The Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD) offers ongoing seminars and instruction on a variety of instructional technology, including Blackboard, the University's learning management system (LMS). FCLD will be offering the following seminars during the month of August and early September. Unless otherwise indicated, all seminars are held in the Woods Classroom in Mortensen Library. Faculty interested in attending should register by emailing fcld@hartford.edu or calling (860) 768-4661.

**Check Out What’s New in Blackboard – True Student Preview, SafeAssign/Assignment Integration, Retention Center, Grade Center updates, and more!**

**Multiple Dates:**
- **Thursday, August 13**, 11:30am – 12:30pm
- **Thursday, August 20**, 11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Friday, August 28**, 11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Friday, September 11**, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Blackboard was upgraded in May and now has some amazingly useful tools and enhancements, including inline grading with annotations, which allows instructors to comment and grade Blackboard assignments without downloading the assignments to their PCs. Inline grading is also available for journals, wikis and blogs. The new service pack also integrates SafeAssign into the Assignment tool in Blackboard along with some other changes to the Assignment tool set up. The Retention Center has been added and the Grade Center has been updated. There are other additional updates that have been added to Blackboard as well.

**SafeAssign/Assignment Integration**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 10:00am – 11:00am**  
**Thursday, September 3, 1:00pm – 2:00pm**

SafeAssign is now integrated into regular Blackboard Learn Assignments. Learn about the new ways Blackboard has integrated these to make life simpler for students and faculty, how they are graded, and other options. Also, learn about Designated and Anonymous grading options that have been added to the Blackboard Assignments tool.

**Blackboard’s New Inline Grading Tool**  
**Friday, August 14, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

Tired of downloading papers from Blackboard just so you can grade them? Blackboard’s new Inline Grading Tool is designed to allow instructors to grade and markup student documents in assignments, blogs, wikis and journals without the cumbersome process of downloading and using Microsoft Word’s markup tools or something equivalent. This seminar is a must for online instructors, but very helpful for anyone who uses Blackboard’s assignments, blogs, wikis, or journals tools.
Best Practices in Accessibility  
**Monday, August 17, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

The Faculty Center for Learning Development in conjunction with the Dean of Student Affairs will be discussing and sharing best practices in Accessibility. Accessibility is a standard of best practices that allows users of all abilities and disabilities to use resources (ie: content in Blackboard). It is important to especially focus on making media (images, videos, audio) accessible to users who may be hard of hearing/deaf and/or visual impaired/blind.

Creating Video ‘Lectureettes’ with Personal Capture (PCap)  
**Wednesday, August 19, 1:00pm – 1:30pm**

Echo360 Personal Capture is a simple, convenient tool that can capture your voice, the action on your computer screen, and web cam video. Its versatility means that you can use it to record audio podcasts, video lectures, or narrated presentations and demonstrations. It is free for you to use as University of Hartford faculty. This session will guide you through the process of recording a narrated screen capture, editing it, and publishing it to Blackboard.

Getting Started with Ensemble, the Campus’ “In-House YouTube”  
**Wednesday, August 19, 1:30pm – 2:00pm**

Ensemble Video is an in-house video server like YouTube and was designed for publishing and sharing large media files, such as audio and video files. It can be used to share video lectures, instructional videos, and helps centralize campus media by providing ‘one stop media shopping’ for students and faculty. Ensemble is user-friendly and intuitive, and uploaded videos are organized into libraries that can be shared with others. Since videos are streamed rather than downloaded to a person’s computer, they are better protected. Ensemble videos can be accessed from a website, a play list or directly with Blackboard, providing an easy way to share videos with students in a class.

Personality Matters: Engaging Students in an Online Course  
**Monday, August 24, 3:00pm – 4:00pm**

Teaching experience, content expertise and professional accomplishments are all important to becoming an online instructor, but how do you engage and motivate students? This workshop will give you some tips and tricks to injecting personality into your online course, establishing a friendly, inviting and engaging atmosphere where your students can get the same “feeling” as a face-to-face course.

PowerPoint Tips and Tricks from a Graphic Designer  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

Learn how to spice up your PowerPoints in this seminar. Create visually stimulating PowerPoint slides that are appealing to the reader and incorporate media in its various forms. Learn how to embed images and manipulate them and how to embed videos and audio. Add graphics, transitions, animations and other tools to create interactivity within your lectures.
Grade Center: Do It Now!
Thursday, August 27, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Wednesday, September 9, 10:00am – 11:00am
Come and learn now setting up your Blackboard Grade Center early in the semester has numerous advantages. Doing so early means you can:
- Have course grades calculated automatically throughout the course.
- Help students keep track of their own progress throughout the course.
- Have information ready at your fingertips when it's time to submit mid-semester or final grades.
- Weight grades and drop lowest scores quickly and easily.

Getting Started with Blackboard/Blackboard Drop In
Tuesdays, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Have a quick question about Blackboard? Stop by and ask! Just getting started or need a refresher? - This general orientation to Blackboard will provide you with strategies for organizing your Blackboard course, review the many tools and features available in Blackboard, and start adding content such as a syllabus to your Blackboard course. Be sure to bring digital versions of your syllabus or other course documents; this hands-on seminar is designed to get you up and running on Blackboard!