

Good afternoon, Colleagues:

In this edition of CTE Updates, you'll find the following topics:

- Preparing for the Teaching Challenges Ahead
- Synchronous Sessions: Reminding Students
- Zoom help
- Blackboard Webinars
- Upcoming Events and Help Sessions

Preparing for the Teaching Challenges Ahead

Ordinarily, I would simply park [this link](#) in the CTE's [online resources page](#), but it's useful enough that I want to call attention to it here. It reports on Sienna College faculty members' findings as they tried out several approaches to face-to-face, hybrid/hy-flex (not advised), and blended learning. I highly recommend reading it as a way of beginning to imagine the actual conduct of class may feel like in the fall—the effects of masks on audibility in the classroom; the effects of social distancing on collaboration; and some technology considerations.

Many thanks to Maria Valdovinos, our colleague in psychology, for sharing this.

Synchronous Sessions: Reminding Students

Over the past couple weeks, some of our colleagues have discovered that students who either have registered to take all classes virtually or have learned that some of the courses will be offered virtually do not realize that they're still expected to be available during their regularly scheduled class-times. In communicating with students, it would be a good idea to remind them (more than once) that even when they're "attending" virtually, they're expected to take part in synchronous sessions at the regularly scheduled class times.

Zoom Help

- Christina Trombley, executive director of Drake Online, will offer her [final scheduled Design Dialogue Session](#) on Thursday, August 13, at 11:30 am. That dialogue will focus on using video in virtual teaching and learning and will now include a brief introduction to the basics of using **Zoom**
- Zoom hosts a robust, concise, and easy-to-navigate array of [online support resources](#). I highly recommend that you make it your first stop if you are new to Zoom and need an introduction to it.

Blackboard Webinars for Instructors

Blackboard has launched a series of live sessions offering guidance on a variety of Blackboard Learn topics. The [registration page](#) also includes links to self-paced support on the topics covered in the live sessions.

When selecting a session, please be sure that you're signing up for help with Blackboard Learn Original, (not Ultra). While our Blackboard landing/navigation page will change over to the Ultra Base Navigation look and feel this Sunday, August 9th, the courses themselves will continue operate as Blackboard Learn Original courses with only minimal differences in course functionality.

Upcoming Events and Help Sessions

- The CTE, AET, and Drake Online are able to extend one-on-one support for virtual teaching and learning, including course design and tech help through the end of August, beyond the our initial August 10th end-date. You can use [this link](#) to request individualized help. As demand inevitably increases for this kind of support, please
- Faculty and staff are invited, and encouraged, to attend the [2020 Learning Symposium](#), co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Baum Chair of Ethics in the Professions, from noon to 6:00pm on August 17th. The theme for this gathering is **Resilience**, which stems from our understanding that demographic trends and Covid-19 have shaken up higher education – and Drake itself – combined with our belief that rooting ourselves in our community, our values and vision, and our mission are the ways to remain steadfast and intact as we learn to thrive in this environment.
- Christina will continue to host monthly Design Dialogue sessions through the fall semester, on the third Thursday of every month at 11:30. Additional information on each of these meetings will appear in OnCampus and on the Drake Online and Continuing Education webpage.
- My usual alternating-Thursday session, originally scheduled this week, will not take place. Instead, it will take place next Thursday, 10:30-11:30 am. This is an open discussion about questions attendees bring to the session. You can join on Teams at [this link](#).