



DFI Faculty Newsletter

January 2023, Vol 8.

Welcome to the DFI January Faculty Newsletter!

Happy new year and welcome back! We hope that you had a restful break. We are pleased to include below all of the details that you will need to request support for getting your courses up and running.

We are also excited to announce that [Ally for TC](#) has been implemented in all TC courses as of **January 9th**. You can learn more about Ally below.

We hope you have a wonderful month and thank you for reading!

What's New?

1. Spring 2023 Course Development Support

Individual assistance from DFI:

If you would like assistance setting up your Canvas course please [Open a DFI Support Ticket](#) and one of our Instructional Support Associates (ISAs) will contact you to assist.

We can assist with:

- Importing content from last fall
- Utilizing [one of the TC templates](#)
- Answering any questions you might have about adding content to your canvas course

Do-it-yourself:

This simple [10-step Canvas Quickstart guide](#) is a great resource for faculty who would like to set up Canvas courses on their own.

2. New Tool in your Canvas course:

Ally for Teachers College:

To help make our Canvas courses more inclusive for TC students, the Ally accessibility tool has been added to all TC Canvas courses on Jan. 9, 2023.

You will see Ally indicators that provide information about the accessibility of each file in your course. Please note that your students CANNOT see the indicators - the indicators are only visible to the course's instructor and CA/TAs.

The Indicators you will see are:



Dark green: Ally didn't identify any accessibility issues with this file, but further improvements may still be possible.



Light green: The file is accessible but more improvements are possible.



Orange indicators: The file is somewhat accessible and needs improvement.



Red indicators: There are severe accessibility issues with this file.

If you would like to learn how Ally can help to improve the accessibility of your course, you can watch [DFI's 3-minute video introduction to Ally](#), attend one of our [Faculty Using Ally online workshops](#), follow our [Ally DIY resources](#), or open a [DFI ticket](#).

3. Macy Studio B Hours

Macy Studio B hours will be expanding appointment slots and adding a new sign up process. To sign up for studio hours, you will now need to fill out a Qualtrics form linked below.

[Sign up for Macy Studio B Hours](#)

Macy Studio B hours includes:

- A podcast station with up to six microphones
- A webcam recording station with lights, backdrops and a studio microphone
- Assistance from a DFI representative

We are excited to help with your recordings!



Classroom Technology

The [Digital Futures Institute](#) collaborates with [Media Services](#) (in TCIT) to provide you support for your classroom technology and digital pedagogy needs. See below for two ways to receive support for classroom technology use.

Open a Media Services Request:

Media Services can come and assist you with getting started at the beginning of each class session. Complete a request early to make sure you are on their schedule by filling out a [Media Services request form](#).

Classroom Specific Questions:

If you have a classroom specific technology question, [open a ticket](#) and Media Services will work with you to find an answer.

Upcoming Faculty PD

Using Ally to Improve your Canvas Course

Multiple Dates and Times

Remote Via Zoom

Join us to see what Ally can automatically do to help make your Canvas course content more accessible. You'll also learn how Ally can guide you to continuously improve the accessibility of your course's content.



[View Dates & Register](#)

Technology Corner

DFI is excited to begin the discussion of the use of Chat GPT in higher education. We would like to share with you some interesting resources and have highlighted a few that we find to be especially useful. Be on the lookout for more resources and information about this new tool in the coming weeks.

What is Chat GPT?

Chat GPT is a language generation model developed by OpenAI. It is based on the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture, which uses deep learning to generate human-like text.

Chat GPT is specifically designed for conversational applications, such as chatbots and virtual assistants. It has been trained on a large dataset of conversational text, which allows it to understand and respond to natural language inputs in a way that is similar to how a human would.

Interesting resources:

- [Eight ways to engage with AI writers in higher education](#). Times Higher Education, Lucinda McKnight
- [Practical Responses to ChatGPT](#) - Montclair U faculty respond
- [Education in the World of ChatGPT](#). The Absent-Minded Professor Blog. Josh Brake.
- [AI bot ChatGPT writes smart essays – should professors worry?](#). Nature. Chris Stokel-Walker.
- [What Will ChatGPT Mean for Teaching?](#) Edsurge. Jeffrey R. Young
- [Three Things to Know about AI Tools and Teaching](#), Agile Learning Blog, Derek Bruff
- [ChatGPT and the rise of AI writers: how should higher education respond?](#), Times Higher Education. Nancy Gleason.



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