Access the Course Material

Below is a basic instruction guide for accessing course materials. Please note that the first set of materials won’t be accessible until the afternoon of the 13th.

The Perelman School of Medicine uses Canvas as a learning management system. You may have used this already for the genetics Primer course. Each of the courses you take will have its own page on Canvas, and these pages will become available to you as the course draws near. There is also a General Academic Programs page for class meetings and announcements. Material in Modules 1, 3, and 6 is generally posted as it becomes available from course directors, and Module 2 material (which begins in the Spring Semester) is posted on a weekly basis.

Curriculum Content on Canvas

All course content (lecture slides and notes, video/audio recordings, etc.) will be available on Canvas.

From the afternoon of August 13, material for the courses that start the following week will be available to you. PLEASE BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THIS MATERIAL OVER THE WEEKEND, AND NOT MONDAY MORNING.

The Canvas Dashboard

- Go to the Canvas homepage (https://canvas.upenn.edu). You can log in with your Pennkey and password.
- The default view is your Dashboard, which provides quick access to a customizable list of classes. When you first visit the site, the Dashboard will be empty if you have not yet accepted any course invitations. As you accept invitations, these courses will populate your Dashboard.
- To further tailor the course list on your Dashboard, click on the “Courses” link on the left-hand side of the screen and then “All Courses” on the ensuing menu.
- The “All Courses” page lists all of your present and past courses. Past courses will appear below your list of active courses—they will be listed as “Past Enrollments”.
- Each course will have a star icon to the left of the course title. Clicking the star will add the course to your Dashboard, as well as to your list of courses in the Canvas app (Please note: starring a course is the only way to access it via the Canvas app).
- By August 13 you will have received a Canvas invitation to each of your initial block of classes; once you accept the invitations, they should all be available on your “All Courses” page.

Course Pages

- Clicking into any course on your list will take you to the course homepage.
- The homepage for most courses provides a course overview, detailing course objectives and assessments. It will also display a list of upcoming events and tasks on the right-hand side of the screen.
- Course materials (lecture slides, notes, etc.) are accessible via the “Modules” link on the left-hand side of the course site.
- If your course includes Canvas-based assignments, these are accessible via the “Assignments” link on the left-hand side of the course site.
Recording Attendance in Canvas

For your small group sessions and certain lecture events in Modules 1 and 2, attendance is mandatory and will be recorded via Canvas.

At the start of each session, an attendance check-in will become available to you on that course’s Canvas page. Check-ins will only be available during the first ten minutes of a session.

You can access check-ins on the Assignments tab:

Click on the assignment for the day’s session. On the ensuing screen, you will be prompted to enter an attendance code; a unique code will be distributed at the start of class. Click on Submit Assignment to open a text entry field:
Enter the code in the text field and click **Submit Assignment** to complete your check-in: