

Educational Technology Corner | February 2020

Get the latest updates on educational technology, including Brightspace, TopHat and more.

Tech Tips

Microsoft Word - the Format Painter tool

- You can change formats with a simple drag of a brush icon! Use the Format Painter.
- On the Home Tab, click Format Painter > the pointer will change to a paintbrush icon.
- Use the brush to paint over a selection or text or graphics to apply the formatting.
- If you wish to format multiple sections in your document, double click the Format Painter.
- To stop formatting, press ESC.

Brightspace

[Instructor Brightspace Updates - February 2020](#)

[Downloadable Release Notes - February 2020](#)

Brightspace has several new features:

Assignments - Streamlined access to inline feedback | New

To streamline access to assignment feedback, learners can now immediately access inline feedback from User Progress, Grades, and Assignments. From these tools, the **View Inline Feedback** link takes the learner directly to the annotations view.

Game Based Learning - Tool redesign | New

Game Based Learning (GBL) has been redesigned to improve the user experience, increase accessibility, and make it easier for instructors to use. Instructors can create and customize Game Maps, attach activity nodes to maps, and link Brightspace activities to those nodes. Supported Brightspace activities include assignments, quizzes, and course files. Instructors access the Game Based Learning page from a new navbar link that can be added to a course's homepage.

Grades - Tab delimited import into Gradebook | New

Users can now import tab separated value (.tsv) files into Gradebook. Previously, users could only import comma delimited files into Gradebook.

Quizzes - Learning Outcomes can be aligned to Quiz questions | New

In the new Quiz Builder, questions can be aligned to learning outcomes.

Video Note - Automatic Closed Captioning | New

To improve accessibility, video notes now provide automatic closed captioning for newly

created videos and the ability to manually add or update closed captioning for all previously recorded videos.

Top Hat

People & Roles tab

Professors can now add co-instructors to their course via the new People & Roles tab in their Course Settings.

New Gradebook Features

- Professors can now selectively display and export columns from their Gradebook, to focus in on specific trends and insights.
- Student responses to questions can now be exported from the Gradebook for additional qualitative insights on performance and understanding.
- Attendance sessions can now be manually added to the Gradebook to accommodate instances where attendance must be taken outside of Top Hat.
- Grade weights for questions can now be edited directly in the Gradebook, to allow for flexibility based on students' performance.
- Details on how to use all these new features can be read about in the updated Gradebook support article.

Weekly Course Report

If you use your Weekly Course Report it now only includes a summary of student's performance (overall weekly performance, number of students doing well, number of students struggling) and a link to the full report which can be opened in a separate web page. This change was made to ensure that no personal identity information belonging to students is included in outgoing emails from Top Hat. In addition, only those listed as a Professor on the course for which the Weekly Report was generated will be able to view the full report. [View full details on this change.](#)

Aquifer

Formerly known as MedU, Aquifer is a unique mission-driven non-profit organization dedicated to delivering the best health care education through collaborative development and research into innovative, high-impact virtual teaching and learning methods. (Aquifer, Inc., 2020) Interested in taking advantage of this resource? Start at the [Educator Guide](#). Questions? Send them to the [Office of Educational Improvement](#).