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LMS Training Courses for New & Adjunct Faculty

Karen Premer, Learning Designer in the Graduate Studies and Academic Outreach Department at a Midwestern university, faced a challenge that many in her position face every day: How can one best train new and adjunct faculty to teach online effectively? Doing so requires an understanding of how to use available technology to create an engaging and welcoming on-line course as an instructor as well as knowing how the student experiences the online course. Even the most experienced in-person instructors can struggle in an online environment.

The solution that the Learning Design Team came up with was to develop a course called Principles of Effective Online Instruction (PEOI).

This eight-week course for faculty offers readings, videos, discussions, activities, and other coursework that is done entirely online. Those taking the course approach online educa-tion thoughtfully, discuss their ideas with peers and experienced online faculty, learn how to develop and run their own courses, and additionally gain the experience of being online students themselves.

The entire course is built into the university's campus learning management system (LMS), Can-vas. And before faculty can fully invest their energies into this PEOI course, they first need to master Canvas. That's where Infobase Learning Cloud comes in.

The course description:

Principles of Effective Online Instruction will take both the novice and experienced online teacher (full-time or adjunct) through the steps of course development, online teaching, and online assessment.

The Learning Designers developed a precourse that covers the basics of using Canvas both as an instructor and as a student.

Each PEOI student will work through a module covering the student-facing tools in Canvas and instructor-facing materials. Both of these modules were developed and built by Infobase, and the learning designers were able to seamlessly integrate them into Canvas for their students to access and learn.

While the focus of the PEOI precourse is Canvas, Premer and her team make a point to inform the students of the wealth of other training materials available in Infobase Learning Cloud, calling out the training courses on Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, and Google Applications specifically.
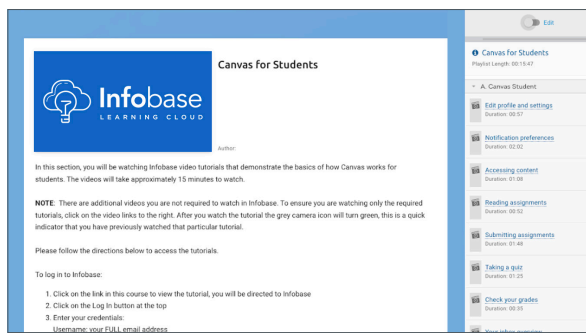

Screenshot of the PEOI Pre-Course on Canvas

Screenshot of the PEOI Pre-Course Infobase Learning Cloud Instructions
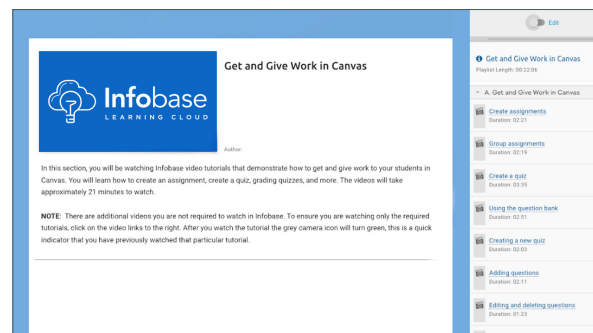
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Once PEOI students have taken the precourse, they are comfortable in Canvas and are ready to focus on the course itself, which will allow them to build their skills in online instruction and create genuinely engaging learning environments for their students.

Infobase Learning Cloud's easy-to-use training modules save Premer's team the time it takes to build their own Canvas training, allowing them to focus their attention on supporting faculty's other important instructional needs.

Screenshot of the "Canvas for Students" module in the PEOI Pre-Course

Screenshot of the "Get and Give Work in Canvas" module in the PEOI Pre-Course, which focuses on faculty tools in Canvas

About Infobase

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About Infobase Learning Cloud

Infobase Learning Cloud offers hundreds of professionally developed courses designed to help all faculty and students succeed, including educators, paraprofessionals, and support staff. Users benefit from self-paced, customizable modules; comprehensive video educational content; and secure digital tools specifically tailored for your institution in a proven LearnIt, ProveIt methodology. This unique and versatile resource includes unlimited access to hundreds of courses covering technology training, instructional strategies, digital literacy, communication skills, and social-emotional learning. Faculty and students can also:

- Master new skills
- Reinforce classroom instruction
- Prepare for college, internships, and career opportunities
- Practice new concepts
- Learn new communication and professional skills
- Review new technology
- Improve literacy