THE canvas CORNER

APRIL 2025 REVIEW

THE LATEST IN CANVAS UPDATES
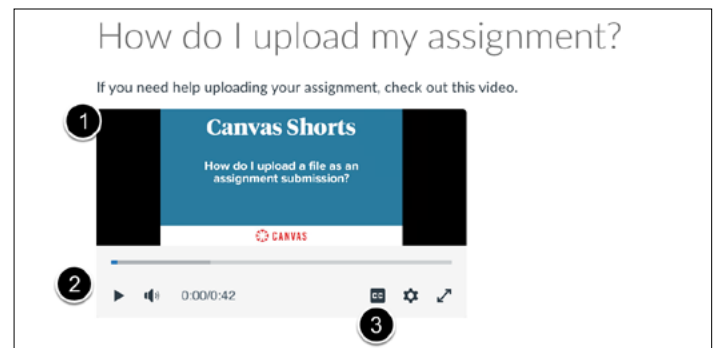
NEW MEDIA PLAYER

The new media player design in Canvas includes a flatter design, increased default size, updated closed captioning icon, keyboard accessibility, and privacy measures. The media player playback experience has been improved with enhanced accessibility, adaptive streaming, and privacy features.

- The default embed size is increased to 480x300px.

- The play bar is redesigned and repositioned.

- An open-source media player is integrated to align with the Canvas design pattern.

- The Closed Caption icon is updated.

- Keyboard accessibility is improved with the addition of a hidden shortcut icon.

- Privacy measures are enhanced to ensure secure playback.

- Video quality automatically adjusts based on available bandwidth.

- Note: This feature will be available in the beta environment on 2025-04-19.

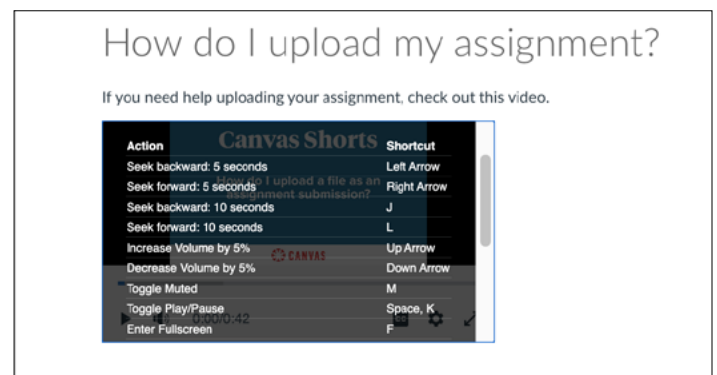- The Media Player now has the ability to upload and delete closed captions.

This update provides better usability, accessibility, and integration, offering a more intuitive design, improved navigation, and greater compatibility with Canvas. These updates streamline the user experience while maintaining familiarity and long-term support.

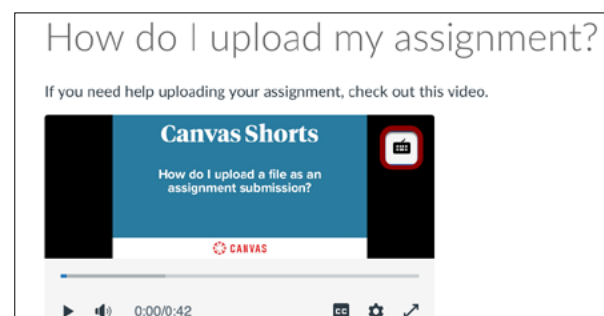To learn more about the Canvas updates, please see our website.

[1] The media player embed size is increased. **[2]** The toolbar is redesigned and repositioned to allow full-screen playback. **[3]** Additionally, the Closed Caption icon is updated.
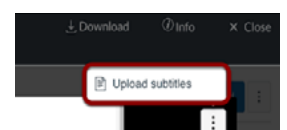

Keyboard only users can access a keyboard shortcut icon.

The Keyboard shortcut icon displays a list of actions and shortcuts.

Click the Options button, to upload and delete subtitles.

THE LATEST IN CANVAS UPDATES (CONT.)

NEW QUIZZES - ENHANCED QUIZ ACTIVITY LOG DETAILS (INSTRUCTORS)

In the Activity Log, instructors can view the Client IP Address and Browser Session ID for each question of a quiz. This update provides instructors with greater visibility into quiz activity, helping them verify student engagement and identify potential irregularities during quiz attempts. In the Activity Log, instructors can view additional information related to each question.

FACULTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UM3D is seeking faculty volunteers to test the new Discussion Checkpoints feature in Canvas over the summer. This pilot will help ensure the tool functions as intended before it is rolled out for broader use. Faculty participation is essential to gather feedback and identify any issues early. If you're interested in being part of this important testing phase, please sign up using the form linked below. Your input will play a key role in improving the Canvas experience for both faculty and students. For more information please use this link.

CANVAS FEATURE REQUEST

UM3D has launched a new survey to give faculty a voice in shaping the future of Canvas. This survey is designed to collect faculty suggestions for new features or improvements, which will be shared with the Canvas customer service manager for potential implementation.Faculty are encouraged to submit their ideas by providing their department, role, and a detailed description of the requested feature.Your input helps ensure Canvas continues to meet the needs of our teaching community. Here is a link to the survey.

SOFTWARE RENEWALS

The following software contracts renewed in April 2025:

SPSS Enterprise – $22,782

TextHelp Enterprise – $ 4,190

Qualtrics Enterprise – $104,737

WebCape CAS – $ 1,875

MaxQDA CAS – $ 4,618

Stata CA – $ 1,265

SPSS Modules CAS, FCB, EDU – $27,057

Origin CAS – $ 2,240

Mursion EDU $37,800

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY UPDATE

The university is updating its Acceptable Use Policy to strengthen data security across all university-owned equipment. A key revision emphasizes that personal software installed on university devices must not store restricted data.

Faculty and staff were reminded that safeguarding university data is a shared responsibility. Users are personally accountable for ensuring the security of any data accessed or stored on their devices—even when using non-university software.

This policy update underscores the importance of responsible technology use to prevent potential data breaches and protect sensitive university information. Stay tuned for further updates as the revised policy is finalized.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: COURSE EMAIL GROUPS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Beginning with the Summer 2025 semester, course email groups—such as those named by course number, section, and term (e.g., PSYC1030001.2023F@ memphis.edu)—will no longer be available due to changes in Microsoft's Office 365 service.

Microsoft is phasing out support for these group email functions, which means they can no longer be used to send messages to entire classes. Faculty who currently rely on course email groups for class communication are encouraged to explore alternative tools such as Microsoft Teams or Canvas messaging. For questions or assistance with transitioning to new communication methods, please contact the ITS Service Desk at umtech@memphis.edu or submit a service request.

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS/ISSUES

Members of TLAC recently inquired about options for managing current courses more efficiently in Canvas. In response, courses are now configured so that the most recent two years are prioritized on the Canvas dashboard. This update is designed to help faculty quickly locate and manage active and recent classes, streamlining course administration.

If you have questions or need help organizing your dashboard, support is available through UM3D or the ITS Service Desk.