Tips for STUdents

November 2020
From your STU remote teaching support staff

Thanks to everyone who gave generously of your time to reply to the student survey in October. This tip sheet contains answers to several questions that came up in the survey. We hope you'll find them helpful.

About asynchronous learning:

In general, an asynchronous course is one in which each week your instructor provides you with content and learning activities. It is up to you to decide on the exact timing of when you view recorded lectures, do your readings, contribute to group activities, and do individual activities. However, in order to get the most out of the course you should plan to complete each week's activities during the scheduled week. There are deadlines to help you progress through the course. Your instructor may also give you deadlines within each session in order to help move you along in discussions, group work, or individual tasks.

> **Time warp:** One thing that's different about online learning is that an activity that might take only a few minutes during a face-to-face class gets stretched out over several days. For example, in a group discussion forum one person might initiate the discussion on Tuesday, others might respond by the end of Thursday, and then a group member might summarize the discussion at the end of the week. The total amount of time you spend on the activity is about the same, but it's broken up into smaller time segments. An advantage of this approach is that you have more time to think about your responses before posting, and you'll get a chance to share your thoughts (and hear others) without worrying that the discussion time is close to ending.

Some tips for using Moodle:

## Customize your Moodle Dashboard:

You can customize your Moodle Dashboard by clicking *Customize this page*.

Once you're in Customization mode, scroll aaaaaaall the way down to the bottom of that left side nav pane to find the *Add a block* button.
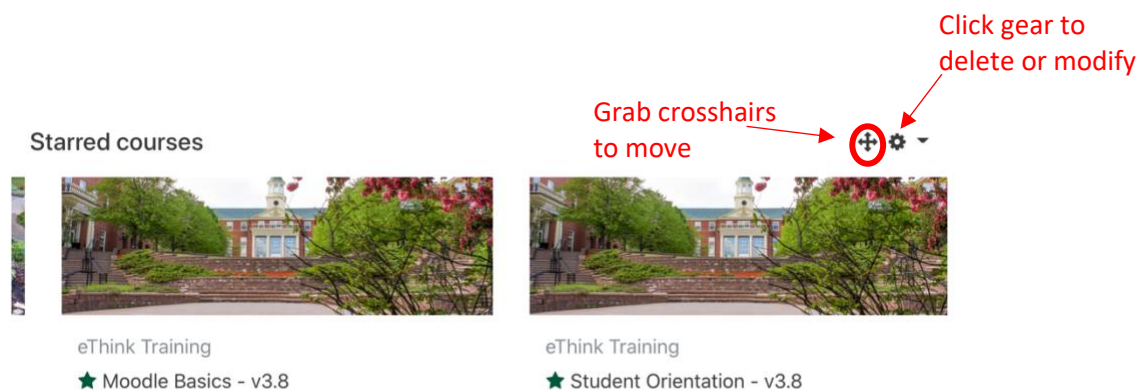
Choose the blocks you want to see each time you log into Moodle (you'll have to add them one at a time).

NOTE: The list of blocks to add won't show the blocks you already have on your Dashboard.
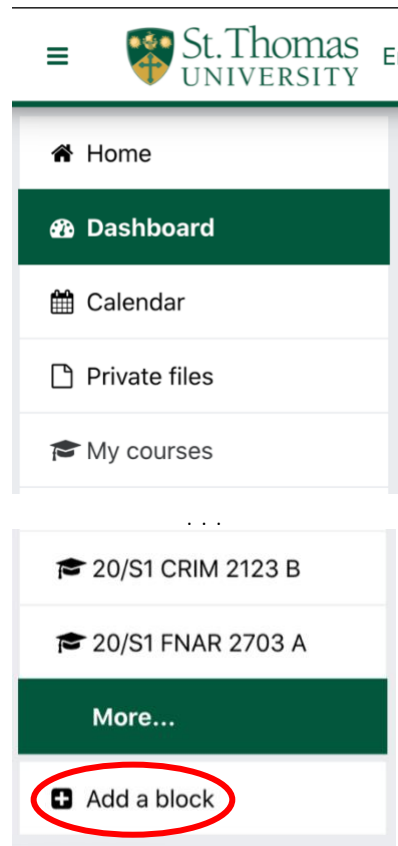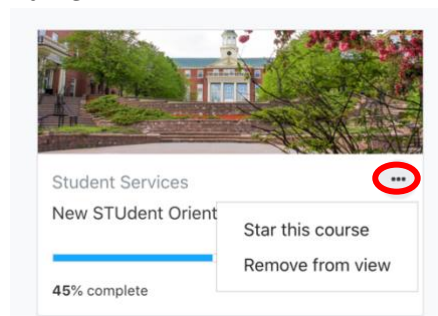
I like to use the "Starred courses" block to display all my current courses right at the top of my dashboard.

Grab any block by its Crosshairs to move it to the spot where you want it (you don't have to leave blocks over on the right – you can put them in the centre if you want, but you might have to scroll side-to-side to see all the content).

Click gear to delete or modify

Grab crosshairs to move

Starred courses

eThink Training
★ Moodle Basics - v3.8

eThink Training
★ Student Orientation - v3.8

To star a course (or remove an old course from view), click the 3 dots next to the course name:

Student Services
New STUdent Orient
Star this course
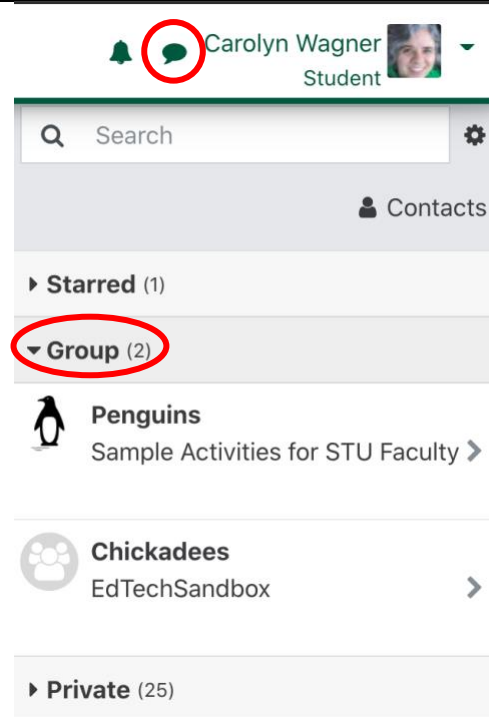Remove from view
45% complete

See your classmates:

You can view the members of your class by clicking the Participants tab in the left side navigation pane in your Moodle course. This is also the place to see who else is in your group.

ID Course Template

Participants

Badges

Competencies

Grades
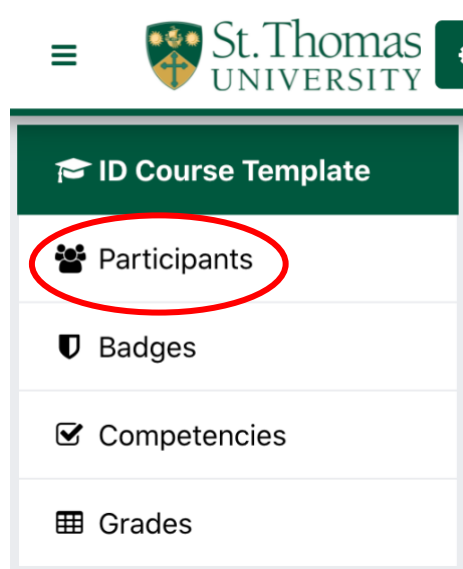
Message your groups:

You can communicate with your group members using the Moodle Quickmail tool. Click on the speech bubble in the top right corner of Moodle, then choose the "Groups" tab. If you don't see your group listed there, ask your instructor to enable group messaging in the Group setup area of the course.

Carolyn Wagner
Student

Search

Contacts

▶ Starred (1)

▼ Group (2)

Penguins
Sample Activities for STU Faculty ›

Chickadees
EdTechSandbox ›

▶ Private (25)

Tips for Moodle quizzes:

Did you know that your instructors create each quiz and its feedback for you? By allowing Moodle to grade your quizzes, they can focus on giving more individualized feedback for other assessments or on creating other online course materials.

There are quite a few ways for instructors to customize each quiz (it's a lot to learn!).

If your instructor has made the quiz available to review after you've completed it, you can go back any time to see the correct answers and learn from your mistakes.

Here's a sample question preview where the instructor can see how a Moodle question will behave when you take the quiz:

When you take a quiz in Moodle, look to the right of the question to see if there's a set of blocks. You can click on these to hop between the questions.

An instructor may have a reason for wanting you to proceed through a quiz without backtracking, so some quizzes may not have these blocks.
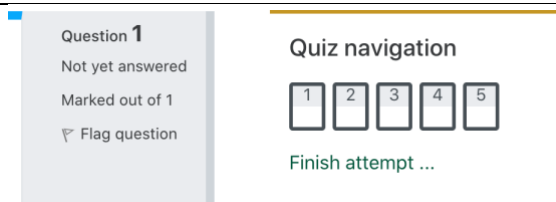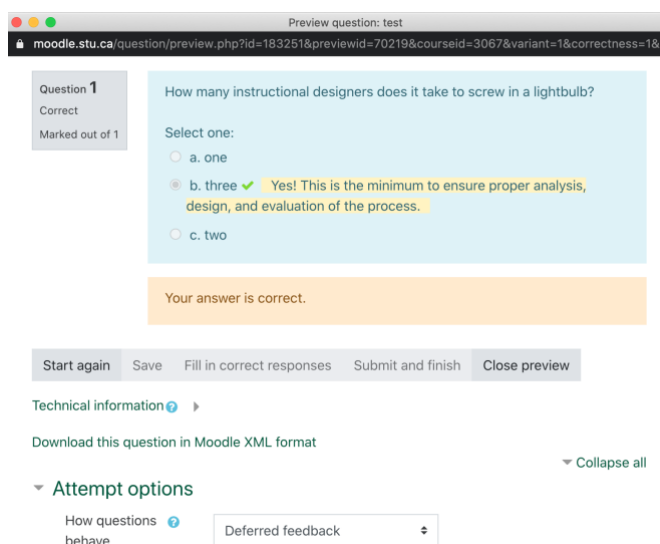
Ideas for managing group work:

If your instructor has given you a choice about how to organize your group work, consider some of the following strategies:

- Have a "team meeting" (either live or in a discussion/chat) to decide who will take the lead for each group activity and who will report back to the class. Create a schedule in advance so you don't have to negotiate these roles each week.
- Decide together how you'd prefer to meet. You could work
    - Synchronously using Teams or Zoom
    - Asynchronously using a Teams channel, Moodle forum, Google Doc, Miro board, or Jamboard
    - Or some combination of the two
- Be kind to your groupmates by respecting their situation (e.g., time zones, work schedules) and needs (e.g., low bandwidth might mean video meetings won't work)
- If you have to back off of group work one week, let your groupmates know. Offer to take a larger role in a future week.
- If your group has questions about what to do, have a member contact the instructor directly. Don't assume the instructor is closely monitoring your online work (just like in the classroom the professor might walk around and pop in on each group but doesn't hear everything that happens in every group).