

Learning Management Systems

Learning Management Systems (LMSs) are used to create, deliver, and manage blended and online learning, giving practical support for teachers and students through their multiple functions and features. With LMSs, it is possible to create, organize, and share learning content, such as instructional information and learning activities. LMSs also support communication through announcements, emails, assignment feedback, and discussion boards. Creating assignments and keeping track of students' learning progress are functions available through LMSs. LMSs support instructional practices in online learning environments and enhance student learning.

1. What features of Learning Management Systems have I used to facilitate online or blended learning?
2. How can I use my Learning Management System's features to support the purpose of my instructional delivery?
3. How do Learning Management communication features support student learning?



to Consider

A learning management system, or LMS, is an online platform that supports the delivery and administration of blended and online instruction and activities. Within a learning management system, teachers can post learning content, provide opportunities for communication and collaboration among students, assess student learning progress, and manage student learning data.

Within the LMS, teachers can organize learning content and activities. Instructional supports, such as documents, links, multimedia, and embedded activities from external tools can be added to support and enhance student engagement and interaction with the learning materials. A gradual release of learning materials in the LMS encourages students to focus on current instructional content and activities without feeling overwhelmed by future materials. Consider organizing learning materials into units of content, such as modules, to guide students in focusing on specific learning materials and prioritizing their assignments.

LMSs allow teachers to post announcements, email students individually or as a group, leave feedback on assignments, and facilitate discussion forums. The announcement feature can be used to send out class-wide messages regarding upcoming activities or deadlines, and discussion forums can be used to support communication, collaboration, and student learning. To ensure a positive and worthwhile discussion forum, it is essential to set clear academic and behavior expectations for discussion forum participation.

Students can interact with activities, assignments, and assessments within the LMS. Many LMSs allow teachers to comment directly on student assignments, as well as use a rubric to provide feedback. Teachers can set assignments to allow resubmission of revised assignments. This allows for a fluid feedback and improvement cycle, focusing on academic progress. Most learning management systems also provide an assessment feature that allows teachers to develop assessments within the LMS.

Learning management systems are a foundational element of blended and online learning, supporting the delivery and administration of blended and online instruction and activities.

KEY Elements