

‘Top 5 Canvas Course Design Must-Haves’

	1 - Clean Look	Benefits
1	<p>Home Page is designed with few elements, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Instructor’s name and brief welcome message ★ Visual representation of instructor (e.g. brief personal video introduction, or a headshot) ★ ‘Start Here’ and navigation to modules 	<p>Feeling welcome, knowing how to navigate the course (Start Here), and where to find weekly content (link to modules) are key elements for student success in online classes.</p>
	2 - Good Use of Canvas Structure	Benefits
2	<p>Modules are used as a ‘table of contents’ to present “shortcuts” to files, assignments, discussions, quizzes, reading lists, and other resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Course content is organized by weeks, units, etc. ★ A module for faculty bio, syllabus, mandatory program resources, etc. is called ‘Start Here’ and has a direct link from the home page 	<p>A module for each week provides a way for students to see, at a glance, what will be expected of them. They also serve as guides for how students move through a unit’s content and activities.</p>
	3 - Clear and Consistent Organization	Benefits
3	<p>Each module provides the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Learning Outcomes ★ Task list ★ Introduction/Overview in the beginning and a Conclusion/Summary page at the end 	<p>‘Learning Outcomes’ provide adult learners a concrete way to measure learning; a ‘Task List’ helps them organize their time, and a ‘Conclusion’ page “bookends” each module.</p>
	4 - Easy Navigation	Benefits
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Modules and items within modules have a thoughtful naming convention (e.g. “Week 1: Introduction to Geography” not just “Week 1”) ★ All links, files, videos and external URLs are active and working ★ Unused items are hidden from Course Navigation 	<p>The faster the student is able to find and identify items within the course, the more satisfied and, consequently, the more engaged with the content the student will be.</p>
	5 - Accessible to All Students	Benefits
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Blackboard Ally accessibility scores of 90% or more ★ Text is formatted using Rich Content Editor (e.g. use of headings and paragraphs, ordered lists, etc.) ★ Accessibility Checker within the Rich Content Editor is used ★ Images are used to support course content and accompanied by text descriptions (Alt text) ★ Videos include captions or have a transcript 	<p>Student success, regardless of ability, is possible by providing course materials that are accessible to all students. Assistive technology devices or software should be able to interact/ access content effectively if Canvas documents are accessible.</p>