Top New Features in Nexus (Moodle 2.8)

Union College has upgraded Nexus to Moodle 2.8 bringing significant improvements to several tools and usability in many areas. A few highlights we encourage faculty to explore are:

- Course Overview
- Auto-save
- Annotate PDF
- Gradebook

1. Course Overview

The new Course Overview front page of Nexus now allows you to choose the courses you want to see on your homepage!

You will notice a drop down menu that says “Category.” By clicking on the dropdown you can filter the courses by the category they are in. For instance, you can choose to only see the courses for Fall 2015.

You can also choose to hide individual courses by clicking on the eye icon next to the course names.

Now, if you change your mind and want to change what is hidden, scroll to the bottom of the block and click “Manage hidden courses.” This will take you to a page where you can make the changes you want.

By default, the activity in each course is collapsed. In order to see the activity, click on the toggle icon to the left the course to expand.
2. **Auto-save**

Student’s work on any text editor is now auto-saved every sixty seconds. This means that if the computer crashes or the browser stops working, the auto-saved version will open up once the student clicks on the same assignment.

3. **Annotate PDF**

Annotate PDF allows you to annotate and return submitted PDF files that have been submitted by students without ever having to download their files. The annotations that can be done include adding comments, drawing lines, and highlighting. After annotating and grading it, the students can then see the annotated PDF.

In the assignment that you want to grade, simply click the “edit” icon next to the student’s name underneath the Grade column.

Then scroll to the bottom of the grading process and click on the **Launch PDF editor** and a PDF editor will open up, then you can annotate away! Make sure you click “Save changes” once you are done editing or else your annotations will be deleted.

4. **Gradebook**

The gradebook has received significant improvements. The entire gradebook can be seen using the scrolls and you may scroll in all directions. This same view can be seen using other platforms.

**Single View**

Single view allows grading and viewing of a single student (row) or a single grade for all students (column).

**Natural Weighting Aggregation**

Natural Weighting aggregation allows for a different interface for using weights. This option supports extra credit, excluded interface and hidden grades.

*Please contact ITS Learning Technologies & Environments staff through the ITS Help Desk if you have any questions or to schedule Nexus training.*