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**Subject:** Teaching Center Update: Instructional Continuity Resources



## University Center for **Teaching and Learning**

### Instructional Continuity: March 20, 2020

The University Center for Teaching and Learning has important updates regarding the University of Pittsburgh's transition to remote and alternative teaching methods.

1) Provost Ann Cudd has provided additional guidance and direction for the University. Please visit the [Office of the Provost's March 20 message](#) for important updates on:

- Access to faculty offices and labs for instructional purposes
- Guidance for grading this semester
- Graduate classes
- Thesis defenses and other milestones
- Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows
- Academic Term Dates
- Summer Term Planning
- Option to Extend Tenure Clock
- Student Option of Teaching Surveys

- Available resources for teaching remotely

2) We have revamped the [Technology Tools section](#) of our website based on the types of faculty inquiries we have received over the past week. Visit this newly organized section for help on delivering courses synchronously or asynchronously, best practices for quality and accessibility (including captioning), and additional lists of Canvas and enterprise resources.

3) Recorded virtual workshops and remote office hours from the week of March 16 are now available for viewing. Please note that captioning is in progress. You can [view the recorded virtual workshops](#) online. We are finalizing details for additional virtual workshops and remote offices hours for the week of March 23 and will announce the schedule once confirmed.

4) The Teaching Center encourages you to [keep lines of communication](#) open with your students. As we approach the first day of class, students may be feeling anxious or nervous about the University's transition to remote and alternative learning. Communicate early and often remind your class that that these are unprecedented times for *everyone*. Our staff has created a list of [communication tips](#) for showing compassion, inclusion, and structure for when class resumes on March 23.

5) Pitt Information Technology has introduced new webpages for additional and expanded resources to assist with the transition to remote learning.

- [Virtual Lab](#): The Pitt IT Virtual Lab enables you to access much of the same lab software and resources that you use while sitting in a Pitt IT Computing Lab on campus.
- [IT Resources to Support Remote Work](#): You can leverage Pitt IT resources to work productively from any location.
- [Important Message Regarding Zoom](#): Faculty with pre-existing and/or personal Zoom licenses have expressed interest in switching to the University enterprise Zoom account. Visit Pitt IT's Zoom page for more

information about [using your University Zoom account with an existing Zoom account](#).

6) The Teaching Center advises faculty to be mindful of instructional accessibility when creating new course materials for online use. Please visit [Instructional Accessibility at Pitt](#) for recommendations on how to properly name hyperlinks, converting files to more accessible media with [SensusAccess](#), and a list of local and external accessibility resources.

Please continue to visit the [Teaching Center webpage](#) for updated information on instructional continuity.