Carleton University | Teaching and Learning Services News

September Newsletter

Top Stories This Month

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Term!

I want to take this time to wish you all a warm welcome to the fall 2025 term. I hope that you were able to take some time to relax with friends and family over the summer, and that you feel refreshed heading into the new term.

There is a renewed energy on campus when September comes around. It's an exciting time filled with opportunities for growth as we launch new programs, open new facilities, and welcome new faculty members to the community.

I am proud of all the work that has been done over the last year to support student success and pedagogical innovation. Faculty across disciplines are creating new immersive learning experiences in the Experiential Learning Hub that transport students to different places and times, and in the Digital Transformation Centre, where faculty are collaborating with students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences. And they are leveraging the Future Learning Lab to collaborate with their students. I'm looking forward to another great year ahead as we continue to build on these experiences, embrace innovation and explore emerging technologies.

We are expanding our FUSION self-development modules to help students develop more transferable skills. These inclusive, research-informed modules can be seamlessly integrated into courses across disciplines and empower learners to thrive in a complex, technology-driven society. The Students as Partners Program and FUSIONLE are other initiatives that provide students with meaningful opportunities. Keep an eye out for the call for applications for these programs later on the term.

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of funding opportunities for instructors this year to enhance the teaching and learning experience. Including the Future Learning Innovation Fellowship, Carleton University Experiential Learning Fund (CUELF) and the Course Transformation Fund. Calls for applications will be sent out in the fall.

These enhanced learning experiences are just one way we can support our students – we can also do so by continuing our own personal growth. Our extensive professional development opportunities can help you with everything from reimagining group work and exploring alternative grading approaches to incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into your courses.

A continuous to gain new ground and provides many opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. With that in mind, we've launched a new AI Resource Hub in collaboration with the Centre for Research in Teaching and Learning (CRTL). This hub provides researchers, staff and students navigate the rapidly evolving AI landscape. It also features a collection of resources and professional development opportunities to help you explore and experiment with AI, while using it safely and responsibly. The website will be updated regularly – if you have a resource that you'd like to share on the site, or have any feedback, please contact us!

Remember that we are here to help you explore possibilities and overcome challenges. Whether you're a seasoned educator or just starting your teaching journey, we would like to collaborate with innovative AH environments to get your students involved in experiential learning, apply tools to assess. We can also support you with educational technologies, including a new suite of tools now available in Brightspace and Feedback Fruits that support authentic, student-centred learning.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about our programs and initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out.

On behalf of all of us in the Office of the Vice-Provost, I wish you and your students a successful fall term!

David J. Hornsby

Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Carleton University

Resources and Support for the New Term

If you're teaching a course this fall, remember that we are available to support you in a variety of ways, including:

- **Classroom orientations and support:** Our Learning Spaces team provides urgent, on-demand classroom support and orientations. If you need help with a class in session and you require immediate assistance, call extension 2873 from the classroom phone, or 613-520-3810 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 several good classroom for tutorials and provides information about classroom technology, including how to book a tech-enabled room.
- **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.

In addition to the support we provide, there are other curricular and pedagogical resources available across campus, including the Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles, the Centre for Research in Teaching and Learning Community Development Fund, and Equity and Inclusive Communities. Learn more about how each of these resources can support you and your students.

Support for Your Teaching Assistants This Term

Are you working with a teaching assistant (TA) this fall? We have several resources to assist you in supporting your TAs, including:

- **Teaching assistant webpage:** The teaching assistants section of the TLS website includes all TA-related information in one place – TA pedagogical training hosted by TLS, contract information and more.
- **Training:** TLS TA pedagogical training workshops are offered in two installments: September and January. Sign up for them on your regular time in Carleton Centre – Professional Development Grades; and
  - Asynchronous online (recorded) workshops hosted in the Brightspace TA Pedagogical Training site. This site is open to all Carleton instructors. To enrol in this training site, send a request to TASupport@carlet.ca; and
- **TA Basics module:** We encourage all new TAs (undergraduate and graduate) to begin their training by completing the TA Basics online module in the Brightspace TA Pedagogical Training hub.
- **Teaching assistants:** We have a Brightspace support site to assist your TAs in navigating and using Carleton's learning management system.

For more information about the services TLS offers for your TAs, visit our website.

Help Your Students Develop Academic and Employability Skills

In a world that's evolving faster than ever, Teaching and Learning Services is offering skills development modules to help students succeed in learning, work and life. The FUSION modules focus on transferable skills that support academic achievement and lifelong learning, such as collaboration, communication and problem solving.

These inclusive, flexible, research-informed modules can be seamlessly integrated into courses across disciplines. With self-paced online content, self-assessments and real-world applications, FUSION empowers learners to thrive in a complex, technology-driven society. Learn more about embedding modules in your courses.

AI in Teaching and Learning: 1x GenAI Activity

We're launched a bite-sized option feature to keep you informed about how artificial intelligence (AI) – especially generative AI (GenAI) – is shaping teaching and learning at Carleton and beyond. As we continue to explore our foot-pronged approach to building AI literacy for your courses, this month's focus is on prompt fig. 2: 1x GenAI activity.

After setting assessment through critical lenses and task-type, many instructors are choosing to integrate at least one intentional GenAI activity into their course. This doesn't mean overhauling your entire assessment strategy, it's about using GenAI strategically to enhance student learning, metacognition or engagement. Read more about exercises in GenAI activity to support learning and this month's feature tool – Carleton's new virtual agent.

Educational Technology News & Updates

As we welcome a new term, now is the time to smooth out any bumps and make sure your course setup is working for you and your students. We are here to support you at every stage—whether you're fine-tuning your Brightspace course, trying out new tools or looking for ways to make your teaching more sustainable.

Fall Term Reminders

- **Activate your course.** Courses are hidden by default. Don't forget to make yours visible by selecting "Course Offering Information" from the navigation bar and checking "Course Visible."
- **Make sure your prerequisites are ready.** It's always a good idea to ensure your gradebook is set up early on to ensure a smooth semester. We're happy to look over it with you. Just reach out to us, share your gradebook and your relevant learning outcomes and we can help you fill out an outline.
- **Get caught up on Brightspace updates.** Check out the What's New with Brightspace page for the latest updates you might have missed, including flexible assignments for assessments, bulk enrolment via CSV for groups and classwork assignments in Brightspace.
- **Not sure where to start?** We are here to help with course setup, tool integration and teaching strategies. Submit a course consultation request to get tailored support for your fall planning.

ouPortfolio: Student Support Now Live

Our self-paced Brightspace course for students is now available, helping them navigate ouPortfolio through step-by-step videos and text instructions. It's now available to a select peer-to-peer support.

If you missed our August workshop but want to explore reflection or metacognitive assignments in your courses, we're happy to connect. Reach out via the TLS Support Portal to learn more about how it makes the most of ouPortfolio.

The Shiny Tool in Our EdTech Toolkit: H5P

Create engaging, interactive content right in Brightspace with H5P—from interactive videos and presentations to timelines, quizzes and more. Watch the demo video to see what's possible!

Why we love it:

- Easy to create
- Reusable every term
- Great for accessibility and student engagement

Find H5P in Brightspace under "Existing Activities." Need help? Join us at a Tuesday drop-in (10 to 11 a.m. in the Future Learning Lab) or connect through the TLS Support Portal.

FeedbackFruits Feature: Spotlight on the Interactive Document Tool

All new FeedbackFruits tools are now available in Brightspace (via the Existing Activities button). Over the next few months, we'll be spotlighting the different tools to help you explore practical ways to foster student-centred learning. First up: Interactive Document.

Interactive Document allows you to upload a text or PDF file—such as your course syllabus—and embed discussion prompts, multiple-choice questions, and reflection cards directly into the document. This transforms passive reading into active engagement.

Use Case: Syllabus Review
Start your course with intention by turning your syllabus into an interactive activity. Upload your syllabus and add question cards like, "What are the expectations?" and "When and where are office hours held?" Students then respond individually or in groups, sharing their insights. This approach transforms a traditionally one-sided procedure dialogue. You can even ask requirements—like asking for a summary or replying to two peers—to support meaningful participation.

This activity sets the tone for a shared, flexible, inclusive approach to the syllabus as a living document, allowing students to continue editing or answering questions throughout the course. Others would call the end of the semester, prompting students to reflect on what changed, what could be clarified or what should be added next time.

Whether you use it for syllabus engagement, reading check-ins or policy discussions, Interactive Document helps build a transparent, collaborative learning environment from day one.

Bringing Theory to Life with Digital Storytelling

Prof. Peggy Hartwell was looking for a way to help students in her second language acquisition theory class make connections to the course content. Watch the video below to see how she was able to bring the complex theoretical concepts to life by encouraging students to reflect on and share their own language learning journeys through digital storytelling.

Hartwell, a 2025 Provost's Fellowship in Teaching Award winner, has also received funding through the Carleton University Experiential Learning Fund to launch a digital storytelling toolkit. The toolkit will equip instructors with adaptable, student-centred storytelling prompts and lesson plans, ensuring students can connect course content to their own lived experiences. This approach supports students in completing these projects with confidence. More details to come.

If you're interested in incorporating digital storytelling into your courses, reach out to discuss the possibilities.

Enhance Your Teaching Skills: Register for the Certificate in University Teaching

Registration for the fall cohort of our Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) program is now open! This program is designed to support participants in developing further pedagogical understanding of pedagogy and enhance your teaching skills. It is available to faculty members, contract instructors, lab coordinators or anyone working in an instructional-focused position with a recent, current or upcoming teaching assignment at Carleton. Learn more and register here.

Accessible Teaching Tip: Brightspace HTML Editor

The Brightspace HTML editor appears in multiple tools and content areas within your course. It allows you to add links to your content and format your text. A simple way to make your content more inclusive is to use the accessibility features built-in to the HTML editor.

Through the HTML editor, you can:

- **Add heading levels.** Headings help with content/document structure and organization. They are also essential for learners using assistive technology to navigate through the content.
- **Check colour accessibility.** To ensure readability, text colour must have a high contrast ratio with the background colour. The Colour Selector tool in the HTML editor helps you find accessible colour combinations.
- **Run the accessibility checker.** The Checker Accessibility tool in the HTML editor will identify possible accessibility issues in your content and suggest fixes.

For more accessibility tips and detailed instructions, please visit the Accessibility in Brightspace support page.

More News

- **New AI Resource Hub:** Are you considering incorporating AI into your course to support teaching and learning? The new AI Resource Hub, hosted by CRTL, can help navigate this rapidly evolving field. Explore the collection of resources and professional development opportunities to get started.
- **New Human Rights Module Available for Your Students:** A new, online asynchronous human rights module focused on equity, inclusion and anti-oppression is now available for your students. This module is part of a suite of self-paced, asynchronous human rights and fees they can be upload at Carleton. You can upload the module to your course pages for students to access. Contact Kate Cohen, Equity and Inclusion Learning Specialist, for resources or pedagogical support.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

- Welcome to My Classroom: Spotlight on BI, Sept. 11, 12 & 22–23
- Hands-On AI Retreat, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Foundations of Multiple Choice Testing, Sept. 22, 1 to 4 p.m.
- It's Never Too Late/Early: Building Students' Skills for Ethical and Responsible GenAI Use, Sept. 24, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Lived Health Crises in Workplace Sessions, Sept. 25 to end of term
- Course Design Conversations: Designing for Deep Learning in The Power of Visual and Verbal Interpretation, Oct. 7, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
- Teaching Tips: Small Group Discussion Activities into Smaller Lecture Classes, Oct. 8, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Remembering Group Work: Collaboration in the Classroom, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to noon
- Come Back With Us: LNT Interactive Video, Nov. 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Don't forget we host drop-in sessions every Tuesday in the Future Learning Lab (room 482) 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 Brightspace channel.

View all events

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Need help? Request a one-on-one consultation

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