



# Fall 2018 Educational Technology Newsletter



10/25/18 | Fall 2018

## **Blackboard and Other Academic Technology**

Due to technical issues, the date for implementing Blackboard Ultra Learning Management System is uncertain. A system-wide committee is being formed to determine which course management system will be used after the current contract with Blackboard expires in two years.

Despite the uncertainty in Blackboard, a course redesign workshop was offered in Spring 2018 and four MxCC faculty attended the training. The four faculty have worked on their Spring 2019 courses using what they learned from the course redesign training.

There will be more course redesign workshops for MxCC pilot faculty in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. Faculty who attend the training will redesign at least one course in Blackboard within a one-year period.

## **Distance Learning**

### **Summer 2018**

A total of 957 seats were registered in 58 online courses, reflecting a 0.3% increase in seats and a 16% increase in course offerings over Summer 2017. Four sessions of orientations were provided for first-time online students.

### **Fall 2018**

Through October 10th, there are 1637 registered seats in online courses, reflecting a 5.6% increase over Fall 2017. Seventy-six online courses are offered, reflecting an 11% increase over Fall 2017. Four sessions of orientations were provided for first-time online students.

### **Ed2Go Online Learning**

From January to September of 2018, 94 students registered for 6-week online courses, reflecting an 11% increase over the same time period of 2017. Nine students enrolled in the career training programs, reflecting a 35% decrease over the same period of 2017.

### **Winter 2018**

Twenty-four online courses are on the schedule. To help first-time online students get started, four sessions of orientation are scheduled on Thursday, December 20th, and Wednesday, December 26th. Professors are expected to have their winter online course ready SEVEN days before their class start.

### **Spring 2019**

Eighty-seven online courses are on schedule, and four sessions of orientation are scheduled to help first-time online students get started with online learning.

The campus orientation schedule for first-time online students may be found at <http://mxcc.edu/distance/campus-orientation>. All sessions will have WebEx capability. Online faculty should encourage first-time online students to attend an orientation.

Informational sessions for potential online students are scheduled in November on the Middletown and MxCC@Platt campuses. The schedule is posted at <http://mxcc.edu/distance/how-to-register/information-sessions-for-potential-online-students/>. We will show students what online courses look like and what students should do to be better prepared for learning online.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman 701 B & C

[mxccdistance@mxcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mxccdistance@mxcc.commnet.edu) ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 8:00 am —5:00 pm

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## Educational Technology

### Educational Technology Training in Fall 2018

We provided the following technology workshops:

- Blackboard Basics for Eversource Employees who are teaching the Natural Gas Certificate program
- Getting Started with Blackboard
- Blackboard Grade Center and Online Tests
- Evaluating Online Courses
- Blackboard Basics in Meriden

More training will be offered:

- Google Docs, Friday, October 26, 2018, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Create Exceptional Newsletters Like a Designer, Friday, November 2, 2018, 10:00 am -11:30 am
- Teaching with Infographics, Friday November 9th, 10:00 am -11:30 am
- LinkedIn 101: Learn how to get Connected, Friday November 9th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### 21st Century Classrooms Project

The Survey of The 21st Century Classroom was distributed to MxCC faculty, staff, and students. The survey results will be summarized and used for the improvement of the classroom features as well as the scheduling procedure.

### College Events

Distance Learning/Educational Technology department participated in the Fall 2018 Adjunct Orientation on August 27th. Questions on faculty technology resources and Blackboard were answered. Instructions on how to work with Blackboard and various technology resources were distributed to new adjunct faculty.

On October 17th, we participated in the “What Can I Do with a Major in?” event.

On October 24th, we participated in the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

## Fall Clean-Up in Blackboard



Check out your courses in Blackboard and delete:

- Redundant links
- Broken links
- Outdated text, images, and pages