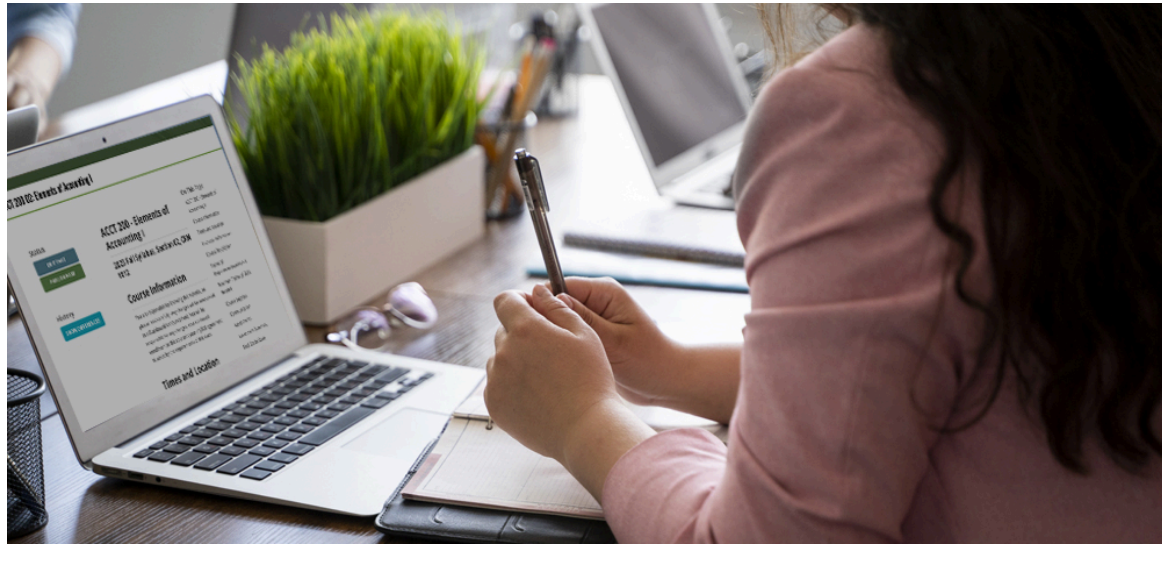




Did you hear? Georgian has a **new syllabus software and template**. Powered by the same system that runs our course outline and program outline development, SYL will help ensure that all courses have consistent college wide messaging and alignment to course learning outcomes.

A group of intrepid faculty have been busily exploring SYL over the summer and providing feedback. Come Fall 2025, all faculty will have access to draft and publish their syllabi. Read more about the system and template: [Syllabus \(SYL\) Project - OAQ & CTL Collaboration - Home](#)

Plan to attend the **SYL Hackathon** (Wednesday, 20 Aug. from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon in the ABSC Space, Barrie campus) and/or the **SYL Drop In** (Wednesday, 27 Aug. from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm) virtually. Watch CTL Weekly and Staff News for more details.

CTL Team Updates

Faculty Developer Team

Vitamin D for Teaching & Learning



Our FD team thought it would be fun to collaborate with ChatGPT on a sun kissed vitamin D analogy for teaching and learning. Here are a few of the resulting analogies:

☀️ Vitamin D as Summer Fuel:

Just as the sun's rays give us vitamin D to **energize and strengthen** our bodies, summer can be a time to soak up new ideas and fresh strategies that **energize and strengthen** our teaching practice.

A takeaway: take time to muse and reflect on past experiences and consider ways to refresh. Check out [Faculty Focus](#) for some great quick reads and ideas.

☀️ Absorbing the Good Stuff:

Like vitamin D fuels growth in our bones, summer strategies can **fuel growth** in our courses and classrooms, providing the nutrients (ideas, inspiration, reflection) needed for robust teaching for our next semester.

A takeaway: Accessing resources from our very own faculty-focused [Teaching and Learning Guide](#) in our Library can help us grow nutrient rich experiences.

☀️ A Summer Boost:

Vitamin D helps **brighten our mood and boost our health**; similarly, summer-inspired teaching strategies can **brighten our approach and boost student engagement**.

A takeaway: Want to learn more about how you can engage and grow your practice? Visit [Georgian Faculty Competency Framework - Georgian College](#)

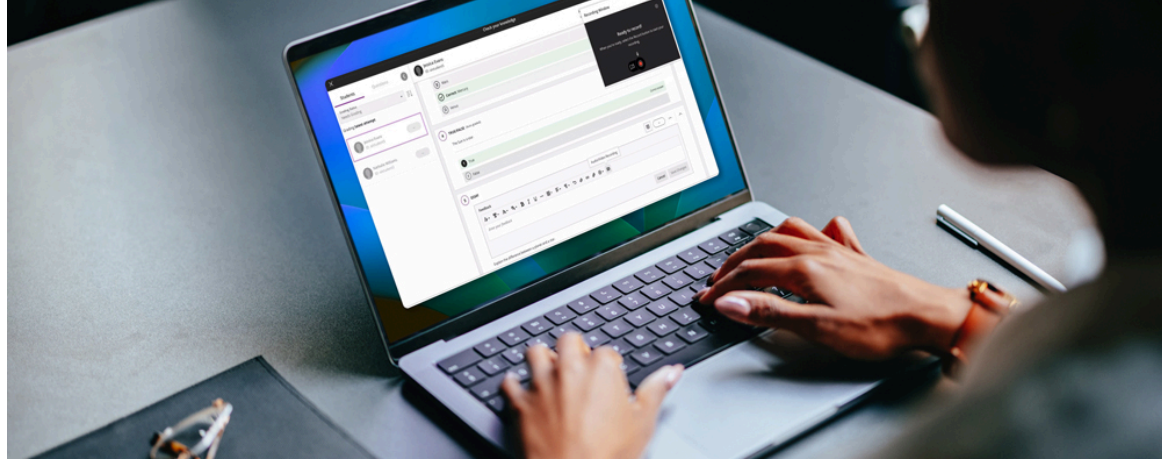
☀️ Sunshine & Syllabus Health:

Vitamin D keeps bones strong, and summer "sunshine" of new ideas can keep our syllabi strong and our pedagogy resilient.

A takeaway: Explore Georgian's new syllabus software and template. [Syllabus \(SYL\) Project - OAQ & CTL Collaboration](#)

Blackboard Team

Blackboard Hacks: Top 3 Summer Settings You Didn't Know You Needed



Here are three quick LMS settings that can change your life:

☀️ [Schedule release dates for content while you sip lemonade](#)

☀️ [Use conditional release to simplify student experience](#)

☀️ [Set up gradebook categories before September](#)

Instructional Designer Team

Shining a Light on Asynchronous Activities This Summer



This summer, faculty have a prime opportunity to rethink student engagement, especially through asynchronous activities. Just as we enjoy longer summer days, students often thrive with the flexibility of well-designed asynchronous learning. Think of it as offering students the "vitamin D" of independent exploration and deeper engagement!

Georgian College faculty are already experimenting with more dynamic and interactive asynchronous components beyond traditional readings and discussion forums. For example, have you considered using **H5P for interactive videos with embedded questions** ([available through eCampus Ontario](#))? Or perhaps leveraging **Padlet for collaborative brainstorming sessions** that students can contribute to on their own schedules

These tools can significantly elevate the asynchronous experience, allowing students to digest information at their own pace while staying connected to the course material and their peers.

If you're ready to inject more "vitamin D" into your online content this summer, explore strategies for engaging students in online courses on the [CTL website](#). It's a great starting point for developing activities that will energize students for the upcoming fall semester.

VR/XR

XR Team Summer Updates

The XR Team is working with program areas around the college on many fun and innovative initiatives:

☀️ Digital Twins:

At the request of several departments, we have created a digital twin of the C and K building's main floor, library and bookstore, AND the Veterinary Tech Lab at the Orillia campus.

☀️ XR Integration & Exploration:

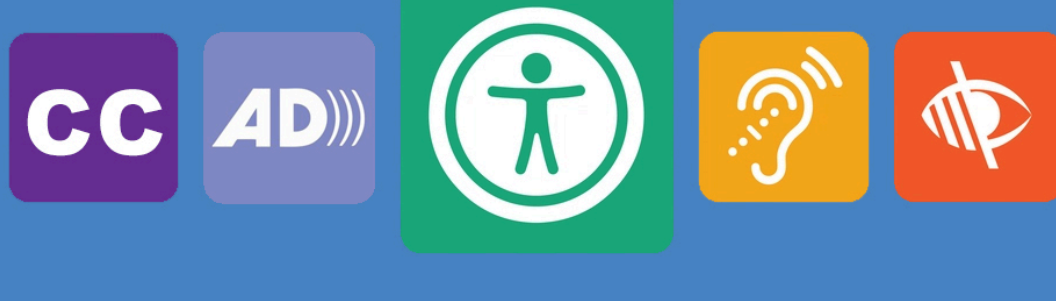
Museums and Galleries have integrated XR into one of their course curricula, **OTAPTA** is exploring VR Anatomy, as is **Fitness and Health Promotion**. We've also had a surge of interest in virtual reality role play using Bodyswaps from 6 course areas from **Human Services and Community Safety**.

☀️ Focus on Tomorrow:

Rob gave a talk about the potential for personal AI Mentors to change the way students learn and the way learning is assessed. [Watch this video](#) to hear Rob explain how AI is disrupting the essay and is about to disrupt how students are tested.



9 Tips for Building Accessible Multimedia Content



Just like soaking up some much-needed Vitamin D brightens our days and boosts our well-being, building **accessible multimedia content radiates a positive energy for teaching and learning!** It's essential for ensuring that all students, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, can fully engage with and benefit from your teaching materials. When your content is accessible, every student gets to bask in the warmth of knowledge and truly thrive.

Here are some practical tips for making your multimedia content more accessible, helping all your students soak up every bit of the learning sunshine:

☀️ **Add Alt Text to Images:**

Describe images with detailed alt text for screen readers. Avoid generic labels like "image1.jpg."

☀️ **Include Captions/Subtitles:**

Always provide captions for videos to support students with hearing impairments or non-native speakers.

☀️ **Provide Transcripts:**

Offer transcripts for audio and video content, using tools like Otter.ai or Descript.

☀️ **Use Accessible Fonts & Colors:**

Choose high-contrast colors and clear, sans-serif fonts (e.g., Arial) for readability.

☀️ **Ensure Quality Audio/Video:**

Record clear audio with minimal background noise and ensure videos have good lighting and legible text.

☀️ **Multiple Formats:**

Offer content in different formats (text, video, audio) so students can choose what works best for them.

☀️ **Test Accessibility:**

Use tools like [WAVE](#) or [VoiceOver](#) to check accessibility of content.

☀️ **Descriptive Links:**

Use clear, descriptive links instead of "click here."

☀️ **Accessible PDFs:**

Ensure PDFs are tagged properly and easy to navigate with screen readers.

Fun Activity

10 Fun Activities College Faculty Can Enjoy in Simcoe County



According to Co-Pilot, here are 10 fun activities college faculty can enjoy in Simcoe County, Ontario, to support themselves, prevent burnout, and have a great time:

☀️ **Beach Day at Wasaga Beach:**

Spend a relaxing day at Wasaga Beach, the longest freshwater beach in the world. Enjoy swimming, sunbathing, and beach volleyball.

☀️ **Live Theatre and Escape Room at Discovery Harbour:**

Challenge yourself and your friends with an outdoor escape room adventure at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene. Or see some live theatre at King's Wharf Theatre.

☀️ **Farmers' Market Visits:**

Explore local farmers' markets like the Barrie Farmers' Market or Orillia Farmers' Market. Enjoy fresh produce, homemade goods, and unique crafts.

☀️ **Wine Tasting at Quayle's Brewery:**

Visit Quayle's Brewery for a delightful wine tasting experience. Discover local wines and enjoy the scenic views.

☀️ **Outdoor Movie Nights in Barrie:**

Attend Lawnchair Luminata, a tradition in Downtown Barrie, where you can watch outdoor movies every Wednesday evening throughout the summer.

☀️ **Hiking at Copeland Forest:**

Take a hike through Copeland Forest, known for its beautiful trails and diverse wildlife. It's a great way to reconnect with nature.

☀️ **Music Festivals at Wasaga Beach:**

Enjoy live music at the Summer Sets Music Stage on Friday and Saturday nights at Wasaga Beach.

☀️ **Art and Craft Workshops at MacLaren Art Centre:**

Participate in art and craft workshops at the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie. It's a perfect way to unleash your creativity.

☀️ **Boating on Lake Simcoe:**

Rent a boat or kayak and explore the waters of Lake Simcoe. It's a fun and refreshing way to spend a summer day.

☀️ **Adventure Sports at Splash On Water Park or Tree Top Trekking:**

Experience the thrill of Splash On Water Park in Barrie, the largest inflatable water park in Canada, with climbing walls, monkey bars, swings, slides, and more.

Alternatively, try Tree Top Trekking at Horseshoe Valley, where you can enjoy zip-lining, aerial courses, and Tarzan ropes high above the forest floor.

These activities offer a mix of relaxation, adventure, and cultural experiences, ensuring a memorable and enjoyable summer in Simcoe County. Have fun!

Want more details, see:

- [Experience Simcoe County this Summer](#)
- [75+ Things to Do This Summer in Barrie and Simcoe County - To Do Canada](#)

Connection Opportunities

Watch for the CTL Weekly email every Monday morning for a listing of all current offerings or view the [Workshop Calendar](#) for immediate details.

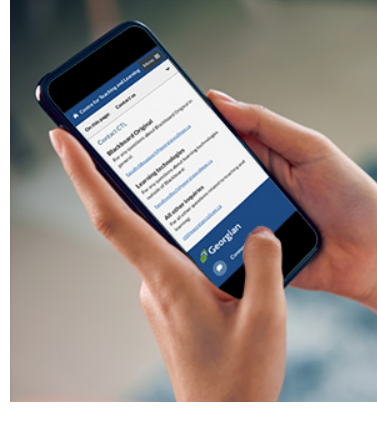
And check out our asynchronous learning modules in [CTL Central for Faculty](#) (Blackboard Ultra Organization).



Get Involved

Interested in sharing ideas for CTL Connects? We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please email facultydevelopment@georgiancollege.ca



Contact Us

Guess what. There are four ways to connect with us:

Blackboard Ultra

For general questions about Blackboard Ultra: facultybbsupport@georgiancollege.ca

Faculty Development

For questions for our faculty development team: facultydevelopment@georgiancollege.ca

Instructional Design

For questions for our instructional design team: instructional.designers@georgiancollege.ca

Learning Technologies

For questions about learning technologies outside of Blackboard: facultyedtech@georgiancollege.ca

All other inquiries

For all other questions related to teaching and learning: ctl@georgiancollege.ca

Or visit us on our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [X \(Twitter\)](#).

Connect with us!



GeorgianCollege.ca/CTL
CTL@georgiancollege.ca

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*Disclosure: This email uses some AI-generated content. However, it has been carefully edited and fact-checked by a member of Georgian's CTL team.

Images courtesy:

<https://www.freepik.com>

<https://www.anthology.com>

<https://experience.simcoe.ca>