Why Online Canvas Courses for Faculty Professional Development?

To reach our incredibly busy faculty who are increasingly dispersed throughout the region and the world, we have begun to offer professional development via online Canvas courses. Unlike the e-learning modules with which you are already familiar, such as the HIPAA module accessed via Knowledge Link, Canvas courses run, like traditional classroom courses, in set course sessions and participants access materials and interact with one another asynchronously throughout the session.

The benefits of Canvas online courses over e-learning modules designed for single session learning include opportunities for:

- networking and collaborating with colleagues
- spaced engagement with content, allowing for reflection about content
- higher order thinking (content application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation)

In a Canvas course, you will have the convenience of being able to log on during the session when it is best for you and from wherever you have internet access (and with any device), with the incremental benefits of the deeper, more profound learning that occurs with collaboration, reflection, and critical thinking.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Canvas?
Canvas is an online learning management system, like Coursera or Blackboard. It is a proprietary system we access via a contractual agreement with Instructure. We can create courses within Canvas using html or the Canvas editor. Canvas features include interactive options, such as Discussion Boards.

How does a Canvas course work?
Faculty development courses in Canvas run in sessions for specific periods of time. For example, PSOM 101 will run September 26-October 16. Enrolled faculty should log on as close as possible to the beginning of the course (ideally as soon as a link to the course is made available) to read the course schedule, determine participation requirements, and plan. While courses run as specific sessions, as long as you are following the course schedule for reading, posting to a discussion board, etc., you can log on when it is most convenient for you.

How much time will this require?
There will be some variance across courses, but most will average 30-45 minutes per week. Course descriptions will include this information.

What if I need technical help?
Each course will have its own home page with contact information.

Do Canvas courses have instructors or facilitators?
Yes, each course will have at least one faculty facilitator and an instructional designer who can help with navigating the site.

What if I have an idea for a Canvas course to teach colleagues?
Please reach out to FAPD
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