

Uplifting Your Brightspace Courses in Pedagogically Sound Ways

Grant and Program Overview

CELT's Uplifting Brightspace Grant focuses on a student-driven course design based on PFW student survey data and pedagogical best practices. Over a semester, faculty will reflect on how they are using the Learning Management System, Brightspace, to support teaching and learning. Each selected participant will develop and implement a Brightspace uplifting plan to incorporate strategies that will result in an increased pedagogically sound course design that continues to leverage Brightspace and other educational technology solutions.

Grant Amount and Requirements:

Courses of any modality qualify. To apply, please complete [this Qualtrics form](#) not later than Sunday, November 20th, 11:59 pm. Note that part of the selection process is expected to include follow up questions from CELT. Final decisions and notifications will be made by December 2nd. Acceptance and agreement will be due not later than December 9th.

Participants who meet all of the requirements throughout the Uplifting program will receive a total of \$2,500 in professional development monies at the end of the cohort semester. After completion of the Uplifting program, participants will be expected to incorporate a Brightspace Use Feedback Survey in their first course offering of the completed uplifted course. CELT will provide a customizable survey and assist with administering it at the discretion of the instructor. Cohort participants will be expected to share their results. CELT will keep all identifiable data confidential but may use the data to report program progress. In addition, cohort participants will be asked to complete a survey themselves to help improve future program offerings.

Who should consider applying for this program?

- Limited seats in this grant program are open to full-time faculty in tenured, tenure-track, clinical, and lecturer positions at PFW, including LTLs. Visiting faculty are not eligible.
- Instructors who quickly transitioned to Brightspace for online or hybrid courses during the pandemic.
- Instructors who feel their course could use a little cleanup or reorganization.
- Instructors looking for ways to build in more support and engagement for their students.
- Instructors interested in giving their course a lift to better leverage Brightspace and other integrated technologies.
- Instructors that may feel overwhelmed with grading and staying in touch with students.
- Instructors wanting help over a semester resulting in an improved course design.

Components

The semester-long program will offer five key workshops, collaborative sharing, independent exercises and on-going support from a CELT Instructional Design Consultant. Throughout the program, participants will reflect on their current practice in one specific course (currently delivered in any format), identify the Brightspace design areas that could have the biggest impact on student learning, develop a Brightspace uplifting plan, and implement that plan with the assistance of a CELT consultant.

- **Workshops:** Participants will attend 5 key workshops plus a kick-off session to discuss and plan Brightspace uplifting strategies. Each workshop will be 2 hours long. Please find the main topics and schedule below. (Workshop commitment = 12 hours)
- **One-on-one Consultations:** Each participant will schedule 4-8 one-on-one consultations with a CELT consultant. The number of consultations varies based on each member's needs. It is recommended that one-on-one sessions be scheduled between workshops. (Consultations commitment = 4-8 hours)

- **Independent Work:** Each participant will be expected to spend up to 50 hours over a 14-week period (roughly an average of 4 hours per week) to implement their Brightspace uplifting plans. The amount of independent development time will vary depending on each member's needs and Brightspace uplifting goals. (Independent work commitment = up to 50 hours)

Primary Topics:

1. **Magnify Assessment and Feedback Practices** to help students improve and grow.
2. **Enliven Course Activities** to increase active learning experiences.
3. **Elevate Course Organization** to help students better manage their learning.
4. **Boost Student Connections** to keep learners motivated.
5. **Sharpen Your Workflows** to improve how you manage your course and your time.
6. **Technology Tips** that will be explored with the participants, such as:
 - Help students find materials easily and stay on track in your course.
 - Use release conditions to identify and support struggling students.
 - Save time through built-in feedback and intelligent agents
 - Use badges to gamify your course and motivate your students

Schedule

Kickoff Session (Week 1)

- Initial discussion of student learning experience.
- Identify the major challenges for students.
- Explore areas of interest for the uplifting of your Brightspace course.

Workshop 1: Magnify Assessment and Feedback Practices (Week 3)

- Reflect on the assessments and feedback practices
- Examine the learner experience to identify potential challenges.
- Explore Brightspace uplifting strategies to address student challenges.

Workshop 2: Enliven Course Activities (Week 5)

- Reflect on how the course settings and activities support student learning.
- Examine the learner experience to identify potential challenges.
- Explore Brightspace uplifting strategies to address student challenges.

Workshop 3: Elevate Course Organization (Week 8)

- Reflect on how the course settings and course structure support student learning.
- Examine the learner experience to identify potential challenges.
- Explore Brightspace uplifting strategies to address student challenges.

Workshop 4: Boost Student Connections (Week 10)

- Reflect on instructor-student support strategies.
- Examine the learner experience to identify potential challenges.
- Explore Brightspace uplifting strategies to address student challenges.

Workshop 5: Sharpen Your Workflows (Week 12)

- Examine the workflow to identify your struggles when managing the course and your time.
- Brainstorm strategies to manage your workload and your time.