

Alternative Learning Management System Solutions

University of Michigan-Dearborn Office of Digital Education

The use of UM-Dearborn Academic Canvas is generally reserved for official UM-Dearborn courses offered for credit toward degrees and certificates. Instructor and student enrollments are automatically fed to UM-Dearborn Academic Canvas from Banner on a regular schedule for these official courses. In addition to Academic Canvas, UM-Dearborn has a Professional Development Canvas, which is not tied to Banner, and is suitable for a wide array of uses but is not completely open.

The chart below outlines several alternative learning management system solutions and the features they offer. The Office of Digital Education is willing to advise campus partners on the use of alternative tools.

	Google Sites	Google Drive	Google Classroom	Dropbox	Canvas Free for Teachers
Mix UM-Dearborn and non-UM-Dearborn users	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Share with one link	✓	✓	✓ (invite code)	✓	✓
Make public or private (sign-in required)	✓	✓	✗ (invite only)	✓	✓
Use U-M login credentials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Share text/images/video on a page	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Share/link files (Word/PowerPoint, etc)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create/submit assignments	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Create/submit quizzes	✓ (Google Forms)	✓ (Google Forms)	✓	✗	✓
Grade assignments/quizzes	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Create/submit surveys	✓ (Google Forms)	✓ (Google Forms)	✓ (Google Forms)	✗	✗
Create and update at will	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Can be imported/exported/copied	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

Confine access to certain dates	✗	✗	✗	✗	☑
Supported by U-M	☑	☑	✗	☑	✗

If the available solutions do not meet your needs, please submit a formal request with your use case to Christopher Casey (chriscas@umich.edu). Requests will be reviewed by the appropriate personnel or committee(s) and a final decision will be made and communicated as soon as possible thereafter.

Last updated on November 28, 2022