

Yes We Canvas

By: Hung Dao

During the 2022–2023 school year, St. Norbert conducted a Learning Management System (LMS) review for the then-current system, Moodle. At the end of the review, the working group determined that St. Norbert’s LMS needed ease of use, simple onboarding, a more intuitive gradebook, a better mobile experience and more consistency across courses. Considering those criteria, the working group decided that Canvas would be the best choice for the college, and the administration approved Canvas as the school’s new LMS.

Starting in the fall 2023 semester, Moodle courses were backed up in preparation for the implementation of Canvas. As Canvas was being set up, training courses were set up for professors to get ready for the migration to the new system. In the spring 2024 semester, some professors hosted their class on Canvas as a pilot. According to Krissy Lukens, Director of Educational Technology, the professors gave overwhelmingly positive feedback on Canvas. In general, she said that the implementation of Canvas has gone smoothly, and there have only been small hiccups associated with implementing a new system. In November, the school will hold a “Lessons Learned” focus group to gather feedback from faculty and students. The focus group’s main priorities will primarily gather experience with training, communication and overall satisfaction.

A particularly helpful tidbit that Lukens mentioned was the customizability of the Canvas app. One of the weaknesses of Moodle was the mobile experience, which was underutilized and inadequate. Lukens recommends the Canvas app because of the notification customizations which can be helpful for important deadlines and announcements.

Sources: St. Norbert College ITS Knight Domains