



Dear Colleagues:

Out with the old and in with the new?

At the start of a new year, many of us think about change, improvement, transformation, and innovation.

This issue provides examples of changes in Blackboard and Simple Syllabus. Blackboard has a new type of interactive test question called hotspots, and the Simple Syllabus template has improved alignment with the Dean's Council syllabus elements document.



From,  
The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)



### Turn your paper test into a Blackboard Test!

There are many different types of test questions available on Blackboard such as quiz bowl, hotspot, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and the newest type called hot spots!

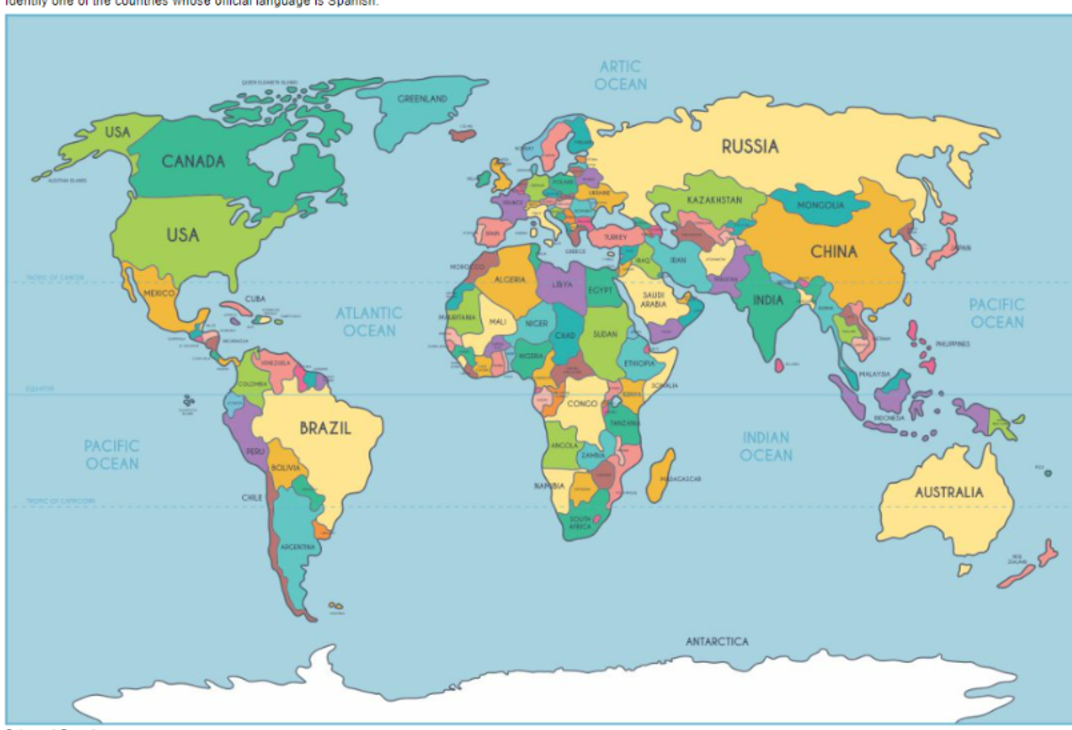
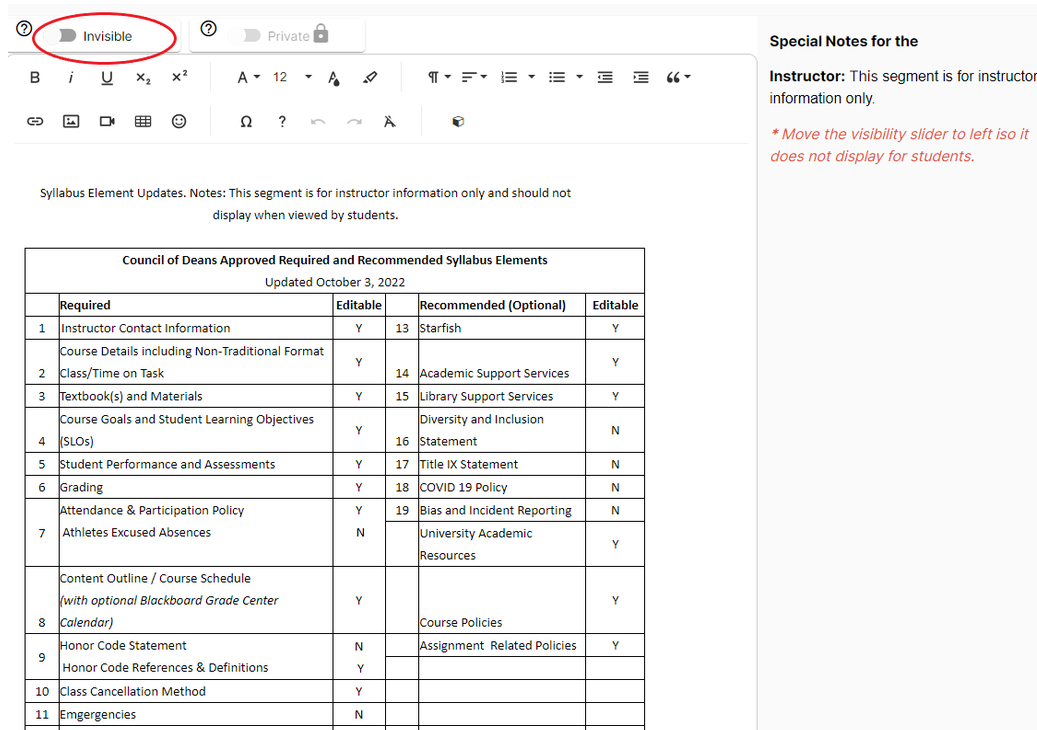
Carol Goss, LRC Director, recently booked a Blackboard test training session to turn her paper exam into a Blackboard exam. She was thrilled about the **hotspots**. Hotspot questions present students with an image that requires them to drop a pin on one or more hotspots created by you. See the example below.

Learn more about hotspot questions [here!](#)

Request a Blackboard test training session via [helpdesk@valpo.edu](mailto:helpdesk@valpo.edu) to see how your paper test can be personalized in Blackboard to fit the needs of your students!

**QUESTION 3**

Identify one of the countries whose official language is Spanish.

Syllabus Element Updates. Notes: This segment is for instructor information only and should not display when viewed by students.

Council of Deans Approved Required and Recommended Syllabus Elements				
Updated October 3, 2022				
Required	Editable	Recommended (Optional)	Starfish	Editable
1	Instructor Contact Information	Y	13	Y
2	Course Details including Non-Traditional Format	Y	13	Y
3	Class/Time on Task	Y	14	Y
3	Textbook(s) and Materials	Y	15	Y
4	Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)	Y	16	N
5	Student Performance and Assessments	Y	17	N
6	Grading	Y	18	N
7	Attendance & Participation Policy	Y	19	N
7	Athletes Excused Absences	N	19	Y
8	Content Outline / Course Schedule (with optional Blackboard Grade Center Calendar)	Y		Y
9	Honor Code Statement	N		Y
9	Honor Code References & Definitions	Y		
10	Class Cancellation Method	Y		
11	Emergencies	N		
12	Access and Accommodation Statement	N		

**Special Notes for the Instructor:** This segment is for instructor information only.  
\* Move the visibility slider to left so it does not display for students.

Simple Syllabus is our centralized, template-driven platform that enables instructors to quickly personalize and publish interactive class syllabi integrated into our Blackboard courses. The Council of Deans syllabus elements document has been incorporated into our Simple Syllabus template, updated for better alignment with the approved required and recommended components. Instructors will use the visibility slider to hide this from students' view.

#### Simple Syllabus Help Videos:

- [Instructor Dashboard Overview](#)
- [Using the Publisher](#)

#### Let us help you to build your Simple Syllabus

Click [Here](#) to send us your syllabus in an MS Word document via email. We'll upload it for you on [Blackboard](#) and it will also be accessed on the [VU Simple Syllabus production website site](#).

[Submit a VITAL Helpdesk Ticket Request Here](#)

[Visit the NEW VITAL Website, One-Stop-Shop for Faculty Resources](#)