

## FITC Analysis of Canvas at UCSC

Advances in learning management systems (LMS) have given educators contemporary interfaces that can deliver instructional materials across a broad range of devices, new ways to engage students collaboratively, and easier access to a robust marketplace of add-on tools.

While the current campus solution, Sakai (known as “eCommons”), has many useful features and is continuing to improve, the outcomes from the faculty-led pilot of Canvas (from Instructure) indicate that Canvas is a better solution for both existing and emerging campus needs.

Canvas is currently used by UCOE for all online courses and has been adopted at four other UC campuses (UCB, UCM, UCI, and UCD). This mirrors high rates of adoption of Canvas nationally.

Over the past two academic years, the UCSC Canvas pilot has relied on the UCOE instance of Canvas, supporting over 3000 enrollments, 67 courses, and 31 instructors across all divisions.

Feedback from instructors has been highly positive, with most requesting continued access to the system. All have been pleased with the ease of use, aesthetic design, and functionality (see list below), as well as some features specific to individual subject areas, such as non-Latin alphabet support and an embedded equation editor.

### Canvas Features

- Clean, contemporary, intuitive interface
- Mobile app suitable for classroom interaction as well as general access and use
- Extensive marketplace of third-party applications that integrate easily

Canvas supports:

- syllabus
- roster
- assignments
- grades
- tests and quizzes
- Speed Grader, for extensive and varied feedback on assignments
- file posting
- video and audio
- email
- announcements
- calendar
- discussions
- peer review
- collaborative documents through Google Docs
- iClicker
- tracking and statistics on use

Extended functionality can be added through third-party applications, for example:

- Collaboration tools for student-initiated discussion
- Zaption for adding interaction to video (quizzes, discussion prompts, etc.)
- ALEKS for adaptive learning
- Textbook publisher interfaces (e.g., Cengage, MacMillan, Pearson, Wiley)

For questions on Canvas features and our future plans, please contact: Leslie Kern ([lekern@ucs.edu](mailto:lekern@ucs.edu))