

13 Canvas "cool tools" for instructors



1) Customize your course Home Page

Learn how to customize the home page for your Canvas courses. You can use the default communication stream, change to assignments or modules, or design your own home page: [Click here](#) and [here](#)

2) Record video directly within Canvas

Record video & audio from within Canvas and embed it directly into your course (of course, you must have a camera and microphone built-in or connected to your computer): [Click here](#)

3) Use the interactive VoiceThread discussion feature

VoiceThread is an interactive voice board tool that enables teachers & students to add voice, text, and video comments in a discussion format. It is enabled in all Canvas courses, and can be set up quickly & easily: [Click here](#)

4) Pull in images from Flickr Creative Commons

Find and embed publicly available images into your course: [Click here](#)

5) Link to a YouTube video

Embed YouTube videos directly into your course with just a few clicks: [Click here](#)

6) Download the Canvas mobile app & connect to Canvas anytime from anywhere

Download the Canvas app for your iOS or Android device & connect to Canvas anytime from anywhere. There is also an app for SpeedGrader to make remote grading a snap: [Click here](#)

7) Use the SpeedGrader to make grading faster & easier

The SpeedGrader™ allows instructors to view different types of assignment submissions in one place, make text and audio comments to students, and grade using different methods including a simple point scale or a complex rubric. [Click here](#) and [here](#)

8) Use Turnitin to check for potential plagiarism

Check students' work for potential plagiarism by comparing it against the world's largest comparison database with Turnitin: [Click here](#) and [here](#)

9) Send a message to your students directly from the Gradebook

Learn how to contact students regarding an assignment based on assignment status or score: [Click here](#)

10) Set up a live web conference with students using Bb Collaborate

Bb Collaborate is UB's web conferencing solution and is available in all Canvas courses (and your students can even use it themselves for study sessions):

[Click here](#)

11) Take attendance using Roll Call

The Roll Call tool allows you to quickly and easily record attendance with a list of students and a drag-and-drop seating chart:

[Click here](#) and [here](#)

12) Create Assignments via the Calendar so students won't miss assignments

Create an assignment from the calendar and have it automatically populate in Assignments and Gradebook:

[Click here](#)

13) Set your Notification Preferences so you don't miss any messages from students

Edit how you receive notifications for your courses, change your contact methods, and connect your Canvas account with services such as Facebook and LinkedIn:

[Click here](#) ([video](#))