

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY TEAM

Dear Faculty,

The Academic Continuity Team (ACT) hopes that you have been able to navigate this first week back at classes successfully. We have seen you working unbelievably hard these last few weeks to prepare your courses for students. Your dedication and desire to help your students be as successful as possible at this time is evident! Here's a rundown of our upcoming services and some quick tips. Please let us know if there are more ways we can help.

Services and Support

ACT is updating offerings weekly right now to respond to demand, so please check our [website](#) for the latest offerings. Services next week will include:

- **Weekend consult support:** ACT will again offer weekend [virtual drop-in support](#), Saturday (3/28) and Sunday (3/29), 12noon-3pm.
- **Weekday consult support:** starting Monday, 3/30, consults can be scheduled for any faculty member seeking assistance. We will be discontinuing the continuously monitored virtual drop-in consults, but [ACT members](#) are available by their phone or email contact and are happy to assist faculty members as needed.
- **Curated Technology Guides:** quick guides for both Blackboard Original and Ultra, Webex, the YSU App Cloud, Office 365 apps, Stream, and more are all gathered in one place on the [ACT website](#).
- **Blackboard webinars:** ACT has several more workshops that dive more in-depth into Blackboard Ultra features:
 - Discussions and Messages. Monday, 3/30, 10-11a. [RSVP](#)
 - Assessments. Tuesday, 3/31, 1-3p. [RSVP](#)
 - Using the Gradebook. Wednesday, 4/1, 10a-12p. [RSVP](#)
 - Assessments. Wednesday, 4/1, 1-3p. [RSVP](#)

Teaching and Technology Tips

ACT wants to let you know about issues that may be impacting your transition to remote teaching. We have several issues and tips to share that may be of use:

- **Students not getting your Blackboard emails?** Share this [short guide](#) with your students on how to change their YSU email settings!
- **ITS App Cloud means you and your students now have access to specialty software!** Visit [ACT](#) for all the ITS guides to remote software and PC access.
- **Having trouble with video quality in Collaborate?** Some faculty report experiencing video issues in Blackboard Collaborate. ACT suggests that you share your screen and access documents (like PowerPoint or websites) from your local computer (do not load them into Collaborate). This will reduce the load on your bandwidth while you *teach* and preserve your video, if you need to live stream or record.
- **Concerned about your students and how they are making this transition to remote learning?** See how two short questions can help provide insight to you about how your students are doing right now, and how

you can help. See our [guide](#) for the questions and to easily copy our survey template and send to your students for feedback!

- **A good read:** [How to Recover the Joy of Teaching after an Online Pivot](#), from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

ACT Use

Faculty are continuing to use our services and resources, we're glad we can help! This past week (March 21-26) ACT:

- Had 1,424 page views on the ACT website
- Offered 59 hours of drop-in virtual consultation
- Hosted three Blackboard workshops
- Logged 190+ consultations by ACT members, IDDC students, and ACT Faculty Ambassadors

Please visit the [Academic Continuity Website](#) to sign up for workshops, access training videos and guides, or for consultation contact information. We will continue to update you weekly with our current offerings.

Thank you,

The Academic Continuity Team

Jessica Chill, Distance Education

Hillary Fuhrman, Institute for Teaching and Learning

Sharyn Zembower, IT Customer Services

Alison Kaufman, Institute for Teaching and Learning

Joe Alberti, Distance Education

Cary Wecht, Institute for Teaching and Learning

Stephanie Adams, Distance Education

