



Academic Technology JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY



Welcome back! We hope you had a restful summer and are looking forward to the new academic year.

We in the Academic Technology Department want to highlight some of the resources available to support your teaching.

Our **instructional design** team is available for one-on-one consultations as you redesign courses, incorporate new technologies, or revamp assignments. We're happy to brainstorm ideas, provide best practices, and answer any questions you may have.

We offer regular professional development opportunities. The September schedule is now [available](#) and you can [register here](#)! For [anytime learning](#), we have put together self-paced online tutorials for many of our academic technologies. You can access these step-by-step guides 24/7.

Of course, if you ever need any **technical assistance in your classroom**, our support team is ready to help. We are on call Monday - Thursday 7:30 - 7:30pm and Friday 7:30 - 5:00pm - call extension 7507 for the fastest response.

We also have a state-of-the-art **Video Production studio** available for creating high-quality videos for your courses. Our media team can provide support with filming, editing, and closed captioning.

We aim to be your go-to resource for all things instructional technology. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's any way we can support your teaching and classes this term. We look forward to collaborating with you!

Wishing you a terrific start to the new school year,

[The Academic Technology Team](#)



FALL FACULTY CONFERENCE

I want to thank everyone for your participation in our annual Fall Faculty Conference! It was wonderful connecting with so many of you - both new and returning faculty members. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to come together and engage in important conversations about teaching, learning, and our academic community. From the informative breakout sessions, to the thoughtful discussions over shared meals, this conference offered valuable opportunities for us to collaborate, exchange ideas, and continue developing as educators. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all of the presenters who shared their knowledge and passion with us. I hope you found the conference to be a rewarding experience and that it has energized and inspired you for the start of the new academic year. Review many of the presentations [here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS

I am excited to announce the winner of our \$200 technology lunch raffle during the Fall Faculty Conference. **Congratulations to Sherri Cannon from the College of Arts and Sciences!**

Technology Tools



We have several software to support your teaching and learning experience! We've integrated Kaltura with Blackboard for video sharing and recording, Hypothesis for collaborative annotation, Qualtrics provides powerful survey capabilities, and TurnItIn and Resondus for academic integrity. Stay ahead with these educational technologies to engage your students and streamline your course management.

[Read more about each software.](#)



We're thrilled with the successful launch of Blackboard Ultra across the university! We have already had reports of positive experiences with Ultra's mobile-friendly design and simplified workflows. As we continue to embrace new platform, we are here to support you! Join the Ultra team Tuesday 3 - 4pm virtually for open Ultra hours - [Join Ultra Support](#) as well as ongoing trainings this semester.

The first week of each month Blackboard does software updates. You will see updates to Ultra based on issues and request features. September updates feature the ability to do knowledge checks in a document, AI conversations, the return of the Needs Grading tab, and a reorganization of the Course Content Page to provide greater depth. You can learn about these update in detail at: [September Updates](#)

We're excited to announce a series of virtual training sessions focused on mastering the Blackboard gradebook, the last week of September through the due date of

midterm grades. These sessions are designed to help you set up and manage your gradebook effectively, ensuring it aligns perfectly with your syllabus. There will also be open office hours so you can ask specific questions about your course! Review the [September professional development schedule](#) and [sign up for the September events](#).



Introducing our new [AI website](#) for faculty! This site is designed to support faculty in navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence in higher education. The site will feature three key sections: an introduction to AI, exploring its fundamentals and implications; AI in Teaching and Learning, showcasing innovative applications and best practices; and a curated Resources section, offering tools, articles, and guidance to help integrate AI into your curriculum. Whether you're AI-curious or looking to expand your existing knowledge, this website is your go-to destination for staying informed and inspired about AI's potential in academia. Continue to check in throughout this fall as we finalize the development of each section.

Have you been integrating AI into assignments or activities with your students? We're collecting examples to showcase on our website and to inspire future projects. [Complete the survey to tell us about it!](#)



The Academic Technology department in conjunction with the Academic Affairs Office is pleased to announce the **Change 1 Thing!** Challenge.

Innovation in education involves finding better ways of doing something and new ways to look at problems. If we think differently about things, we can create new opportunities for innovative learning. This challenge is to work collaboratively with Academic Technology to change one thing for your Spring 2025 class. This year, you can apply to Change 1 Thing in your course that fits into the categories below. Watch the [video](#) to see examples of these categories.

- Artificial Intelligence Responsive Instruction
- Immersive Learning
- Interactive Activities
- Scenario Based Learning
- Video-Based Learning

Responsibilities:

- Apply to the **Change 1 Thing!** Challenge by September 23rd ([Apply Here](#)).
- Work with the Academic Technology department during Fall 2024 to design the change in your Spring 2025 class.
- Attend the Conversational session (beginning of October- date to be determined by the availability of participants).
- Attend Challenge Conclusion (April – date to be determined by availability of participants; participants will share their change).

Stipend

Change 1 Thing! awardees will be notified on September 30th.

Each faculty member will receive a \$500 award after the completion of the **Change 1 Thing!** Challenge. (After completing the responsibilities listed above.)



DIGITAL LITERACY LAB:

We are excited to introduce our new Digital Literacy Lab, a space designed to support students in using technology needed in your course and developing essential technology skills. We will have computer and software for students, as well as space for collaborative work. Our staff provides one-on-one tutoring and small group workshops on topics like Microsoft Office programs, Blackboard, Respondus, TurnItIn, Flip, Adobe Creative Cloud, data analysis tools, online safety, and more. We encourage faculty to refer any students who are having issues with software needed for class or need help improving their digital skills and competencies. The lab is on the 1st floor of the library, near the circulation desk and currently open 8:30 - 5:00 pm. Students can drop in or make appointments through [bookings](#). Please let your students know about this new space created to bolster their technology abilities and give them the digital know-how to succeed both in the classroom and beyond.

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