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.
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/](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 want to see on your Dashboard by marking them with a star
- To customize your Course List visit - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10570
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](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.