upload or relink files directly in your new course to ensure students can access everything they need. Need help? Contact the TLS Support Portal.

D2L Brightspace Features

- **Rubrics for quiz questions:** You can now add a rubric directly to a written quiz question and use the New Quiz Evaluation Experience—designed to match the grading interface for Assignments and Discussions.
- **Fall/winter course shells coming soon:** Fall/Winter 2025-26 courses will be created in Brightspace this month. Access will be granted once you're officially linked to the course in Banner.
- **Automatic course deactivation:** Courses from previous academic years are now automatically deactivated to enhance clarity and simplicity for both you and your students. You can always reactivate courses if needed. For more information, please see the Automated Course Deactivation page.

Check out the What's New with Brightspace page for ongoing updates.
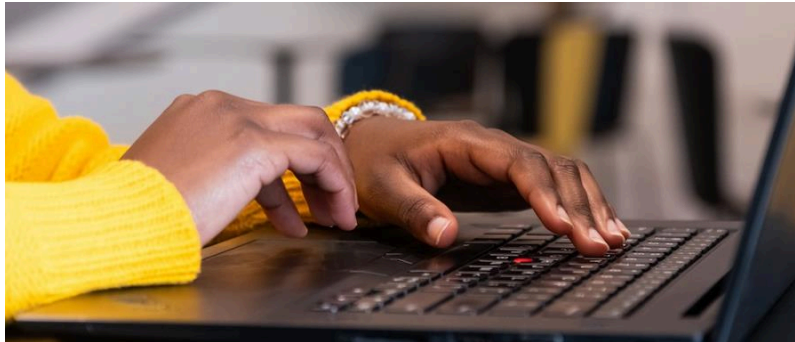
Summer Sunsets in EdTech

- **Insights Portal (May 30):** The Brightspace Insights Portal will be discontinued on May 30. We're building a new internal analytics solution and welcome your feedback [via the Learning Analytics form](#).
- **Gradescope License Ending (April 30):** Gradescope will no longer be supported at Carleton due to high licensing costs. The Faculty and Science and Faculty of Engineering and Design are exploring alternatives.

Sunsetting platforms that help address teaching challenges is not a decision we take lightly and we apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. Should you require support for transitioning away from previously supported educational technology, please [reach out to us for a consultation](#).

Let's Talk!

Have questions about your summer or fall course? Drop by one of our weekly Tuesday morning drop-ins hosted in the Future Learning Lab from 10 to 11 a.m., or book a one-on-one consultation through the [TLS Support Portal](#).

FeedbackFruits Feature: Peer Review and Interactive Document

As part of our expanding educational technology toolkit, all instructors now have access to our full suite of nine FeedbackFruits tools. Over the next few months, we'll be highlighting the different tools available and explore how they can impact the teaching and learning experience. This month, we're diving into Peer Review and Interactive Document.

Peer Review: The [Peer Review](#) activity offers multiple feedback opportunities and enhances students critical thinking and writing skills. Students submit individual or group work, and then give and receive feedback from

their peers on that work. The feedback is flexible; it can be in the form of open comments or guided by a rubric or scoring system. The learning process can be further extended by adding steps that allow students to reflect on the feedback they receive or to provide feedback on the feedback they were given by their peers. From the instructor side, this activity streamlines formative peer assessment. It can save instructors time in activity setup, document exchange, and feedback distribution, and is scalable to all class sizes.

Interactive Document: The [Interactive Document](#) activity enhances learner-to-content interaction and increases student engagement. In this activity, instructors add in-line questions and discussion points to documents, turning reading text into an interactive activity. Students answer the questions and pose questions of their own. Students can also start and participate in discussions with other students on areas that pique their interest—all within the document. This type of social annotation encourages close reading of the material and promotes a collaborative learning environment.

Explore both tools today in Brightspace and see how they can support authentic, AI-resilient learning. Have you already implemented these tools in your courses? We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us via the [FeedbackFruits link in our TLS Support Portal](#).

Enrich Student Learning at the Experiential Learning Hub

Instructors are increasingly using extended reality (XR) in their courses to enhance student learning. Watch the video below to discover how you can use XR technologies at the Experiential Learning Hub to provide students with immersive, meaningful learning opportunities that can help enrich your course.
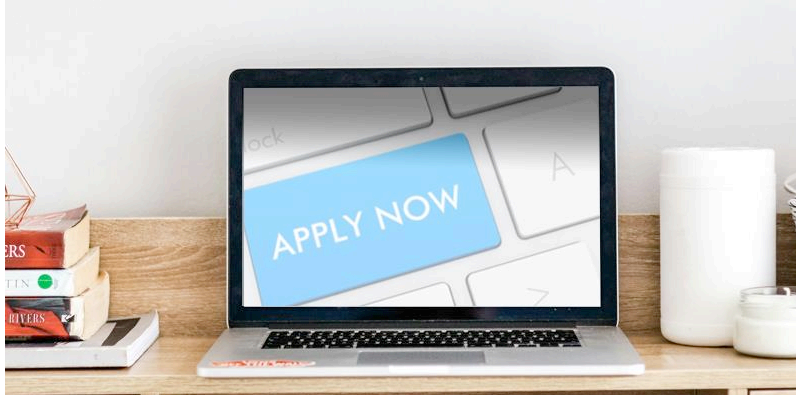
Reach out to the Experiential Learning Hub team to [book a tour or consultation](#) and explore how you can integrate this innovative approach in your teaching.

Reminder: Support for the Summer Term

If you're getting ready to teach a course this summer, we have a variety of resources and support available to help, including

- **Classroom orientations and support:** Our Learning Spaces team provides urgent, just-in-time support for classroom technologies in the general pool. If your class is in session and you require immediate assistance, call extension 3815 from the classroom phone, or 613-520-3815 from your mobile phone. You can also familiarize yourself with the classroom you will be teaching in by [booking an orientation](#). Our website also [lists every general pool classroom by building](#) and provides information on the technology available along with a 360-degree image of the space.
- **One-on-one consultations:** If you want to discuss any facet of your course, please complete our [course consultation request form](#). We can provide pedagogical and educational technology support, from helping you develop a course communication plan to providing guidance on selecting and using educational technology tools.
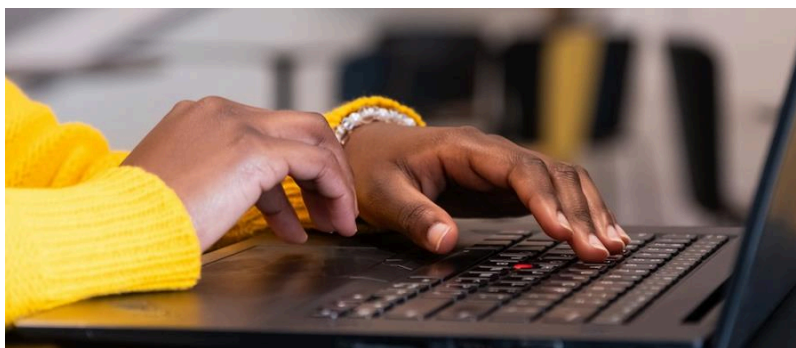
Provost Scholar Award Recipients Announced

Congratulations to the five undergraduate students who received 2025 Provost Scholar Awards.

The Provost Scholar Award is valued at $500 and is given to undergraduate students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in research, community engagement, immersive learning and/or international activities.

The Peter J. Ricketts Outstanding Provost Scholar Award was established in 2019 and is given to an outstanding recipient of the Provost Scholar Award. This year's award, worth an additional $2,000, was presented to Aya Tessier, a physics student who is immersed in learning, teaching, research and community service.

Accessible Teaching Tip - Hyperlinks

On semi-regular basis, we will highlight approaches and tips that can enhance accessible teaching practices. The tip for the May newsletter is simple and involves how to include links in materials and text placed online.

To make hyperlinks ('links') accessible, avoid using the URL itself in the body of text. This just creates a large string of text that is often not comprehensible - leading to screen readers and text to speech tools attempting to

read the text of the URL. Instead, use descriptive hyperlink text that clearly indicates where the link leads and is integrated into the sentence itself. For example: "Consult the list of resources to learn more."

Finally, ensure that the hyperlink text is distinguishable from the regular text - usually when you insert a clickable text link, it will be underlined - do not change the style of link by removing the underlining. This additionally means that if you need to emphasize words or an idea in online text, bold it instead of using an underline to avoid confusion.

More News

- **Spring Course Design Fundamentals:** CDF starting at the end of May and running into June.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

- Hands-On AI Intensive, May 5 to 8, various times
- Mobile Storytelling With Location-Based XR, May 6, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Applying Inclusive Design Practices in Your Course Development, May 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Exploring Alternative Grading Approaches, May 13, 10:30 a.m. to noon
- Indigenous Virtual Learning Space Exploration, May 22, 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Promoting Student Digital Literacy With FUSION, May 22, 10:30 a.m. to noon
- Course Design Fundamentals: Introduction to Course Design, May 26, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Reading Assignments in the Age of AI, May 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon
- Course Design Fundamentals: Learning Outcomes as Blueprints for Course Design, May 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- CityStudio Ottawa Information Session, May 29, 10 to 11 a.m.

Don't forget we host drop-in sessions every Tuesday in the Future Learning Lab (room 483) from 10 to 11 a.m. to

help you with your course needs. Bring your laptop and any teaching-related questions you have.

Missed an event? Watch recorded sessions on our [Mediaspace channel](#).

View all events