The University of Memphis

umTech
Newsletter

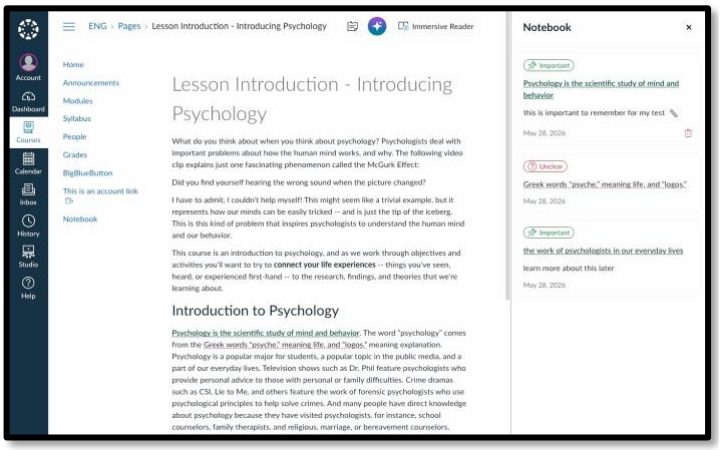
ITS SERVICE DESK
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THE canvas CORNER

CANVAS NOTEBOOK AND PEER REVIEW ENHANCEMENTS

Canvas now provides private student notebooks and expanded peer-review configuration, visibility, assignment distribution and deadline controls.



Student Notebooks:

The Canvas Notebook provides each student with a personal space to take, save, organize and delete notes for course study. Notebook contents are private to the student and are not visible to instructors.

Peer Review Controls:

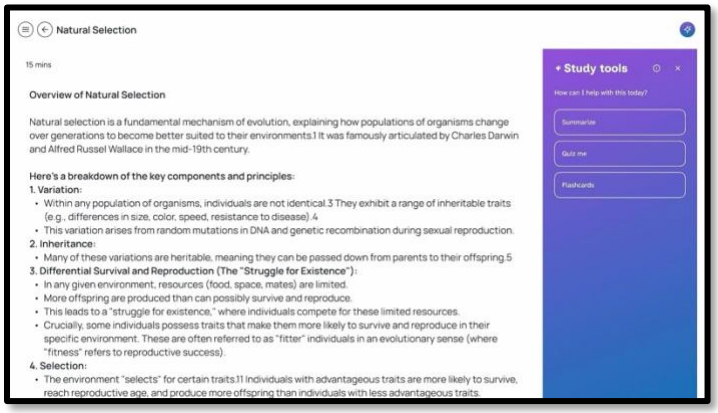
New control options allow instructors to assign points, require peer reviews, establish separate review due dates, and require students to submit their own assignment before reviewing another student's work. Students can access assigned reviews from the assignment area, including multiple submissions when applicable.

Documentation Access:

Current documentation and setup resources are available through Canvas Community materials, including videos and detailed walkthroughs.

Remember, when your machine asks you to restart, please do. Thank you!

CANVAS IGNITE AI EXPANSION



The university's expanded Canvas contract now includes multiple Ignite AI tools for instructors and students. Most instructor-facing tools must be enabled at the course level, while Ignite Study Tools are available to students by default.

Available Instructor Tools:

The expanded Ignite AI suite includes tools for translating discussion inbox content, searching course materials, creating questions, generating discussion insights, assisting with grading and working with rubrics. The university previously had access to Ignite Agent and now has access to a broader set of tools.

Course-Level Activation:

Instructor-facing Ignite AI tools are turned off by default. Instructors can enable applicable features by opening a course, going to Settings, selecting Feature Options, and turning on the desired tools. Training sessions will also be offered.

Course Search:

Ignite course search is available to both instructors and students and can help locate assignments, documents and other course content.

Student Study Tools:

Ignite Study Tools are available to students in every course by default, with instructors having the option to disable them. Students can generate flashcards, practice quizzes, and other study aids from course content. The tool uses text from Canvas pages and does not access information contained only in linked PDF or PowerPoint files.

UM3D IS NOW (CTL) CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

UM3D is now the Center for Teaching and Learning is expanding its role in supporting the use of AI in teaching and learning. Planned resources include a monthly newsletter, an AI-Ready Educator series, and support channels for faculty.

Monthly Newsletter:
A monthly newsletter will cover campus AI activities, departmental direction and available resources. The newsletter will include information about upcoming educational opportunities.

Educator Series:
The AI-Ready Educator series will address AI and higher education, course-level AI competency, workload, student needs and AI-supported assignments. Sessions are open to the University of Memphis faculty, with a limit of 25 participants. The series will include in-person meetings followed by a virtual final meeting.

Faculty Support:
The Center for Teaching and Learning will serve as a campus resource for AI-related teaching questions. An anonymous form will also be available for submitting questions.

Communication Follow-Up:
A new CTL email address, CTL@memphis.edu, is also available as part of the transition from the former UM3D identity. They have also begun the process of rebranding their website.

TAF FUNDING TRANSFORMATION

Preliminary information was provided regarding changes to Technology Access Fee (TAF) funding, including the transition of software purchases away from TAF funding after FY26. The charge is now presented to students as part of a broader university service fee.

Funding Changes:
TAF funds have historically supported software, computer labs and student employees and been subject to allocation rules and restrictions. The shared materials indicate that June 30, 2026, marked the end of TAF funding for college software, with departments assuming software costs.

Student Fee Label:
Students no longer see a distinct TAF line item. The charge appears as part of a university service fee included with tuition and supports a broader range of campus services and activities.

Future Clarification:
Additional information regarding the new funding rules will be reviewed and provided at a future meeting.



ANNUAL IT SECURITY AWARENESS

Annual required IT Security Awareness training will be available during the [illegible] training system this year: Adaptive Security. Watch for an enrollment email from itsec-training@memphis.edu. For more information, visit the IT Security Awareness Training webpage.|

ONLINE EXAM PROCTORING EVALUATION

The university is assessing institution-wide online proctoring options, particularly for asynchronous online courses, while reviewing cost, privacy, support and payment considerations.

The university currently does not have an enterprise-wide proctoring solution. Departments may arrange their own contracts, and some textbook integrations provide alternative options.

A team has evaluated institutional needs, available vendors, and submitted recommendations to campus leadership for review. A potential solution may begin with a pilot before a broader rollout.

The proposed workflow would establish guidelines for when online proctoring should be used, with consideration given to per-assessment costs and stakeholder approval.

Potential technical requirements may include a compatible browser, webcam, and other hardware depending on the configuration.

A possible student fee model remains under consideration and has not been determined. The proposed service would focus on asynchronous online courses and would not replace in-pers[illegible] classroom proctoring.



SOFTWARE CONTRACTS/RENEWALS

May - Media Site - $5,780

June - SAS - $27,420, ArcGis - $25,000, Wrds - $55,300 *FY26 (ending June 30, 2026, was the last month TAF will be payingfor college software.*

July – Adobe - $155,741.50

August - Sonocent - $10,920

September - Microsoft Unified - $60,524, Microsoft Campus - $577,244

Nothing again until February.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

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