Blackboard

Blackboard Ally was implemented in February of 2019. In the Blackboard Ally environment, students are able to open a file with a choice of formats that works well on their computer (Microsoft or PDF). For a file that is not ADA-compliant, faculty will see a "red" mark underneath the file title. By clicking on the red mark, faculty will see the steps needed to convert the file to an ADA-compliant format.

In Fall 2018, a Learning Management System/Educational Technology Survey was conducted system-wide. The survey results and the summary report have been shared with the MxCC faculty. At the March 19th Academic Assembly, Professor Rebecca Rist-Brown presented the survey results and sought feedback from faculty. The major recommendation of the committee is that a RFP (Request for Proposal) be established to seek a learning management system that will meet academic needs. At the meeting, faculty and staff unanimously approved the four LMS Ed Tech Survey Committee's recommendations without reservation.

Blackboard Webinars are scheduled to accommodate faculty members with evening sessions . To register for a webinar, please go to http://calendar.ct.edu and follow the steps.

Distance Learning

Winter 2018
A total of 267 students registered to 17 online courses, reflecting an 8% increase in seats and a 6% increase in course offering over Winter 2017. One session of orientation was provided to first-time online students.

Spring 2019
By March 7th, there are 1695 registered seats to online courses, reflecting a 6% increase over Spring 2018. Eighty two online courses are offered, reflecting a 17% increase over Spring 2018. Four sessions of orientations were provided to first time online students.

Ed2Go Online Learning
From January to March of 2019, 52 students registered Ed2Go 6-week online courses or career training programs, reflecting a 30% increase over the same time period of 2018.

Summer 2019
Four sessions of summer courses are on the schedule, including a total of 76 online courses. To help first-time online students get started, five sessions of orientation are scheduled during the first week of each term.

Fall 2019
Eighty-six 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 April. 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 ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 8:00 am —5:00 pm
Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning/Ed Tech   Sandra Couture, Educational Technology Specialist

Spring 2019 Educational Technology Newsletter

The online teaching requirement course, iTeach Essential, is undergoing revision. Before a new iTeach course is launched, faculty are recommended to take the SUNY Quality by Design online course accompanied with Blackboard training offered at MxCC. For the summer course date, please contact Distance Learning at 860-343-5756.

We provided an annual enrollment report for NECHE accreditation. MxCC is currently offering 25 programs that are at least 50% of courses online. Eleven out of 25 programs are fully online. These programs are General Studies, Business Studies, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, Criminology Studies, English Studies, History Studies, Liberal Arts and Science, Political Science Studies, Sociology Studies, and Spanish Studies.

Educational Technology

Educational Technology Training in Spring 2019

Recommended by the MxCC technology strategy team, a series of technology training sessions titled as Tech Trail 2019 were offered on Wednesdays in February and March. Topics include Smart Technology, Pegasus Green, Clickers, WebEx, Podcasting, Apple TV, and New Media Services. The training was well received with a steady amount of participants. The participants will be joining a final drawing on April 5th to win a $50 Amazon Certificate and a $50 Middletown Shops Gift Certificate.

More training are scheduled:
- Blackboard Basics
- Getting Started with Blackboard
- Blackboard Grade Center and Test
- Protect your Identity Online
- Teaching with Infographics
- Create Exceptional Newsletters Like a Designer

21st Century Classrooms Project

Starting Spring 2019, faculty and staff may schedule Pegasus Green rooms via the Event Management System. Students should contact a college librarian to schedule a Pegasus Green room.

Dr. Yi Guan-Raczkowski made a presentation on the Pegasus Green project at the League for Innovation 2019 Conference in New York City.

All 2016 Course Removal in Blackboard

On April 19th, all 2016 courses will be deleted in Blackboard. If you would like to save a copy of your Fall 2016 course, please create a backup file, download, and save the file to your computer. In addition, if you use the gradebook on Blackboard, you should download and save the gradebook for record keeping. Instructions can be found at https://mxcc.edu/distance/faculty-online-teaching/how-to-documentation/ (under Blackboard > General).