

Illinois State's Next LMS Q&A – Canvas

April 26, 2022

Unanswered Questions

Neil Christensen 12:30 PM

In my physics courses, I also teach programming. The students write short programs in Python and upload them. In ReggieNet, I have to download them and test them, then go back into ReggieNet and add comments and grades. Would it be possible to have Canvas run the student program in a sandbox along with a short code that I write that determines whether it is correct, gives a grade and a comment. Then Canvas take the results and enter it in the students HW and grade?

Katherine Ellison (she/her) 12:34 PM

One of Reggienet's strengths was that it does support really large video lectures that we recorded from Zoom as mp4s. Can we still embed those and they run smoothly, or are there smaller size limitations?

Mary Elaine Califf 12:37 PM

For fill in the blank, is it possible to quote the brackets so that it's possible to put things like code into fill in the blank questions?

Anonymous Attendee 12:37 PM

Carolyn & G.K.: Any advice about the issue of having embedded questions within the Pages that can be graded from there (not in assignments)?

David Giovagnoli 12:57 PM

(I'm also not suggesting that this is something we need/want, by the way!)

Answered Questions

Victoria Bush 12:12 PM

Does the personal calendar integrate with my Outlook calendar?

Carolyn Kraut 12:14 PM

Yes, the canvas calendar has a feed you can bring into Outlook. I use iCal and it works quite well. Here's the guide for Outlook: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-subscribe-to-the-Calendar-feed-using-Outlook-as-a/ta-p/531>

David Giovagnoli 12:13 PM

Do recipients get an email when you use the mail tool?

Carolyn Kraut 12:15 PM

Yes, by default, messages sent through Canvas Inbox are BCC'd to the default email set in your user preferences.

Hulda Black 12:13 PM

How do students receive notification of messages? In RN cumbersome because need to login? This also begs question of mobile accessibility for students?

Carolyn Kraut 12:18 PM

Canvas is designed to allow users to choose how and when they want to receive notifications. By default, notifications are turned on for your default institutional email, you can also add other forms of communication, including mobile notifications through the Canvas Apps. See guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-manage-my-Canvas-notification-settings-as-a-student/ta-p/434>

Mike Regilio 12:14 PM

Does the Inbox tool integrate with Outlook/ULID email or is this separate like ReggieNet is currently?

Carolyn Kraut 12:19 PM

As noted in the previous response, the Calendar feed can be imported into Outlook: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-subscribe-to-the-Calendar-feed-using-Outlook-as-a/ta-p/531>

Alejandro Enriquez 12:15 PM

Is Canvas able to import from courses created with ReggieNet?

G.K. Risser 12:26 PM

Yes. The Canvas teams are far and away the most experienced and repeatedly successful in migrating content out of Sakai (which is the platform ReggieNet is built on). We are working with the ISU LMS team on the available process for migrating your content for you so that you don't have to.

Anonymous Attendee 12:15 PM

Can we import all of the materials/structure/content etc. from ReggieNet site from a previous semester/year?

G.K. Risser 12:27 PM

Yes. The Canvas teams are far and away the most experienced and repeatedly successful in migrating content out of Sakai (which is the platform ReggieNet is built on). We are working with the ISU LMS team on the available process for migrating your content for you so that you don't have to. This includes archiving of past content. Canvas also has content repository called Canvas Commons where you can store gold standards of your content to be used again as needed.

Susan Sprecher 12:17 PM

I have already sent my question to Jim and Charles, but my concern is that embedded questions that I have created in many, many activities (in Lessons, in ReggieNet) will not be replicated in Pages in Canvas. In addition, I grade these activity questions by opening up each one and can see all of the students' answers to one question., which allows efficient grading for little questions, that really serve as checks for whether they watched the video or read the blog, etc.

This question has been answered live

David Marx 12:18 PM

One major interest we have in physics for quizzes is the ability to write algorithmic questions. Does Canvas have this ability and how easy is it to use?

Carolyn Kraut 12:25 PM

Yes, LaTeX is built in to our content editor (See guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-use-the-Math-Editor-in-the-Rich-Content-Editor-as-an/ta-p/816>). There are also several 3rd party math editors like MathType and Equatio if our native editor does not fit your needs.

Anonymous Attendee 12:19 PM

A negative of Sakai is the minimal analytics. Can you speak to the type of data instructors can gather from Canvas?

Carolyn Kraut 12:28 PM

Our analytics tool is quite robust. Here's a great video describing our Instructor Dashboard: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/New-Analytics-Overview-Instructor/ta-p/384336>

Kevin Edwards 12:21 PM

Re: "Can Reggienet question pools be easily transferred into your LMS". Another aspect of this is whether the Word version of a test can be used. The Reggienet format for pasting a multiple choice test from Word to reggienet is very simple. Can this format be used? If the format is very different it could be a tremendous amount of work to reformat all my tests.

This question has been answered live

Askar Choudhury 12:23 PM

1. Is there "Calculated" questions category similar to ReggieNet.

Charles Bristow 12:27 PM

Yes, there is a calculated question type.

Neil Christensen 12:24 PM

In physics, I have my students work through complex mathematical problems on paper, take photos of their work and upload it as a PDF. Currently, I have to download them, import them into another app and grade them with an Apple Pencil. Then I export them to PDF. Then I go back to ReggieNet and upload my annotated version and set the grade. It is too many clicks and transfers. I would love it if I could annotate the students PDF with my Apple Pencil directly inside Canvas and enter the grade

Carolyn Kraut 12:41 PM

Yes! Our Speedgrader is a faculty favorite tool and is designed to streamline your grading process. This works great on the web, but is even better in the Canvas Teacher app. Submitted assignments are rendered in the app and you can use your apple pencil to annotate. You can enter feedback, your score,

or even grade from a rubric. Here's a quick video overview:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/SpeedGrader-Overview-Instructors/ta-p/382107>

Mary Elaine Califf 12:26 PM

Sakai has a tool called PostEm which allows faculty to upload a CSV file with headings and the student ID for the system that then shows the student the heading plus the value from their row for each column. It basically allows people who hate the gradebook to do grades in Excel but post them securely in the LMS. Does Canvas have anything similar?

Carolyn Kraut 12:45 PM

I rarely hear complaints about our gradebook, but we do allow you to export and import CSV to grade elsewhere, then bring results back into Canvas: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-export-grades-in-the-Gradebook/ta-p/809>

Dongli Zhang 12:26 PM

How does LaTeX work in Canvas? is it compatible with LaTeX? thinking about how mathematics equations work in Canvas.

G.K. Risser 12:29 PM

Anywhere that you have the Rich Content Editor (RCE) __ the tool used to build any content__ if you click on the icon to add an equation, LaTeX is supported.

Mary Elaine Califf 12:26 PM

Is there a tool similar to the Checklists in Sakai?

Charles Bristow 12:29 PM

Unfortunately no, there is not a direct analog for checklists.

Hulda Black 12:27 PM

With the Assignments setup, can you then add those to modules easily?

Carolyn Kraut 12:30 PM

Yes, the Modules area is meant to easily organize your content, including assignments, quizzes, and content. See guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-Modules/ta-p/6>

David Marx 12:30 PM

My question was not answered about algorithmic questions. The answer given was about LaTeX, but I was talking about having variable numbers in questions, so that each student has a different set of numbers in a calculational problem. Does Canvas have that ability?

Carolyn Kraut 12:50 PM

Apologies for the delay. Here's more info about the Formula question type:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-create-a-Formula-question-in-New-Quizzes/ta-p/956>

Katherine Ellison (she/her) 12:32 PM

The example module page appeared to be all one column and not too visually dynamic, so students would have to scroll to see all of the content and links. Can we divide pages into columns and minimize scrolling so that students can see page material all in one glance, with information on the left, a video on the right, etc?

Carolyn Kraut 12:54 PM

Yes, the module page is like a Table of Contents for your class. You can collapse modules to minimize the view, and when you leave the page, Canvas will remember which module you were in so you can pick up where you left off. But the beauty of Canvas is that our open code and APIs allow Admins or campus developers to customize the user interface to include a floating table of contents that is visible no matter where you are in the course.

Mary Elaine Califf 12:34 PM

Is there a dark mode in Canvas?

This question has been answered live

Kevin Edwards 12:35 PM

How is video handled? does this integrate our Stream videos or would it replace Stream?

This question has been answered live

David Giovagnoli 12:35 PM

What's the level of integration between Canvas and Office365? Can you comment directly on submitted documents, for instance?

G.K. Risser 12:45 PM

<https://www.instructure.com/canvas/resources/all/canvas-microsoft-office-365-integration>

Eli Sherrill 12:36 PM

Is there an ability to track student visits to the site and opening up modules/other content on the site (similar to "Statistics" in ReggieNet)? If so, how detailed is this.

Charles Bristow 12:57 PM

Yes there is an analytics page that you can track student activity

Joseph Johnston 12:45 PM

In my (limited) testing, it seems like the calculated (algorithmic) question is not as robust as ReggieNet. That's true for both Canvas and Brightspace. I very well may have missed something, though, but I had trouble replicating some of my calculated questions in either system. Your mileage may vary.

G.K. Risser 12:55 PM

Hi Joseph. I can't really answer your question specifically without being able to see the material and a translation of it but these resources may be interesting to you:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-use-the-Math-Editor-in-the-Rich-Content-Editor-as-an/ta-p/816>

Jeritt Williams 12:46 PM

Will the university always be on the latest release/ full feature set that Canvas offers or will any features be "turned off" or limited (i.e. ISU to remain a version or two behind most recent release or choose not to subscribe to certain features, etc)?

This question has been answered live

Katherine Ellison (she/her) 12:47 PM

So can we still embed or link to mp4s then? I made over 80 video lectures during the pandemic that I love.

Charles Bristow 12:49 PM

Yes, you can link/ embed videos.

Askar Choudhury 12:49 PM

Is there a way to have access to try Canvas ourselves?

This question has been answered live

David Giovagnoli 12:51 PM

Does Canvas have a built-in "plagiarism detector"/"authenticity verifier"? If so, what service does it use, and do students get to opt in/out of sharing their data?

This question has been answered live