Winter 2024 Semester Update

Inactive Shells on Brightspace

Starting in the January 2024 semester, class instructors and leads will no longer view "Inactive" shells in their Brightspace course/community offering lists.

FAQs re. the change:

Q. When will this happen?
A. This will occur over the winter break for the 2024 term start.

Q. Will this impact students?
A. There will be no impact to students as this has been in place for them since the start of the September term.

Q. What does this mean?
A. Any shell that is flagged "inactive" (has a box with a label on it) will be hidden from the instructor in their respective course list page.

Q. Why is this happening?
A. To reduce clutter of old and or unnecessary courses being listed under the course module in Brightspace. An example of unneeded shells are cross listed child sections. These child sections are not used and have no instructional relationship with the course delivery. Hiding them will present a similar experience within Blackboard wherein only the parent section will be visible to course instructors.

Q. Will any of my data in an inactive course be lost?
A. No, this change will simply hide old or no longer used course shells from certain roles. There is no change to the course shell or its content.

Q. I had content in an inactive shell, and I need to access it; how can I restore it?
A. You can submit a helpdesk ticket to request the shell be made temporarily available. A shell ID or CRN and term will be required along with the requester's employee ID.

Q. I've cross listed my course and I still see my child sections.
A. The inactivation of child sections is not automatic. These will be hidden typically within 48hrs of the cross listing.

Cross-Listing Announcement

Cross-listing for the winter semester is now available. The process remains unchanged. **Click here** for cross-listing instructions.

Coming Up Next At TLX:

Modules 1 and 2: Brightspace Environment and Creating Content (December 21/January 3, 8): Module 1 is an overview of the Brightspace environment and highlights its tools, widgets and admin options with opportunities to discuss implications for learning. It serves as a foundation for the upcoming modules. Module 2 will explore the options for creating and organizing content. This session contains more demonstrations and is less hands-on than upcoming modules. **Register here.**

Module 3: Communication Tools in Brightspace (December 21/January 4, 9): This module focuses on communication tools built in Brightspace: Announcements, Emails, and Discussions. **Register here.**

Module 4: Assessment and Grading (December 20, 22/ January 5, 10): This module includes an overview of the Brightspace Assessments (Assignments and Quizzes) and Grading tools. **Register here.**

Community Building in Online Classrooms - Session 1: Foundations of Community (January 4): This is session 1 in a multi-session co-learning series designed to build skills, capacity and community amongst educators teaching online. The goal for the series is to share and support innovative practices for online teaching and learning, while creating a space for educators to connect with and learn from each other. In this session, we will explore ways to set up the online classroom space to support genuine community and connection between students. Participants will leave with some easily implementable ideas that they can try as they begin their semester. **Register here**

New (Academic) Year's Resolutions (January 5): The start of a new academic semester is a great time to set new goals for your teaching life. Maybe you want to get and stay more connected with your learners, reduce the amount of time you spend grading, manage an overwhelming workload, or just have a more positive attitude towards work? Join a small group of teaching colleagues to reflect back on the previous semester, and set manageable and meaningful goals, and strategies to achieve them, for the semester ahead. **Register here.**

Exciting News for TLX Newsletter Subscribers!

Starting in the **Winter 2024 semester**, the TLX newsletter is undergoing a major upgrade. We're thrilled to announce that we'll be switching to a new and improved format by using **envoke**. Say goodbye to the traditional PDF delivery and hello to the convenience of receiving our newsletters directly in your inbox. This change is part of our commitment to providing you with a seamless and user-friendly experience. The envoke platform will enhance your interaction with the TLX newsletter, making it easier than ever to stay informed about the latest updates, announcements, and exclusive content.

About TLX

The Teaching and Learning Exchange (TLX) serves as a 'one-stop-shop' for all full-time and contract faculty at GBC in support of their teaching and learning-related needs. We aspire to create a community of excellence in teaching and learning by fostering partnerships with and among faculty. We model innovative, evidence-informed practices and open spaces for risk-taking and experimentation so that George Brown learners are immersed in transformative learning experiences led by innovative and adaptive faculty.

Contact Us

To contact any members of the TLX visit the **Contact Us** page on our TLX website.

WISHING YOU A

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!