

Wayfinding

Canvas Course Design



Design Student-First

Walk in their shoes: remember, wayfinding is all about enhancing the student's experience in your course, so you should look at it regularly from their perspective. Utilize Canvas Student View regularly to check your course design from a student's perspective. Test often, from multiple views including mobile!

Identify waypoints: Look carefully for and give added clarity to key points -

- based upon your course objectives, identify critical content and assignments learners must navigate to in your course, and then elevate attention to these points by using icons, bolded text, and good use of white space.
- areas in your course where students may struggle to find their way, such as an assignment with less-clear instructions.

Simplify: chunk and streamline course content to maximize cognition.

Show Students the Way

Illustrate the big picture: Describe their purpose in the course, clearly illustrate course outcomes, define what they will need to do to meet those outcomes, and how you will help.

Standardize icons: recognizable "signs" are helpful to mark key destinations in your course. Identify clean, simple, and consistent icons.

Clean and simple design is best: Make it as effortless as possible for students to find their route. Elevate attention to key information and streamline it.

Accessibility matters: Careful color selection, frequent use of the Canvas Accessibility checker, and application of simple UDL practices such as captioning videos, providing content using multiple means, and offering student choice where possible will ensure that you design well for all learners in your course.

Offer directions: students may need help but not think to ask for it. Offer multiple times and means to meet with you. Point them toward other campus resources including Canvas 24x7/Tier 1 Support, the IT Support Desk, the Learning & Tutoring Commons, Library, and the Testing Center.

Find a Team to Help You

This is what we do at the CSI Teaching & Learning Center! We can consult with you to offer suggestions for positive change in your course that will lead to increased student success.

We can also foster opportunities for faculty collaboration, mentoring, ideation, and professional growth.

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Regular Review

Just as maps become outdated, changes you make to your course over time may result in inefficiencies that creep into your course design. Adopt a regular cadence of review and evaluation with an eye toward continuous improvement.



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