

From: University Center for Teaching and Learning [mailto:teaching@pitt.edu]

Sent: 04/03/2020 6:00 PM

Subject: Teaching Center Update: April 3, 2020



University Center for **Teaching and Learning**

Teaching Center Message: April 3, 2020

1) Special Message from Pitt Information Technology About Zoom: To increase security and privacy, a change will be made to default settings in the University's [Zoom Video Conferencing](https://pitt.zoom.us) service (pitt.zoom.us) on Saturday, April 4. This effort is an important step to minimize "Zoombombing," a practice in which uninvited attendees disrupt a meeting by sharing inappropriate or offensive material.

Following this change, only hosts and co-hosts will have the ability to share their screens by default. However, hosts may [complete these steps](#) to enable screen sharing for participants on a per meeting basis or change settings to enable participant screen sharing by default for all meetings.

Please refer to Pitt Information Technology's list of [Zoom best practices](#) and [training resources](#) for additional tips on securing your online meetings. Zoom also offers [guidance for protecting virtual classrooms](#).

Please [contact the 24/7 IT Help Desk](#) at 412-624-HELP (4357) at any time if you have questions or need assistance using Zoom.

2) The Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys will begin on Monday, April 6, and end Sunday, April 19. A set of four questions will be automatically applied to each survey to ask students about their experience in transitioning to remote learning. Remind your students to complete the evaluation and provide input. Please visit the [Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching \(OMET\) web page](#) for more information.

3) The Teaching Center has launched several new virtual workshops for the week of April 6 to further assist with the transition to remote learning.

- April 6, 11 a.m.-Noon: [Creating and Using Rubrics for Remote Delivery Courses](#)
- April 6, 2-3 p.m.: [Conducting Exams in Blackboard](#)
- April 7, Noon-1 p.m.: [Essentials of Remote Grading and Feedback](#)
- April 7, 6-7 p.m.: [Creating and Using Rubrics for Remote Delivery Courses](#)
- April 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.: [Creating Scaffolded Projects for Remote Delivery Courses](#)
- April 8, 1-2 p.m.: [Assessing Student Learning with Presentations](#)
- April 8, 7-8 p.m.: [Assessing Student Learning with Presentations](#)
- April 9, 1-2 p.m.: [Creating and Using Rubrics for Remote Delivery Courses](#)
- April 9, 3-4 p.m.: [Conducting Exams in Blackboard](#)
- April 9, 6-7 p.m.: [Essentials of Remote Grading and Feedback](#)
- April 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.: [Assessing Student Learning with Presentations](#)
- April 10, 1-2 p.m.: [Conducting Exams in Blackboard](#)
- April 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: [Creating Scaffolded Projects for Remote Delivery Courses](#)

All workshops will be conducted via Zoom, are approximately one hour in length, and all times are EDT. You can find additional workshops on [our webpage](#). As a reminder, you can also [view previous recordings of virtual workshops](#) online as well.

4) Continue communicating with your students about their remote learning experience. It's important to keep channels of communication open: now is a great time to [reach out to your students to check in on their well-being and preparedness](#).

5) CourseWeb/Blackboard [will be unavailable](#) from midnight on Saturday–Sunday, April 4–5, until noon EDT on Sunday, April 5. If work is completed ahead of schedule, the system will be returned to service earlier and an announcement will be posted to [Pitt IT's website](#). This maintenance is necessary to maintain the stability and reliability of CourseWeb/Blackboard. During this maintenance, instructors will be unable to synchronize new materials between CourseWeb and Pitt Video (Panopto). Also, all activities that use the CourseWeb interface with Zoom Video Conferencing will be unavailable. You can still [log in to Pitt Video \(Panopto\)](#) to view video content and [log in to Zoom Video Conferencing](#) independent of CourseWeb. Please contact the 24/7 IT Help Desk at 412-624-HELP (4357) if you have any questions regarding this announcement.

6) Many vendors have been contacting the University through direct marketing campaigns with offers of free access to their remote proctoring services. While these technologies may appear attractive given our current remote teaching situation, there is no one-size-fits-all product, and a university-wide solution will not be integrated in time for finals for a variety of reasons. **The Teaching Center recommends that faculty consider alternatives to traditional exams at this time, and we are available to help.** Visit our [instructional continuity content on finals and assessments](#) for more information.