

# Faculty Guidebook for Digital Teaching and Learning

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Digital Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) 2021-2022

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## I. Introduction

#### Dear Online Teaching Faculty,

Thank you so much for your willingness to step out of the type of classrooms you have always known and into a new space with and for our wonderful KSU students. Taking on a new challenge is not always easy, but we are glad you are here and look forward to offering support. We know that you're a faculty member who cares passionately about students, and we know that you have your own pedagogical strengths and experiences. Our goal here is to help you translate what you already do best in the classroom into the digital space, no matter what modality, without losing who you are, the content and skills you care most about communicating to students, and the rich relationships that can develop between teachers and students who are engaged in learning together.

You may be wondering why some instructors at KSU choose to teach online, what they enjoy about it, and what the particular challenges are. You may also wonder about ways to overcome those challenges and really thrive. (You can! We promise!) And, you may also be wondering who KSU online students are demographically and why they want and/or need to learn online. While providing complete and thorough answers to these questions may go beyond the scope and intention of this Guidebook, we can offer a list of what we have heard over the years from other faculty members like you, and some comments received from online students that might help you imagine what the online classroom can be like:

After Teaching Online, Faculty Often Say:

- Online learning can lead to even deeper conversations and connections because students have more time to think about the questions, we ask versus being limited to an hour and 15 minutes or 50 minutes in the classroom.
- Online learning provided a new pedagogical challenge for me that really revived my interest in how to solve intricate problems in teaching. Teaching online has helped me become a better classroom teacher, too.
- It is deeply rewarding for me to be able to meet the needs of students who may not be
  able to achieve a college degree any other way if we weren't here for them in the digital
  space: students whose disabilities make coming to campus difficult, students serving in
  the military who are deployed around the world, working adults, new parents, and many
  others.

After Taking an Online Course, Students Often Say:

- "Our face-to-face meetings supported our online learning. Hybrid learning provided me
  with space and time needed to process and learn new concepts on my own. The extra
  time to problem solve and think critically helped me put a lot of what we learned to
  memory; versus listening to the professor say it in a face—to-face class."
- In a hybrid course, "I like that you get the best of both worlds. You get the face-to-face
  instructions from the professor, and can work through assignments on my own time, and
  can be open to taking more hours at my job."

"When I decided to go back to school one of the main things I was concerned about was the ability to take care of my child and still work while learning and advancing my degree. When I learned that Kennesaw State University had offered a completely online MAT program for Special Education, I felt that it was an answer to my prayers. I was able to work as a full-time teacher, take care of my daughter, and not stress about driving to campus to take courses. Not only did I receive a great education, but I received incredible support from both my peers and professors and developed lifelong relationships that have continued after graduation."

This guide contains descriptions and ways to access KSU's own well-developed support systems of offices and resources that can help you. It also is here to help you understand the policies around online learning at KSU so that you'll feel comfortable with things like legal requirements around accessibility, expectations around professors' engagement with students. We also hope the many links you see here will lead you to explore a lot of online resources and tools that might benefit your students depending on your disciplinary goals.

Additionally, we have included a bibliography on the last page of teaching and learning books and journal articles that explore online teaching from both professors' and students' perspectives from many different disciplines.

Thank you again for the time and energy you are investing in engaging with KSU's online students. Having worked with them, we know you will enjoy getting to know them and supporting them in meeting their unique needs. Additionally, we think with time and the individual pedagogical strengths and experiences you already bring to the table, you will find that some of the aspects that you might have worried about losing by teaching online, will be retained and strengthened in new and exciting ways. Our goal is to help you find not only competence in teaching online but also the same type of excitement that perhaps drew you to the classroom in the first place. Please let us know how we can assist.

#### Laura Davis, Ph.D.

KSU Professor of English & Interdisciplinary Studies Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

KSU Outstanding Online Teaching Award Winner, 2013 KSU Outstanding Teaching Award Winner, 2016-2017

#### It's All Here

This Guidebook is intended to serve as a resource for faculty who teach students in all modalities: fully online, hybrid, or face-to-face. If you are new to KSU, new to teaching online, or both, you will find access to a myriad of resources and support for digital teaching and learning here.

In this Guidebook are descriptions of and links to tools and software, guidance about how to use these tools effectively, and important information as to why you should use them to facilitate your course design, development, implementation, assessment, management, and accessibility.

Whether you seek support for teaching fully online or if you simply want to enhance your face-to-face instruction - or anything in-between – KSU has the resources, and they are listed here. The various sections of the Guidebook will introduce you to and/or to deepen your knowledge of and skills with tools and software, link you to online tutorials, microlearning, and professional development, and point you in the direction of one-on-one and/or group support and guidance.

If you've ever wondered exactly what resources and support are available from Digital Learning Innovations (DLI), from KSU Library Services, and from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), your questions will be answered in the Guidebook. You will also find terminology and information about KSU's policies regarding online and hybrid instruction, as well as online programs and the scheduling of courses.

The Faculty Guidebook for Teaching and Learning was developed by the following members of the Digital Learning Advisory Council, who each contributed their expertise and experience.

It's all here! Let us know how we can help!

#### **List of contributing DLAC members:**

- Bagwell College of Education: Melissa Driver, Julie Moore, Chair
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- College of Architecture and Construction Management: Christopher Welty, Hussein Abaza
- College of Computing and Software Engineering: Sarah North, Svetlana Peltsverger
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- · Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences: David Johnson, Tamara Powell
- Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology: Greg Wiles, Margaret "Lori" Lowder
- Wellstar College of Health and Human Services: Margot "Lisa" Hedenstrom, Kandice Porter
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- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA): Anissa Vega (Advisory)
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- Digital Learning Innovations: Julia Fuller (Advisory)

## II. Challenges of Teaching and Learning in the Digital Space

Faculty new to teaching and learning in the digital space may identify with many of the challenges associated with learners, content, and teaching as categorized and discussed by Kebritchi, et al (2017) in their review of the literature:

Challenges with Learners - Faculty expect learners in the digital space to have certain
qualities, such as strong self-motivation, appropriate skills using technology, favorable
attitudes toward online learning and the Internet, and effective time-management skills.
Faculty also expect learners to engage in the online learning environment by frequently
accessing content and participating in online discussions by making posts that indicate
thoughtful consideration of that content.

It's challenging to make sure that learners are engaged effectively so that they feel that they are a valued part of the online community. That means that the instructor must project a consistent presence in the course, even if the course is offered asynchronously, and they must create opportunities for students to feel like they belong, that they are intellectually and emotionally safe to make significant contributions to shared knowledge building, and that of course, all the content, activities, and resources in the course must be culturally relevant and accessible to them.

Meanwhile, faculty might be concerned and challenged by learners' expectations as well. Because of the electronic platform of online learning, some learners might expect immediate response to emails and a quick turnaround for grading and abundant feedback.

• Challenges with Teaching – With a move to online instruction, not only is the faculty member responsible for designing courses to engage and support learning, but they must also possess the knowledge and skills for translating and delivering the course effectively in the digital space. In effect, the instructor's role changes from being a lecturer or content transmitter to being a learning facilitator and guide. To be successful in this changing role, faculty must be aware of how students learn, know how to transfer instructional materials and strategies into a digital format, and know where and how to get support for all of this.

Additionally, faculty might be concerned with what they perceive to be the loss of the opportunity to develop relationships with their students like they would have in a traditional classroom. Instructors can take cues from students' facial expressions and body language that they can use to inform instruction when teaching face-to-face. And, as mentioned previously, students might be frustrated that in an online environment, they don't get that immediate feedback that they can expect in a classroom.

Finally, another significant challenge or concern for faculty might be the requisite knowledge and skills necessary to design, deliver, and manage an online course, the significant time investment required for all of it, and even their overall comfort level with technology.

Challenges with Content – Instructors may believe that the content they are to teach in
a course cannot be represented as effectively online as it can be in a face-to-face
learning environment. There might also be the misconception that for the content to be
online, it must be simplified or that online content is limited to video recordings of
lectures because there are not enough suitable materials available for online use.

Finding multimedia and online resources and alternatives as well as tools and software that can replicate face-to-face instruction and interactions may be difficult and time-consuming, and they may still fall short of the learning experience desired by the instructor. Creating online content takes knowledge, skill, and time, and may not be additional compensation for the work that is invested.

There are ways to effectively address these concerns and challenges in the digital space. It may require modifying your ideas about role as an instructor and putting in some thought, time, and effort, but the good news is that there are resources and support to make your class effective and accessible, no matter the modality. You can improve any learning environment by using even the most basic elements of a Learning Management System (LMS) to complement your face-to-face course. Resources in this *Guidebook*, instructional designers, experienced colleagues and mentors are here to support courses designs that present and represent the content, experiences, activities, relationships, engagements, pedagogies, and assessments simply or more extensively, but all in ways that promote active student engagement and learning online.

 Challenges with Generative AI – The Provost's Office has offered guidance on the use of AI at KSU.

Faculty wanting to use Artificial Intelligence to improve productivity in grading, writing, and research should be cautious entering student data or intellectual property into these systems. To ensure data security and FERPA compliance, faculty should use Microsoft's Copilot once signed in using their KSU Microsoft credentials (NetID). To be sure you are using the protected enterprise version of this chat look for this statement above the chat box in green: Your personal and company data are protected in this chat. To log in, visit copilot.microsoft.com/. Al is advancing very quickly, and this guidance is likely to change with future advances. If you have questions, submit a DLI SeviceNow ticket for assistance.

#### Syllabus Template with Suggested Al Policy Language

Kebritchi, Mansureh, Lipschuetz, Angie, and Santiague, Lilia. (2017, August 8). Issues and challenges for teaching successful online courses in higher education: A literature review. *Journal of Educational Technology Systems* 46(1) 4-29. https://doi.org/10.1177/0047239516661713

## III. Getting Started

#### A. Definition of Modalities

This section provides definitions of the modalities of digital learning offered at Kennesaw State University (KSU). It is important to note that courses in all modalities require regular and substantive interaction and that course content must be accessible to all learners. Regarding interaction, the USDOE notes that

- Sustained interaction between instructors and students must be scheduled and predictable.
- Instructors are expected to monitor each student's engagement and substantively engage with students on the basis of that monitoring.
- Instructors must be responsive to students' requests for instructional support.

Making all content accessible to all learners will be addressed in more detail in Section IV.B. of this Guidebook.

#### **Modalities for Programs**

The definitions below are used to designate the modality of the program. Students are made aware of a program's modality via information on the program's website and in the application systems. The program modalities align with the Admitting Modality – The modality or modalities in which students are being admitted into the program.

- On-Campus Program A program that has a fully on-campus path to graduation, which may include the option to take some online courses.
- Online Program A program that has a fully online path to graduation.
- Hybrid Program A program in which students are required to take courses both on-campus and online in order meet graduation requirements.

#### **Modalities for Courses**

#### Face-to-Face (F2F) Learning

Courses delivered in a traditional in-person classroom setting at scheduled dates and times are taught face-to-face and referred to as on-campus courses in the registration system. Teaching is conducted synchronously in a physical learning environment, meaning that "traditionally," the students and instructor are in the same place simultaneously. Course content and information may be supplemented with additional resources provided online in the Learning Management System (LMS, as D2L BrightSpace).

• On-Campus Course – A course that meets on-campus at a regularly scheduled time as designated in Banner. It is recommended that such courses utilize D2L at a minimum for reporting grades to students.

#### Online Learning

"Online learning is a form of distance education in which a course or program is intentionally designed, in advance, to be delivered fully online. Faculty use pedagogical strategies for instruction, student engagement, and assessment that are specific to learning in a virtual environment." (DLI at KSU)

- 100% online courses are those that do not require any on campus visits or proctored exams. Courses designated as 100% online cannot require any on campus meetings.
- 95% online courses are those with one on-campus face-to-face meeting requirement, typically for an orientation or exam. A proctored exam alternative is made available for students at a geographic distance of 50 miles or more from campus. It is the student's responsibility to obtain proctor approval from the instructor prior to scheduling a proctored examination.
- Online Course A course developed in D2L that is facilitated in either an asynchronous or a synchronous format. Such courses must meet the federal requirements for sustained instructor interaction.

Online courses can be either asynchronous, synchronous, or hybrid as designated in the registration system.

#### Asynchronous Online Learning

Asynchronous courses are defined as online courses where the instructor, the learner, and other participants are not engaged in the learning process at the same time. In a 100% asynchronous course, there is no real-time interaction between students and instructors, and the content is created and made available for later consumption. Learning is self-paced, and learners learn and complete assignments during their own time. The instructor provides online learning through a Learning Management System (for example, D2L Brightspace), and instruction may include pre-recorded lectures and scheduled assignments for students.

Courses designated as "asynchronous" cannot require any synchronous meetings unless specified in advance on the course schedule.

#### Synchronous Online Learning

Synchronous learning happens in real time online. Instructors and learners log in at the same time on a set class schedule. Instructors in a synchronous environment may take attendance, and there is real-time interaction between students and instructors. Instructors may use web conferencing, teleconferencing, live-chatting, and live-streamed lectures that must be viewed in real time.

#### Hybrid Learning

The <u>Online Learning Consortium</u> defines hybrid learning as online activity that is "mixed with classroom meetings, replacing a significant percentage, but not all required face-to-face

instructional activities." There are various distributions of F2F vs online activities in hybrid courses as noted below.

- Hybrid Course A course that is facilitated with a combination of on-campus and online modalities, with the scheduling identified in Banner at the time of registration as follows:
  - o 50% Hybrid. Course activities are 50% online and 50% face-to-face.
  - 66% Hybrid Course activities are 66% online and 33% face-to-face.
  - 33% Hybrid Course activities are 33% online and 66% face-to-face.

Scheduled course meetings must maintain the designated face-to-face vs online percentages throughout the semester.

#### **B. Blended Learning Models**

While there are several scheduled modality options available at KSU, faculty are encouraged to incorporate *blended learning* into all their courses. Blended learning occurs when a course design intentionally integrates and leverages the strengths of both the face-to-face and online environments. Class time is often modified with the integration of asynchronous or synchronous activities and offline activities. Blended Learning offers a more flexible course format with more possibilities for content delivery and increased access to digital tools and resources.

If you employ a blended approach with your teaching, the <u>Distance Learning Innovations (DLI)</u> offers support in choosing a model, planning the design, and implementing your blended course. Be sure to consider the following <u>Blended Learning Rubric</u> for aspects of course integration, alignment, student engagement, and the role of technology and your D2L site navigation.

Although many types of blended learning models exist, here are just a couple of examples of the most referred to types of blended learning:

#### Flipped Classroom

A flipped classroom introduces students to new concepts and skills online and provides students time to practice and answer questions during class time. It differs from traditional approaches to instruction and learning because students are given access to new material before class begins (via video lectures, for example), allowing scheduled class time to be used for in-class activities that focus on application of new concepts and skills. In other words, the way students and faculty spend their time (during and outside of class) is flipped.

#### **HyFlex Model**

The HyFlex Model (short for "hybrid flexible") is a multi-modal solution that centers around the student's choice. A HyFlex course is offered in a combination of face-to-face and fully online modalities.

The defining characteristic of this student-centered model is that students can choose which modality to participate in on a class-to-class basis. For one class meeting, they could attend class on campus, the next class meeting, they may want or need to join from a laptop. For another class meeting, they could forego any synchronous activities to work through content asynchronously. It is the instructor's responsibility to have a fully developed F2F course and a fully developed online course in D2L. The instructor does, however, get to choose whether to have a synchronous online (Teams, Zoom) component. But it is highly recommended they find some way to incorporate what happened in the classroom for students who attend asynchronously.

Beatty, B. J. (2019). Hybrid-Flexible Course Design (1st ed.). EdTech Books. https://edtechbooks.org/hyflex

## C. Digital Teaching and Learning Guidelines

Your content, course learning outcomes, teaching style, student demand, university scheduling policies and a myriad of other factors will influence the modality of a course. Once the modality is determined, you should attend to university guidelines and best practices in your course development.

This section provides an overview of digital learning guidelines at KSU. Please also check with your individual college for all relevant policies and guidelines.

#### **Begin with Planning**

 Identify the learning objectives for your course. What do you want your students to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing the course? Remember that the

- course activities and assessments should align with these objectives, which should also align with the <u>program student learning outcomes</u> (PSLOs). The objectives for your course should be measurable. Check out this website: <u>Using Bloom's Taxonomy to Write Effective Learning Objectives</u>.
- 2. Develop a **course outline**. In what sequence should the content and skills be taught? How much time should be devoted to each of objectives so that students are introduced to the information and then have time to process and practice it to achieve the objective?
- 3. Develop and sequence course modules according to your course outline. Consider developing learning objectives for each module. When and how should students be assessed on their progress with and achievement of the objectives?
- 4. Identify your students. Who are they? What needs to they have that require support. What pre-requisites did they take? What prior knowledge and skills do they have? This information should impact many aspects of your course design such as selecting resources, selecting activities, designing assessments, providing accessibility, and determining due dates.
- 5. Engage the help of an instructional designer. Instructional designers (IDs) can help translate your course content, materials, activities, and assessments into the online environment. It's important to establish communication with your ID early on so that you can meet with them to begin the planning process for designing and developing your course.
- 6. Identify training to help with your course development that might be available through the university or your college and take advantage of it. Check with <u>Digital Learning Innovations</u>, <u>Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning</u>, <u>University Information Technology Services</u>, and your college's Distance Learning Coordinator. See Section IV of this *Guidebook* for information on professional development opportunities.
- 7. As you are considering implementing this course in subsequent semesters, be sure to check for errors or outdated content and broken links BEFORE a module is released to students.

#### **Consider Course Design**

- 1. Develop your syllabus and provide all required and necessary course policies. Consult these resources and check with your college and department for additional required syllabus components:
  - Required Syllabus Information
  - o Syllabus Template from Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Office
- 2. Develop a clear, consistent structure for your course that includes:
  - Clear, detailed instructions, due dates, and grading criteria for student activities, assignments, and interactions.
  - Multiple media formats for learning materials.
  - Opportunities for interactivity. This may include the use of discussion forums, VoiceThread, group projects, FERPA compliant external learning tools, etc. See the Toolbox section of this *Guide* for more ways to engage your students in the digital space.

- Design for <u>accessibility</u>: Use headings/styles in all documents, provide alternative text for all images, and caption all videos. See Section V of this *Guidebook* for ways to make your course content accessible and use <u>Ally</u> to review courses for accessibility.
- 4. Review the course from a student's perspective.

#### **Course Implementation and Facilitation**

- 1. During course implementation, adhere to the grading timetable specified in the syllabus. Update LMS gradebook accordingly.
- 2. If your course includes major exams that must be proctored, such as a final exam, the <u>KSU</u>

  <u>Testing Center</u> offers a proctored environment and students are made aware during registration of any required fees.
  - Proctoring Service: Faculty may request a proctored environment for KSU students to take course exams for online, hybrid and on campus courses. Students must take prior approval from faculty before making an appointment.
  - **Final Exam Service:** KSU Academic Testing Services features an online application for faculty members teaching online courses to submit requests for the testing staff to proctor computer-based Final Exams at the testing center. Please note the procedures for requesting testing services for Final Exams. <u>Click</u> for more information.
- 3. Manage the discussion forums and other engagement venues to provide instructor presence and engagement. Facilitate and monitor appropriate interaction among students.
- 4. Adhere to the percentages published in Owl Express for face-to-face, synchronous, and asynchronous course. (See Section I.) Publish dates for each type of meeting in the syllabus.
- 5. Two or three weeks after the start of the semester, provide a quick survey (three to five questions) about course effectiveness and logistics. Modify inconsistencies or difficulties with course set up, navigation, or requirements according to student responses.

#### **Prioritize Communication**

- 1. Communicate with your students regularly and often using the announcement tool, Learning Management System (LMS) email, or discussion boards.
- 2. Maintain communication records within the KSU mail systems (LMS or KSU email).
- 3. Adhere to an email response time that is specified in the syllabus.
- Contact students who are not adequately participating or who may be earning a C or below. (Contact <u>Digital Learning Innovations</u> regarding using Intelligent Agents to automate this process.)
- 5. Provide virtual office hours for instructor-student communication.

## IV. Getting Help and Support

#### A. Digital Learning Innovations (DLI): Resources and Services

#### **DLI Services**

#### One-on-One Instructional Design and Development

Faculty can work with the instructional designer aligned to their college for more in-depth design, development, and facilitation of a course. Use this form to request this service.

DLI provides one-on-one services where faculty work with an instructional design expert on course design, development, implementation, assessment, and management. Use <u>this form</u> to request this service.

#### Course Reviews

The DLI team provides instructional design assistance to review online course design using various rubrics ranging from Quality Matters, KSU checklist or your college specific quality standards document. Faculty can complete <u>this form</u> and get in touch with the college-dedicated instructional designer for a course review.

#### **The Course Review Process**

The KSU course review process is designed to ensure that all online and hybrid course designs meet college quality standards and the federal requirements for accessibility and sustained instructor interaction. Prior to being available for registration, every online and hybrid course must be reviewed and approved based on the college's course review policy that has been reviewed by DLAC and approved by the Office of the Provost. Digital Learning Innovations (DLI) supports this review process for all colleges that have designated DLI as the review entity within their college course review policy.

For college policies in which DLI is the designated course review entity, the DLI unit follows a strategic course review process to ensure adherence to quality standards and federal guidelines. Before a KSU faculty submits a course for review, it should be listed in the current catalog or have recently been approved through the curriculum process. Additionally, faculty should ensure that their course is fully built, and all documents are accessible according to federal guidelines. The course should include essential items such as course learning objectives, module learning objectives, learning content, and assessments (ie. quizzes, assignments, projects, etc.). Faculty should submit a fully developed course for review several weeks prior to the start of the semester using the course review form. This generates a course review ticket in the ServiceNow system. Then, the course review request is picked up by the DLI instructional designer for that

college from ServiceNow. The instructional designer requests access to the course from UITS (University Information Technology Services) using the Manual Enrollment of Instructors Form. The instructional designer follows the college's digital learning policy to review the course. Then, the course review report is shared with the faculty for completion of any necessary revisions prior to the course being listed in the registration system. The instructional designer fills out the course modality database form which is sent to the assigned approver. The course is then updated in the KSU course modality database and can be offered by the registrar's office.

Faculty can explore specific college course review policies at their convenience.

#### **DLI Resources**

#### Online Teaching and Learning Pedagogy Resources

DLI has prepared guides to a variety of topics below that represent best practices in online teaching and learning. Visit the <u>DLI Online Teaching and Learning Pedagogy</u> page for more information. Additionally, checkout the <u>Open Educational Resources</u> and <u>Digital Course Repository</u> initiatives to support your effective teaching practices.

#### Resources for Flexible Course Modalities

To learn about facilitating courses in various modalities, please visit this <u>DLI webpage</u>.

#### Professional Development (PD)

DLI offers an array of professional development courses both in the instructor-led and self-directed formats. Instructor led, asynchronous, online workshops for faculty assist them in the design, development, and delivery of an online or hybrid course, and faculty earn a badge once they complete these workshops.

#### **Instructor-Led Workshops**

- Sustainable Course Design Workshop (SCDW)
- Essential Course Facilitation Strategies (ECFS)
- Course Improvement and Optimization (CIO)
- Media Essentials Workshop (MEW)
- Gen Al for Course Design and Student Engagement (GACD)
- Accessible Web Essentials (AWE)
- Accessible Teaching Essentials (ATE) Workshop
- The UDL Experience (UDLEX) Workshop

#### **Self-Directed Modules and Resources**

Faculty complete self-directed modules in their own time and these may include the opportunity to earn a microcredential. These modules help faculty deepen their learning and gain ideas for implementing concepts when teaching. Other self-directed resources include reference guides, infographics, and microlearning lessons which are

designed to give faculty an overview of a topic in fifteen minutes.

Visit the DLI Faculty Professional Development page to learn about the following topics:

- D2L Brightspace and Content Management
- Sustainable Course Design
- Generative Al
- Multi-Modal Course Facilitation
- uHoo Analytics
- Course Optimization
- Instructional Media Production
- Accessibility

The professional development materials and courses for each topic are designed to support faculty by providing options which consider desired time commitment and depth of knowledge.

## B. Academic Web Accessibility Services (AWA Services) Resources, Policies and Regulations

Get started on making your course accessible by accessing the quick-reference, on-demand resources designed to support you in adjusting your course to accommodate all learners. Please visit the <a href="Academic Web Accessibility">Accessibility</a> web page for various resources, regulations and policies regarding the American Disability Act, Accessibility, Accommodations, and Universal Design for Learning.

- What is Accessibility?
- How to Read Your Accommodations Letter
- Basic Four of Accessibility
- Creating Accessible Content
- AWA Course Accessibility Checklist
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA)
- Sections 505 and 508
- USG and KSU Policies
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- Web Accessibility in Mind (WebAIM)
- What is Universal Design for Learning?
- What are Assistive Technologies?

#### C. CETL Resources and Services

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has many resources to support new and established faculty success. Among them are opportunities for support with teaching and learning:

- <u>Faculty Resources for Scholarly Teaching</u>
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Tenured Faculty Enhancement Programs
- Celebration of Teaching Day
- Al and Teaching Events and Resources

#### D. University Libraries Resources and Services

#### **Library Collections**

The three facilities of the Kennesaw State University Libraries house a robust collection including print and electronic books, periodicals, maps, government documents, and audio- visual materials access to which can be integrated into your course.

#### **Library System Faculty Services Webpage**

- Online Library Orientations Modules that may be embedded into your D2L course.
- Library Instruction You can "reserve a librarian" who will provide students with
  guidance on developing appropriate lines of inquiry, source selection, searing strategies,
  professional and scholarly communication, and discipline-specific information. This
  guidance can be provided via asynchronous learning materials and course integration.
   Course Reserves: KSU Library's Course Reserves service allows instructors to place
  physical or electronic items on reserve for their class for the duration of the semester.

#### Open Access / Open Educational Resources / Copyright Guides

- The University Libraries Open Access Guide
- The University Libraries Copyright Guide
- The University Libraries Open Educational Resources Guide

## V. Making your Course Accessible

Because sections 504 and 508 of the <u>Rehabilitation Act of 1973</u> and the <u>Americans with</u> <u>Disabilities Act</u> in 1990 protect people with disabilities from discrimination and guarantee their civil rights, educational institutions that receive federal funding have a responsibility to ensure that every student, regardless of ability, has equal access to all services, resources, and academic content, including electronic content. Failure to comply with these laws can have drastic consequences for an institution. More importantly, however, ensuring our curriculum is <u>accessible</u> to all our students is *the right thing to do*.

One approach to accessibility is to simply wait until you have a student with disabilities in your course and you get a letter from Student Disability Services telling you to make accommodations. There are a few problems with this approach, however. One is that it can create a very stressful situation for you and for the student. Also, waiting until the last minute can often make accessibility feel like an afterthought—largely because it is! And, of course, failure to meet all accommodations can result in legal problems including discrimination lawsuits. Faculty and students are far better served by considering accessibility upfront, when initially creating content.

While these <u>regulations and policies</u> define what constitutes discrimination, it can be tricky to know how the digital content of your course meets the needs of students with disabilities. For this reason, the <u>Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C)</u> developed what has become a gold standard for digital accessibility: the <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)</u>, currently on version 2.1. These 13 guidelines are organized along four principles which guarantee content is, Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust to all users. Each guideline has multiple levels of compliance, A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest). Ideally, our goal is to meet at least AA compliance.

However, even the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines can feel overwhelming to try to navigate. In fact, much of what is outlined in WCAG 2.1 is very technical, outside of the scope of creating content in a course and has already been done for you! The most important thing to do when it comes to creating an accessible course that keeps in mind the needs of people with differing abilities is to ensure that your documents and course content are readable and navigable to people who use assistive technology. Next, we'll help you get a handle on the simple things you can do to ensure your content is accessible.

#### Getting a Handle on Accessibility

#### **Basic Four (or Faculty Four)**

The <u>Basic Four</u> are four techniques you can implement to make the most impact in improving the accessibility of your course content for students with disabilities. However, these techniques are meant to be a starting point to address the most pressing accessibility concerns. Once you've mastered these, there is always more you can do to make your course accessible. Learn more at the <u>Basic Four site</u>. They break down to:

- 1. <u>Document Structure</u>: In this case, by documents, we refer to many types of content such as Word docs, presentation files such as PowerPoint, HTML files such as D2L pages or Softchalk lessons, and even PDFs. Document structure includes:
  - a. **Semantic Structure (Headings):** Labeling your document's section and subsection headings with the proper heading styles allows students using screen readers to browse documents the way sighted readers do.
  - b. List Styles: Make sure your bullets and numbered lists are formatted properly.
  - c. **Tables:** Make sure your tables have a heading row set and the reading order is true.
  - d. **Color Contrast:** Setting proper text contrast ensures that students with limited vision will not miss key information.
  - e. **Descriptive Links:** Long links that are generally skipped by sighted readers are read aloud to student using a screen-reader. Embed links in descriptive text.
- 2. <u>Alternative Text</u>: Alt text typically allows the content and function of an image to be accessible to those with visual or cognitive disabilities.
- 3. <u>Video Captions and Audio Transcripts</u>: All videos must have synchronized, equivalent, accessible captions, and audio files must have a transcript for deaf students.
- 4. Accessible Third-Party Resources: It is up to the instructor to make sure that resources such as third-party videos, publisher resources, or websites are accessible for their students. Resources for checking websites and other software providers are below.

Digital Learning Innovations at KSU provides many resources to guide you in their <u>Creating Accessible Content</u> page.

#### **Checking for Accessibility**

There are several ways you can check content you already have for accessibility! Some resources and links to additional information is below:

#### Office

Microsoft Office products such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel all have integrated reports that will check your documents for accessibility issues and let you know what needs to be fixed! The Office documents featured in the <a href="Creating Accessible Content page">Creating Accessible Content page</a> include instructions on using these checkers.

#### D<sub>2</sub>L

For faculty who like to work with HTML pages directly in D2L, there is an integrated accessibility checker. Read to near the end of the <u>D2L Accessibility Instructions document</u> for instructions on how to use this checker.

#### Blackboard Ally

Integrated within D2L at KSU is Blackboard Ally, a powerful accessibility tool with two primary features:

- 1. Ally creates **alternative formats** of your content such as audio files, tagged PDFs, BeeLine Reader and even electronic braille for students.
- 2. Ally provides **accessibility reports** for faculty on every content item and even creates a course report to help you determine what to work on first.

For more information visit the Blackboard Ally resource page.

#### Websites

The internet is a nearly unlimited source of resources for your students, but not every page is built with the same attention to accessibility. WebAim's WAVE Accessibility Checker is a wonderful tool that can give you a report on any website's accessibility, allowing you to decide whether to include it for your students.

#### Third-Party Sources

If you are using third-party software or online publisher resources, you'll want to make sure they are accessible. Learning to read <u>accessibility statements and Voluntary Product</u>

Accessibility Templates (VPATs) can help you determine whether a resource is appropriate.

#### **Accessibility Checklist**

A complete, downloadable, checklist for making sure your course is accessible is available at the AWA Accessibility Checklist site.

#### **Accessibility Resources**

There are many accessibility resources on campus that are available to help you!

- 1. Get help and learn more about accessibility at DLI's Academic Web Accessibility page.
- 2. Get accessibility instructions at the <u>Creating Accessible Content and Checking for Accessibility page</u>.
- 3. Explore training options at our Accessibility Training page.
- 4. Explore the <u>Universal Design for Learning page</u> to see how UDL can help mitigate accessibility issues.
- 5. Meet <u>Academic Web Accessibility Team at KSU</u> or get direct help from an <u>Instructional</u> <u>Designer in Digital Learning Innovations</u>.
- 6. Learn how you can get involved with the KSU <u>Presidential Commission on Disability Strategies and Resources.</u>
- Explore resources provided by the <u>Disability Access Coalition Awareness</u> <u>Campaigns</u>.

## VI. But wait, there's more: Tools and Software!

Software	Description	How to access	Audience

#### **Add Academic Level Videos to Courses**

Alexander	Curated, discipline-focused, primary-source	Access through the library. Provide	Faculty
Street Press	collections, websites, and streaming media for	link to video or embed in D2L	
Video	learning and research. All are captioned.	<u>Brightspace</u>	
Films on	Curated videos on a variety of topics. All are	Use in D2L Brightspace	Faculty
Demand	captioned and easily included in D2L course		-
	sections.		

## **Check D2L Items for Accessibility**

Blackboard	A tool that allows instructors to view how	<u>Instructor introduction</u> to Ally on D2L.	Faculty/Students
Ally	their course content could be improved for		
•	accessibility. Content is scored for universal		
	design and instructors can see how they can		
	make their course content accessible to how		
	students learn best.		

## **Check for Plagiarism in Written Assignments**

Turnitin	Turnitin provides students with an interactive	Enabling Turnitin in D2L	Faculty
	means of understanding and applying citation		

and referencing techniques in their work ar	nd
provides online grading to academic staff.	

## **Conduct Peer Review in D2L**

li a re s a	PeerMark is a peer review assignment tool. Instructors can create and manage PeerMark assignments that allow students to read, review, and evaluate one or many papers submitted by their classmates. For each assigned paper, students write reviews by responding to the free response and scale questions.	Used in creating assignments D2L Brightspace	Faculty
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## **Create and Administer Surveys**

Qualtrics	A powerful online survey tool that allows one	Quick Start Guide	Faculty
	to build surveys, distribute surveys and	Full Qualtrics Guide	
	analyze responses from one convenience to		
	online location.		

## **Create and Edit Animation**

Character Animator	An application used to create interactive, high-quality, animations. Available only on desktop version of the Adobe Creative Suite.	•	Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite Adobe Tutorial	Faculty/limited license for students
	·	•	Adobe YouTube Channel UITS Technology Guide	

## **Create and Edit Audio**

Audition	An application in the Adobe Creative Suite,	•	Download Adobe Creative Cloud	Faculty/limited license
	used to capture, design and mix sound.		<u>Suite</u>	for students
	Available on desktop only.	•	KSU Creative Hub	
		•	Creative Resources-QuickStart	
			<u>Videos</u>	
		•	Adobe Tutorial	
		•	Adobe YouTube Channel	
		•	UITS Technology Guide	

## **Create and Edit Images**

Photoshop	An application in the Adobe Creative suite used to create, edit and composite images, graphic, and art. Available on desktop only.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</li> <li>KSU Creative Hub</li> <li>Creative Resources-QuickStart Videos</li> <li>Adobe Tutorial</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
Photoshop Express	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to create, edit and composite images, graphics, and art. Available on all devices with less features than Photoshop.	<ul> <li><u>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</u></li> <li><u>KSU Creative Hub</u></li> <li><u>Creative Resources-QuickStart Videos</u></li> <li><u>Adobe Tutorial</u></li> <li><u>Adobe YouTube Channel</u></li> <li><u>UITS Technology Guide</u></li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students

Illustrator		•	Download Adobe Creative Cloud	Faculty/limited license
	An application in the Adobe Creative suite		<u>Suite</u>	for students
	used to create, edit and composite vector art	•	Adobe Tutorial	
	and illustrations. (Vector art graphics are	•	Adobe YouTube Channel	
	points, lines, curves and shapes that are based	•	UITS Technology Guide	
	on mathemat (Kelly, 2021)ical formulas.)			

## **Create and Edit PDFs**

Acrobat DC	An application in the adobe Creative suite, used to create and edit PDF documents and	•	Download Adobe Acrobat DC UITS Technology Guide	Faculty/limited license for students
	Forms.			

## **Create and Edit Text-Based Documents**

InDesign	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to create informational layouts for print and digital use.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</li> <li>KSU Creative Hub</li> <li>Creative Resources-QuickStart Videos</li> <li>Adobe Tutorial</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
Incopy	An application in the Adobe Creative Suite, that allows copywriters and editors to style text and track changes, and also to make layout modifications. Available on desktop only.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud         Suite</li> <li>Adobe Tutorial</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students

## **Create and Edit Video**

Premiere Pro	A professional video editing application in the Adobe Creative suite. Available for desktop only.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud         Suite</li> <li>KSU Creative Hub</li> <li>Creative Resources-QuickStart         Videos</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
Premiere Rush	An application in the adobe Creative suite, used to create, edit, and share videos. Application is available on all devices.	Download Adobe Creative Cloud     Suite     KSU Creative Hub     Creative Resources-QuickStart     Videos     Adobe YouTube Channel     UITS Technology Guide	Faculty/limited license for students
After Effects	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to edit videos, creating motion graphics and visual effects.	<ul> <li><u>Download Adobe Creative Cloud</u> <ul> <li><u>Suite</u></li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Adobe Tutorial</u></li> <li><u>Adobe YouTube Channel</u></li> <li><u>UITS Technology Guide</u></li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
Kaltura MediaSpace	Kaltura/MediaSpace Capture is a desktop recording and capture tool for the easy creation of videos including Voiceover PowerPoints. Captioning available. Video Quiz creation.	<ul> <li>Kaltura MediaSpace Capture         <ul> <li>Desktop Recorder – Faculty Guide</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kaltura MediaSpace – Faculty         <ul> <li>Guide</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kaltura Mediaspace - Captioning</li> <li>Katura MediaSpace Video Quiz –         <ul> <li>Faculty Guide</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Faculty/Students

## **Create and Edit Websites**

Dreamweaver	An application in the Adobe Creative suite,	•	<b>Download Adobe Creative Cloud</b>	Faculty/limited license
	used to design, code, and publish websites		<u>Suite</u>	for students
	and web applications using HTML, CSS,	•	Adobe Tutorial	
	Javascript, etc. Available only on desktop.	•	Adobe YouTube Channel	
		•	UITS Technology Guide	

## **Create Content**

Adobe Creative Cloud Lightroom	A collection of applications by Adobe designed to facilitate digital content creation. KSU provides an enterprise license for Adobe Creative Cloud to faculty and staff.  An application in the Adobe Creative suite,	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</li> <li>Adobe Tutorial</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students  Faculty/limited license
	used to organize, edit, store and share photos across devices. It also manages workflow and edits to stored images. Available on all devices.	Suite  KSU Creative Hub  Creative Resources-QuickStart Videos  Adobe Tutorial  Adobe YouTube Channel  UITS Technology Guide	for students
Lightroom Classic	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to organize, edit, store and share photos across devices. It also manages workflow and edits to stored images. Available only on desktop version.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</li> <li>KSU Creative Hub</li> <li>Creative Resources-QuickStart Videos</li> <li>Adobe Tutorial</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students

		<u>UITS Technology Guide</u>	
Bridge	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to select, organize, edit, and publish digital assets such as videos, PDFs, images, audio, spreadsheets, etc. that you have the right to use.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud         Suite</li> <li>Adobe Bridge User Guide</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
Dimension	An application in the Adobe Creative suite, used to generate 3D images for scene design and interactive scene content. Available on desktop only.	<ul> <li>Download Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</li> <li>Adobe Dimension Get Started Guide</li> <li>Adobe YouTube Channel</li> <li>UITS Technology Guide</li> </ul>	Faculty/limited license for students
SoftChalk	Content authoring tools that enable instructors to create an engaging online course curriculum. Can be integrated in to D2L.	Request an account through UITS at ServiceNow SoftChalk Cloud & D2L Quick Guide	Faculty

## **Create Forms for Classes**

Microsoft Forms	Allows users to create a form, such as a survey or a quiz, invite others to respond to it using almost any web browser or mobile device, see real-time results as they're submitted, use	https://forms.office.com/	Faculty/Students
	built-in analytics to evaluate responses, and export results to Excel for additional analysis or grading.		

## **Create Word Documents and PowerPoints**

Microsoft 365	Offers access to Office applications plus their	Access guides to Microsoft features	Faculty/Students
	productivity services such as Outlook, Word,	here.	
	Excel, PowerPoint, OneDrive, SharePoint, and		
	more. Microsoft Teams is a collaboration app		
	that helps your team stay organized and have		
	conversations— all in one place. Users can		
	discover channels to belong to or create their		
	own. Inside channels, users can hold on-the-		
	spot meetings, have conversations, and share		
	files.		

## **Engage Students Using Video and Voice**

VoiceThread	Collaborative, multimedia slide show that	Faculty Guide to access through D2L	Faculty/Students
	holds images, documents, and videos and	<u>Brightspace</u>	
	allows people to navigate slides and leave		
	comments in 5 ways -using voice (with a mic		
	or telephone), text, an audio file, or video (via		
	a web cam). Can be integrated into D2L.		

## **Learning Management Systems**

Desire2Learn	D2L Brightspace is KSU's web-based learning	Access many helpful D2L BrightSpace	Faculty
<b>Brightspace</b>	management system (LMS) software system	Quick Guides here.	
	that allows our users to easily manage course		
	work, assignments, and exams on campus,		
	online, and around the world.		

<u>Moodle</u>	Learning Management System managed by	Access many helpful D2L Moodle Quick	Faculty
	UITS for off-semester and external participant	Guides here.	
	courses		

## Meet Online with Students and Coworkers

Microsoft Teams	A collaboration app that helps your team stay organized and have conversations all in one place. Users can discover channels to belong to or create their own. Inside channels, users can hold on-the-spot meetings, have conversations and share files.	•	o365.kennesaw.edu Creating a Team Guide Teams vs Zoom Comparison Chart	Faculty/Current Students
Zoom Meetings	Cloud-based video communications app that allows you to setup virtual video and audioconferencing.	•	Access Zoom Getting Started Guide Teams vs Zoom Comparison Chart	

#### Create an Online Virtual Whiteboard

Miro	Miro is a useful whiteboard application that	•	Apply for education account	
	allows teams to organize and collaborate.			
	Instructors and students can interact in live			
	collaborative sessions as if in a classroom.			

## **Prevent Cheating on Online Exams**

Respondus	Respondus Lock-Down Browser is a custom	Using Respondus with D2L	Faculty
Lockdown	browser that secures (locks down) the testing		
Browser	environment. When students use LockDown		
	Browser to access a quiz, they are unable to		

	print, copy, access unauthorized URLs or applications, or close a quiz until it is submitted for grading.		
Respondus Monitor	Respondus Lock-Down Browser with Monitor is a fully automated proctoring solution. Students use a web cam to record themselves during an online exam. Afterward, flagged (suspicious) events and proctoring results are available to the instructor for further review.	Faculty Guide to access through D2L Brightspace, Faculty Guide	Faculty

## **Set up Automated Messaging Features in D2L**

Intelligent	Can be used to send automatic email	<u>Video</u>	Faculty
Agents	notifications from D2L based on conditions	Faculty Guide	
	the faculty member sets up. For example, you		
	might use Intelligent Agents to email students		
	based on their grades, login history, or activity		
	completion.		

## Grading

Gradescope	Gradescope helps instructors grade	Faculty Guide	Faculty
	assessments or exams online by speeding up		
	the grading process. It also allows teachers to		
	view statistics of the entire class and notify		
	students once their work is graded		

## VII. Technical Service and Support Infrastructure at KSU

<b>Business Unit</b>	Description of Services	Phone number	Email or Website
CIO Office	KSU Vice President of IT and Chief Information Officer	470-578-6620	Officeofcio@kennesaw.edu
UITS	The mission of University Information Technology Services (UITS) is to provide customer service excellence through technology leadership and expertise in support of the goals of the university while ensuring innovation and security through technology.	470-578-6620	ServiceNow Portal
UITS Communications	CIO Insight IT Connect Documentation Center	470-578-6620	ServiceNow Portal
Customer Support Service Department	Customer Support Services (CSS) offers technical support services to all Kennesaw State faculty, staff and students on all campuses. CSS provides a single point of contact for all IT-related issues and service requests via the KSU Service Desk. This team, in collaboration with Technical Support Specialists assigned to individual colleges, work to support the technology needs in classrooms, offices, and event spaces. Our Student Help Desks are available in multiple locations, and via phone and email to advise and train students on their technology needs. Our services also include support of all the multi-function copy/print devices across campuses, and reservations and checkouts of audiovisual equipment.	470-578-6620	ServiceNow Portal
Service Desk	ServiceNow: Customer Portal for submitting a service request	470-578-6669	service@kennesaw.edu
Technical Support Zones	TSS Zones show areas for which Technical Support Specialists are assigned to for service.	470-578-6669	ServiceNow Portal

Technology	The Technology Outreach (TO) team provides supportive	470-578-6669	ServiceNow Portal
Outreach	services to the University through training, learning	470 070 0000	<u>Corridor Fortal</u>
Department	technologies administration and support, oversight of the		
Department	university's web content management system, as well as		
	communication regarding upgrades, outages, and		
	technology maintenance.		
ITAC	The purpose of the Information Technology Advisory	470-578-6620	https://itac.kennesaw.edu/
	Committee (ITAC) is to advise the Chief Information Officer		
	on planning and policy issues concerning use of information		
	technology, increase/facilitate communication between the		
	CIO and IT users and provide support for the teaching		
	mission at KSU through appropriate use of technology to		
	improve learning.		
The Center for	The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)	470-578-6410	cetl@kennesaw.edu
Excellence in	supports the integrated professional development of KSU		
Teaching and	graduate students, full- and part-time faculty, and		
Learning (CETL)	administrators throughout their careers. The Center offers		
	offer programs and services rooted in learning science,		
	process education, human development, organizational		
	development, and assessment theory.		
Distance Learning	The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) is an	470-578-6023	dlac@kennesaw.edu
Advisory	advisory group to the Provost on digital learning matters.	470 070 0020	diada/keririesaw.eaa
Committee (DLAC)	The Committee offers a forum for dialogue on digital		
Committee (DLAC)	learning that facilitates communication among the		
	University stakeholders (Provost, faculty, and students). Its		
	membership includes one elected teaching faculty		
	representative from each degree-granting college with		
	demonstrated expertise in digital learning from each		
	degree-granting college (i.e., a Distance Learning		
	Coordinator)		

Digital Learning	Digital Learning Innovations (DLI) at Kennesaw State	470-578-7550	dli@kennesaw.edu
Innovations (DLI)	University is a multi-faceted department that provides an		
	array of services and resources related to distance and		
	technology-enhanced learning. The DLI is a unit of the office		
	of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA), including		
	KSU's fully online degree, certificate and non-credit online		
	programs, collaborative programs, eCore, hybrid or blended		
	course development, and new learning models.		
	Online College Coordinators		
	<u>Instructional Designers</u>		
Library	The KSU University Libraries System encourages creative	470-578-7550	Library@kennesaw.edu
	solutions and the utilization of new technologies and		
	pedagogical strategies to improve our resources and		
	services. We seek innovative ideas and approaches in our		
	pursuit of continuous improvement in supporting student		
	success and research with relevance.		
<u>Curriculum</u>	The Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA) unit is at	470-578-6023	cia@kennesaw.edu
Support Office	the heart of what we do at Kennesaw State University, as it		
	encompasses the design, development, and evaluation of		
	the academic degree programs for our students. Our offices		
	facilitate the creation, evaluation, and enrichment our		
	curriculum, ensuring compliance while increasing learning		
	opportunities for students and enhancing the mission of		
	Kennesaw State University.		

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