

# LMS Recommendation



On May 20, 2016 the ICCOC Oversight Committee met in Ankeny to discuss all of the LMS search data and vote on a recommendation to present to the college presidents on June 8, 2016.

By unanimous vote, Canvas by Instructure was selected for recommendation.

This past year the ICCOC conducted a comprehensive review of various Learning Management Systems as well as the needs of the ICCOC colleges. Several demonstrations and hands-on activities were made available to Distance Learning Deans/Directors, CAOs, faculty and student services in order to gather feedback from various stakeholders.

Canvas by Instructure is the fastest growing LMS in today's online learning world. It is a cloud-based system that is innovative, modern, reliable, easy-to-use and adaptable which helps support evolving teaching and learning needs. It is very mobile friendly allowing users to access content from anywhere on any device.

Canvas is an easy to learn system and provides a wide range of online documentation, training videos and community support which are available 24/7 for faculty. Canvas recently announced a new course migration tool for Pearson eCollege clients which should make the transition to the new LMS less labor intensive for instructors. This will allow faculty to spend less time learning the LMS and inputting data and more time on teaching and helping students. Canvas is also very flexible and can be used by faculty at all levels of expertise in online learning.

One of the most important features of Canvas is that it is an open source platform, which means that it is able to facilitate third party integrations and update regularly with more innovative content. LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) integration with Canvas is one of the best of any of the Higher Education LMS companies. It is easy for a campus admin, or even an instructor to add LTI tools to their course. This could include integrating everything from rich textbooks, YouTube, social media, and publisher content and tools. Instructure also pushes new features and bug fixes every 3 weeks, which keeps it current and evolving. New features are released in such a way that they are not disruptive to instructors or students, and we can choose when we make new features available.

Two key factors in selecting a new LMS for the ICCOC were the integration with the colleges' SIS systems, Ellucian and Poise/Jenzabar, and the ability to extract and manipulate data from the LMS. The ICCOC has built a stable process for enrollments processing from the colleges' SIS systems and Pearson's Learning Studio. It is extremely important that our new LMS can continue to provide this service without a significant cost increase. Canvas is able to connect with our Ellucian and Jenzabar SIS systems using the same format as Learning Studio. This will prove to have lower transition costs with the SIS companies.

The ICCOC has been very successful in using data from classes and the entire LMS to assist students and focus on areas of concern to increase overall retention and success in our online classes. Currently the ICCOC averages over 90% in retention rates and over 78% success of a C or better. These high rates are partially due to our ability to effectively extract, store and manipulate student data. We believe that Canvas will provide the ICCOC and the individual partner colleges with better access to data (as compared to D2L) once the appropriate tools are put in place. Canvas views all data as belonging to the ICCOC and strives for open standards, interoperability and accessibility.

Faculty were given the opportunity to evaluate both D2L and Canvas through videos and sandbox courses. When surveyed faculty voted 60.4% for Canvas and 30.2% D2L and 7.3% either.

In our study we also contacted Canvas clients to gather feedback concerning their migration to the Canvas. We found a very high level of satisfaction and positive comments regarding their experience with the system and service. Additionally, several companies we talked with concerning data analysis, tutoring and other course tools often commented on the ease of connecting their products with Canvas.

We feel that both Canvas and D2L are superior LMS companies, but overall Canvas is the best fit for our organization and will provide the learning environment and partnership that will help the ICCOC and the partner colleges grow and succeed in online learning.