

CANVAS INTRODUCES LEARN WITH PROFESSORS FOR STUDENTS



Canvas' Learn with Professors brings in a diversified student learning experience

The 28th of October 2022. "Learn with Professors," a new feature that has just gone live on Canvas' navigation bar, is being announced with excitement. With the help of this new tool, University of Washington students in any program or school will be able to communicate with professors from other programs and take new courses relevant to their interests. In order to get some assistance and feedback from several instructors, students do not need to enroll in additional classes.

Students who are enrolled in a particular course are sometimes limited to the selection of courses the program is presenting. A student enrolled in a master's degree in information management who wants to broaden their knowledge in subjects other than IT, such as psychology or literature, does not have access to a shared platform where they may connect with the most qualified instructors in those fields. Either they must learn from library books or from online resources like YouTube, Google, etc. They lack the freedom to express their ideas in front of an authority figure in the same profession and talk about their opinions and comments about the same.

Learn with Professors will be an addition to the Canvas navigation bar where the details of various professors with their areas of expertise will be listed in an organized manner and the students will be able to choose and interact with the professors in their areas of interest. A student should not be limited with their thoughts and creativity and should be given the right exposure in order to ignite the fire of their ideas. This feature will let the professor know when a student tries to contact them. It will also work on a scheduling system that is in line with the subject matter experts' chosen schedule and let students connect with them using zoom calls. Additionally, a distinct program for creative brainstorming will be offered, where subject experts will engage with students to expand their capacity for thought.

Students may use the Learn with Professors feature on Canvas to choose the subject areas of their interest and write an introduction message to the professor. After the professor responds, the students can organize a one-on-one meeting based on their respective schedules. In the creative brainstorming program, the students can follow up with the professor after the conversation to keep in touch and work together on their own schedules.

“We are exhilarated to make students think out of the box and open up their boundaries of learning by collaborating with subject matter experts from a variety of domains”, says the Senior Product Manager at Canvas, “with this new cross-functional learning platform, we are excited to give students an excellent learning experience”.

“Collaboration with professors who are experts in different fields makes learning illuminating and enjoyable at the same time. As an archaeology student, I was searching for professional-level help with English literature, and Learn with Professors feature has made my search easier! Now I know where to go!”, says Claire Grayson, a student at the University of Washington.

Log in to the Canvas mobile or web application and enjoy the Learn with Professors feature now with ease. Look for your fields of interest and go learn!

FAQs

How long will professors/subject matter experts take to get back to me about my interests?

Professors or subject-matter experts will acknowledge any student's interests in 2 business days. The scheduling system will notify them through email that there are unanswered messages on the Learn with Professors' platform.

What if I do not like the course and its contents?

After the course has been examined and specialists have imparted their expertise to students, there are periodic surveys asking for feedback. These surveys can assist us in enhancing the structure as a whole and inform instructors of the desired areas of enhancement.

What if my areas of interest are not offered by any subject matter expert?

We are attempting to broaden the learning's use to all conceivable fields. All in-demand courses have specialists accessible as of right now. However, if there are some that are not available, we will maintain upgrading the functionality with the course specialists based on student surveys.

Internal FAQs

What about this feature will appeal to student users the most? (C)

For student users, the most appealing aspect of this feature is the freedom to select from a range of different topics and genres to study under the direction of subject matter experts without having to worry about registering for those courses individually.

Are the scheduling and reminders being done via a third party? (T)

These are not full-fledged tools but API-based solutions that will map the professor's availability with that of the student users. This is not the main vision of the product, but just an assisting tool to support the student learning experience.

How are we making sure the course content is catering to the student users? (C, B)

To better understand their needs and preferences, we frequently conduct brief and concise student surveys and can improve the courses and content visibility using this.

How will professors manage the request of student users (Action on request)? (T)

Professors or subject matter experts may view the incoming course requests from interested students in their Learn with Professors' email box, which will contain all the information about the student requester including current course, current year, age, and areas of interest.