Moodle: External tool connections

Teachers can link Moodle courses to several external software and publishing platforms. This can make it easier for students to access course-specific resources and for platforms to send grade or completion data to Moodle's gradebook.

Before you start, you may need the following:

- an Instructor of record or Other editing teacher role in a Bryn Mawr Moodle course

Safety and ethical considerations

CAUTION: Unlike Moodle, which is managed internally by LITs staff, all third-party software platforms are hosted on servers that Bryn Mawr College does not control.

Before you ask your students to use third-party platforms, please make sure you and they understand any risks and how to mitigate them.

- **Review (and encourage your students to review) the tool's terms of service and policy.** When you use a tool managed by a third party, you bound by their policies in addition to the College's [Acceptable Use Policy](#), [Data Handling Policy](#) and [Web Accessibility Policy](#). Pay particular attention to terms concerning ownership of content and data users upload, how the company will use it, and how long they will keep it. These policies should be linked to the publishers' websites.

- **Minimize privacy and data security risks by deleting identifiable records as soon as possible.** Delete student-submitted content from the third-party platform and any recordings or images that could identify students at the end of each semester. The longer such content is online, the greater the opportunities for it to be hacked. (If you need to keep anything beyond the end of a term, export archival copies to store on your computer or a network drive before deleting the online originals.)

- **Be especially cautious about assignments or discussions involving sensitive topics.** We recommend using offline approaches or built-in Moodle tools instead, or at minimum deleting submissions immediately after the discussion or assignment ends.

- **Please consult with our educational technology specialists** if you have any questions about particular tools and for advice on best practices and mitigation options for particular assignments.

Available external tool connections
Below are the platforms that can currently be linked to Moodle courses.

**JoVE**

Our integration with the *Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE)* database allows instructors to add materials from their database of natural sciences and psychology content into Moodle courses.

**NameCoach**

**NameCoach** lets course participants record the pronunciation of their names and share those recordings with others. That way, everyone knows how to properly say each other’s names. [How we pronounce names](#) helps to create an inclusive and supportive classroom environment.

**Panopto**

**Panopto** is the College's lecture-capture and video-streaming service. Instructors can use Panopto to record lectures and instructional audio or video, share audio and video recordings with students, create videos with embedded quizzes, and for student video assignments.

**Perusall**

**Perusall** is a social learning platform designed to help students engage and better understand course readings through collaborative annotation and discussion.

**Piazza**

**Piazza** is a third-party platform for facilitating online class discussion. It is similar to Moodle's *Forum activity*, but has additional features for managing discussions, enabling student questions, and providing meaningful answers, particularly in large courses.

**Zoom**

**Zoom** is the College's primary service for online instructional meetings. Instructors can use Zoom to hold and record virtual class sessions. They also can use it for non-class sessions such as office hours or discussions with outside speakers.

**Request new connections**

If you’d like LITS to connect an online educational tool or textbook to Moodle, please contact the Help Desk to put in a request. A member of our Moodle team will follow up for more information.

Some general guidelines to keep in mind, however:

- We can only connect to platforms that support LTI integration.
- **Adding a new connection typically takes 1-2 months.** LITS and the Counsel's Office must first conduct a thorough legal, accessibility, and data security review. LITS must then work with the vendor to install, configure, and test the connection before adding a tool to our main Moodle site.
- We will only create connections that present **minimal security risks.** Moodle creates, collects, and stores **Level 1 Regulated and other sensitive data** as defined by the College's data handling policy, so we must be extremely cautious about allowing outside connections to Moodle.
- **External tools are subject to the College’s Web Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Policy for Classroom Instruction.** Many publishers provide detailed information about the accessibility of their products and VPAT’s on their websites or by request.

**Questions?**

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the Help Desk!

**Phone:** 610-526-7440 | Library and Help Desk hours
**Email:** help@brynmawr.edu | Service catalog
**Location:** Canaday Library 1st floor