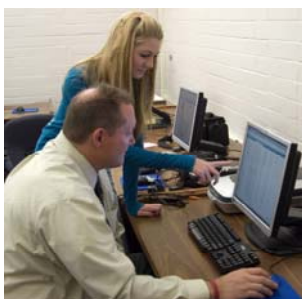




I-Learn Made Easy

Many of us wouldn't call ourselves "computer savvy." For all those who fall into this category, new technology may seem intimidating. After helping hundreds of faculty members, FTC employee Brad Marshall said of I-Learn: "I've found that faculty's biggest fear is that they're afraid the technology will be too hard to learn or won't be beneficial to their students." Jason Atwood from the Nursing Department told how the tools on I-Learn benefit his classes. They allow students to seek out information not covered in class and share it with their classmates, enabling them to teach and learn from one another.

To the teachers who may think the tools on I-Learn are "too hard to learn," they may be happy to hear that there is help available to make it simpler. The Faculty Technology Center in the McKay Library is filled with employees eager to answer your questions concerning I-Learn, step by step.



Brother Kivett, of the Religion Department said, "The biggest advantage of the FTC, is that I know it's there, and it gives me confidence that if I want to do something [on I-Learn], I can do it." Also available to faculty members are weekly I-Learn training workshops (see reverse), where faculty can learn about specific tools to improve their instruction.

Grade Center

To all faculty experiencing "slowness" in the Grade Center, this message is for you! Be aware that the IT department is working to find a solution. If you are using Internet Explorer 6, the Grade Center will load slowly. If available, we strongly recommend using Firefox 3. If not, use Internet Explorer 7.

Also, be mindful that every time a grade is updated, the server has to search the database to re-populate your student list. This takes time. Efforts are being made to improve the speed. If you have to wait more than 8 seconds, please contact the FTC or IT Department so we can help.

For information on weighting grades and entering extra credit into the Grade Center, visit the Online Learning homepage. Underneath Employee Services, scroll down to Tutorials & FAQs, then mouse over to Grade Center FAQs, where detailed descriptions of entering extra credit and weighting grades are given.

Collaboration Tools

Discussion Boards



"What is the use of a tool, if you don't use it?" asks William Riggins from the Religion Department. A discussion board is a collaboration tool that allows students to post comments and read responses from their fellow classmates. This can include questions/answers about an upcoming class or clarification on an assignment. Essentially, it enables student-student and student-teacher interactions outside the classroom, maximizing the effectiveness of in-class time. From Spanish to Religion, students are coming to class more prepared to be taught. Faculty benefit by being able to read their students' discussions and assess their level of understanding before the class has even begun. Discussion boards also provide an outlet for those who do not comment in class. "Students will write things they won't say," Riggins says. This tool is here for both student and faculty use. Don't forget it's available!

Benefits of Blogging



The world is blogging. Now the BYU-Idaho community is joining in. Phillip Allred is utilizing blogs to help his students better prepare for class, and enhance learning. Students can blog about assignments, readings or other information, and then teach one another before ever reaching the classroom. Allred says of blogs, "The level of discussion [in class] is higher and deeper." In Jim Croasmun's online physics course, he requires that his students log in every Saturday to blog about topics of the week; things they've learned and questions they have. With this blog, he is able to improve the course, resolve confusion and better address the needs of his students, which helps him keep a pulse on his students' attitudes.

Why Use Wikis?



"Where are the wikis?" one student in Jolene Smith's class inquired after realizing she wasn't planning on using them. Her students informed her that they wanted to use wikis again. She explained that it would increase the work they would need to do, to which they said "It's about learning, isn't it? Not the amount of work." Wikis can deepen the Learning Model experience, as they easily allow students to exchange information and collectively edit documents. Allan Walburger said wikis get students to work independently and are "an avenue outside of the classroom."

«Name»
«Department»
«Office»
«Zip»

October Workshops

Grade Center

October 9, 10, 23 or 24; 4:00pm-5:00pm
McKay 364

Blogs, Wikis, and Discussion Boards

October 16 or 17; 4:00pm-5:00pm
McKay 364

I-Learn Q & A

October 30 or 31; 4:00-5:00pm
McKay 364

*Updated workshop calendar may be found at
http://www.byui.edu/at/ilearn_schedule.htm*

Department of Academic Technology



Faculty Technology Center 208.496.1592
Monday-Friday 8am-6pm McKay 355



Department Secretary
Lylene Bennett 208.496.1200



Director
Arlen Wilcock 208.496.1204



I-Learn Development
Orren Squires 208.496.1226



I-Learn Training
Dean Allen 208.496.1211

Tip of the Month

Is your Grade Center cluttered?

Hide your columns! The Grade Center automatically includes the student username, ID, last access, and availability columns that are not necessary to see.

To hide these columns click on the drop down menu located on the top right corner of the column, mouse down to "hide column" and click. The column will be hidden and your Grade Center will be easier to manage!

If you have questions regarding the Tip of the Month, refer to the tutorials at <http://www.byui.edu/onlinlearning/tutorials/ilearn/facultytuts.htm> or call the FTC at (208) 496-1592.

Faculty Advisory Committee

A Faculty Advisory Committee for I-Learn is functioning under approval of Academic Council. This committee provides feedback and recommendations on I-Learn training, management and implementation. The six colleges are represented with one committee member each. Members include:

- Jason Shaw (Agriculture and Life Sciences)
- Mike Whitesides (Business and Communication)
- Larry Thurgood (Education and Human Development)
- Scott Cameron (Language and Letters)
- Shawn Randall (Performing and Visual Arts)
- Evan Hansen (Physical Sciences and Engineering)
- Arlen Wilcock, Dean Allen, Orren Squires (AT)