



Course Design: Step 3 – Developing

Promoting Communication in Virtual Campus (Brightspace)

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Teaching Continuity

- 3-step webinar series:
 1. Mapping
 2. Communicating
 - 3. Developing**
- **Communication Tools**



Learning outcomes

- By the end of this webinar, you should be able to:
 - Differentiate between the various communication tools available in Virtual Campus
 - Identify best practices
 - Deploy the tools
 - Locate helpful resources



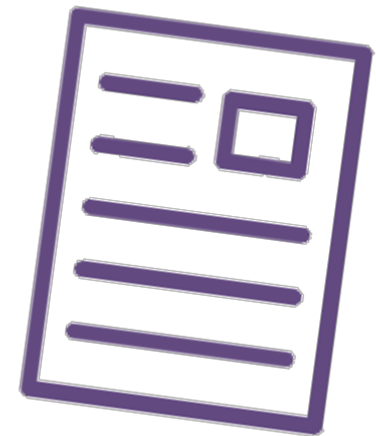
Agenda

- Overview of the communication tools available in Virtual Campus (Brightspace):
 - Announcements
 - E-mail
 - Groups
 - Discussions



Announcements

- Can be used to update and inform students
- Generated and posted within Virtual Campus
- Various control settings for posting



Announcements - Key takeaways . . .

- ***Notifications*** must be enabled
- Important or urgent message?
 - Consider e-mail



E-mails

- Can be used to update and inform students
- Sent directly from within Virtual Campus
- Two methods available



E-mail - Key takeaways . . .

- "Class List" method most user-friendly of the two
- Useful when there is an urgent message
- Outgoing e-mails only



Groups

- Groups can be linked to a **Discussion**, an **Assignment**, or a **Quiz**
- Several options to create groups:
 - Professor
 - System
 - Student self
- Neat option: groups of 1!



Key takeaways . . .

- Careful with group sizes – people left out
- Groups of 1: reflective journal / logbook
- Professor can modify group membership
- Groups can limit or grant access to activities



Discussions

- Promote exchanges between students, rather than just between student and professor
- Can be used to share, collaborate and discuss:
 - Student productions (videos, concept maps, drawings)
 - A compendium of resources updated by students
 - Biography presentations
 - Debate
- Serve as a reflective journal



Discussions - Key takeaways . . .

- Two methods to create discussion space:
 - You create initial thread + students respond to it
 - OR
 - Students create own threads + reply to one another
- Discussions can be linked to **groups**
- Discussions can be graded



(More) key takeaways . . .

- Professor presence - prepare your own post
- Controversial topics? Consider **moderating**
- Option: have students contribute *before* granting them access to peers' contributions
- Provide guidance → instructions, expectations, due dates, netiquette



Final remarks . . .

- Prepare content before creating in Brightspace
- Consider your course – what do you really need?
- Start slow and focus on a few, well-executed activities
- Be consistent in what tools you use and how you use them



Need help?

- **Tech support – Virtual Campus**
 - 1-866-811-3201 
 - Chat or request for help (form) 
 - Website: Teaching continuity
- **Pedagogical consultation – TLSS Specialist**
 - saea-tlss@uottawa.ca

