Getting Started with CatCourses at UC Merced

A Quick-Start Guide for New Student Orientation

What is CatCourses?

- CatCourses is the UC Merced branded name for the **Canvas** Learning Management System (LMS). It is a cloud-hosted service that houses sites for each course in which instructors can interact with students in their classes.

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HOW CAN I ACCESS CATCOURSES?
BROWSERS

Whether you use a web browser or mobile device (including tablets), you can access CatCourses through a range of accessible options:

- Most recent versions of Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari are fully supported by CatCourses

  - Ensure your browser is up—to-date for enhanced security and functionality

  - For a full list of supported browsers visit: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720-67952720329

HOW CAN I ACCESS CATCOURSES?
MOBILE DEVICES

- CatCourses can be accessed through any mobile device by opening **https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/** on your preferred internet browser

- CatCourses also has dedicated apps (iOS & Android) for a more mobile friendly experience (search for "Canvas LMS")

  - Apple App Store (iOS)

  - Google Play Store (Android)

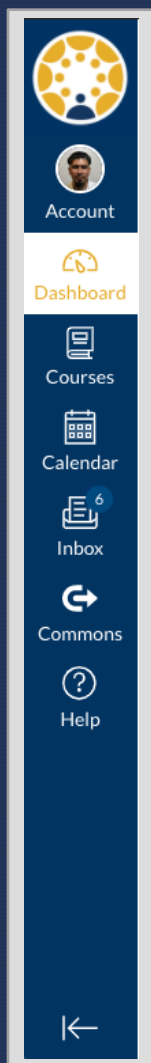# Logging Into CatCourses

- Visit: https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/

- Log-in through UC Merced Single Sign-On
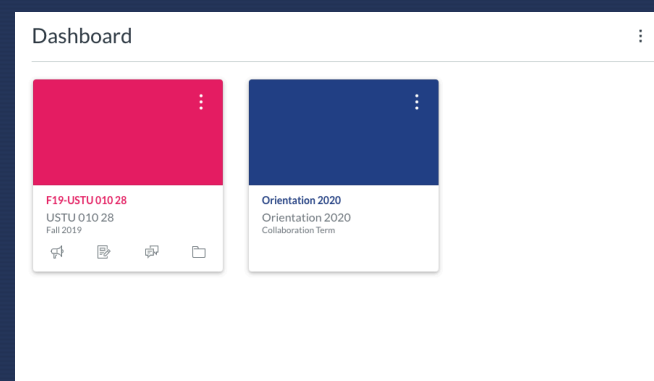
Navigating CatCourses

- The Navigation Bar will be on the left side of the screen

- Through the Navigation Bar you can access your Account Settings, Dashboard, Course list, Calendar, Inbox, and Help menu

  - The Help Menu provides 24/7 support for CatCourses

- Click the left arrow button at the bottom of the Navigation Bar to hide the bar

The Dashboard

- The Dashboard features your current favorited classes and allows for easy navigation

- Change class display names by clicking on the three dots at the top right of the course card

Courses

- Along with viewing courses on your Dashboard you can view all of your courses by clicking on "Courses"

- Choose which courses you wan to see on your Dashboard by marking them with a star

- To customize your Course List visit - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10570

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CHANGING NOTIFICATIONS

- Notification changes in CatCourses can easily be made

  - Select Account > Notifications from the Navigation Bar

- *Important Note*: It is recommended you always keep Announcements and Conversation Message notifications set to "Notify me right away". Many instructors use these tools to deliver important class information.

  - For more information on notification preferences, visit - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10624-how-do-i-set-my-canvas-notification-preferences-as-a-student

YOUR ORIENTATION CATCOURSE SITE

- Your Orientation CatCourse site will use three main components:

    - 1. Modules – Organizes course content into groups (aka, "Modules") to help you navigate the content in a curated order

    - 2. Pages & Assignments – "Assignments" and pages will be used interchangeably on your Orientation CatCourse site and will display information and resources

    - 3. Discussions – Your Orientation Leaders will interact with you through several Discussions

        - Do not share personal or private information you are not comfortable with your fellow students viewing