AdvancED
IMPACT
REPORT
2023-2024
VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

Letter From Leadership

Dear Supporter,

A leading university requires a bold vision for teaching and learning.

This is an obvious and assumed reality at any institution, but these most time-honored functions of higher education are so fundamental that many institutions take them for granted, depriving each of investments so excitedly given to things like high-profile research agendas, athletic success and capital campaigns. With higher education under unprecedented levels of scrutiny, universities must innovate and evolve their core functions to meet the needs of students and society alike. Otherwise, they will falter.

After more than 20 years as a member of this faculty, I have long been proud of Vanderbilt's commitment to developing faculty as educators and iteratively improving the student learning experience. This is a home for ambitious faculty who love to teach and students who want to be challenged across a diverse array of disciplines.

But Vanderbilt is certainly not a university for those who wish to maintain the status quo. As it reads on our university shield, we dare to grow. And I am proud to support the work of the Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education (AdvancED), whose staff are committed to nurturing the world's best teaching faculty and innovating the most relevant, impactful student experience possible.

AdvancED is young but mighty, uniting long-standing institutional expertise in pedagogy with the latest opportunities in technology and accessibility. As you read through this inaugural annual impact report, I encourage you to consider and marvel at the immense vision of this team. More importantly, I hope you will feel compelled to collaborate with its members and further deepen the impact of this ambitious institute.

I have long been proud to call this university home, but I have never been more proud of where we're headed. AdvancED is vital to our future as a global leader in higher education, and I hope you read this report as I did: with expectation and excitement for what's to come.

Sincerely,

Tracey George

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professional Education
Charles B. Cox and Lucy Cox III Family Chair in Law
Professor of Political Science

GET TO KNOW US

HISTORY:

The Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education (AdvancED) launched in the Office of Faculty Affairs & Professional Education in Fall 2023, representing a merger of the Center for Teaching, a long-standing campus unit dedicated to instructional development, and the Office of Digital Education, a university startup focused on online education that launched in 2021. The institute was established to further Vanderbilt's position as a leader in pedagogical innovation and excellence. As faculty across Vanderbilt continue to shape the future of teaching and learning, the institute recognizes the opportunity to support faculty in transcending the traditional constructs of education and reimagine learning experiences for Vanderbilt students around the world. AdvancED will help lead the way into the future and continue to serve as Vanderbilt University's hub for all pedagogical excellence and innovation needs across modalities.

MISSION:

The Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education (AdvancED) leads cutting-edge, research-backed innovations in pedagogy and student experience. Drawing on the talent, resources and expertise of the Office of Education Design and Development and the Office of Learning Innovation, AdvancED exists to support and propel Vanderbilt's faculty to design and lead world-class learning experiences, promoting new ideas to maximize their impact on society. Through strategic partnerships and a team of innovative trailblazers in academia, we are able to pioneer a forward-thinking mentality and deliver stellar services to the Vanderbilt community, ensuring student success in a rapidly evolving global dynamic.

VISION:

AdvancED is dedicated to fostering innovative advancements in higher education and driving global impact in three primary areas of focus:

- Instructional development
- Learning innovation
- Student success

Our team focuses on delivering top-tier support in academic excellence, creating inclusive learning environments to increase access and diversity for learners around the world, and establishing strategic partnerships aimed to propel Vanderbilt to the forefront of innovation and education.

VALUES:

AdvancED embodies the core values represented by our team and Vanderbilt University: Academic Excellence, Impact, Innovation and Collaboration. We are dedicated to academic excellence in our quest for the highest standards of innovation, intellectual acumen and collaboration. We are committed to impactful ideas, continually learning from each other, from the Vanderbilt community and from leaders and practitioners all over the world to inform best practices that contribute positively to society. We relentlessly pursue innovations in education and student experience, with the goal of defining the future in best-in-class pedagogy and world-class learning environments. We are committed to fostering an equitable culture of collaboration, curiosity and integrity. These values are the core of our foundation, guiding us in our interactions and positioning AdvancED as a trustworthy team of experts dedicated to fostering strong relationships and providing academic excellence in all facets of our work.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Within the AdvancED umbrella, there are two main operational teams: the Office of Education Design and Development (OEDD) and the Office of Learning Innovation (OLI). The Office of Education Design and Development exists to promote forward-thinking university teaching that leads to meaningful student learning experiences. Focusing on four programmatic areas – foundational teaching skills, new teaching practices, research-based practices and campus conversations on teaching and learning – OEDD empowers faculty to elevate their learning and take their teaching strategies to new heights, ensuring excellence in the classroom experiences for their students. The Office of Learning Innovation is dedicated to advancing new and uniquely Vanderbilt educational solutions to meet the needs of an evolving and expanding community of global learners. Focusing on digital programs, OLI aims to catalyze innovation within Vanderbilt's community by encouraging and supporting the creation of forward-thinking programs that push the traditional educational boundaries and promote global lifelong learning.

Jennifer Wilson, speaking at our 2024 AdvancED launch event at the Wond'ry.

OUR ADVANCED PILLARS

What we strive to uphold every day.

Connor Bacon, AdvancED and Vanderbilt University faculty at the AdvancED launch in March 2024.

Digital & Lifelong Learning

AdvancED seeks to expand Vanderbilt's impact through the development of innovative digital and lifelong learning programs, including online and hybrid credit-bearing degrees and certificates, non-credit offerings and massive open online courses (MOOCs). As the hub for digital and lifelong learning, we partner with units across campus to facilitate innovative learning experiences, from ideation through launch, delivery and ongoing management. Services include market research, project management, digital marketing and enrollment support, instructional design and digital media. Our goal is to ensure that the lifelong learning experiences we create are not only inclusive, collaborative and rigorous, but also unique to Vanderbilt University.

Educational Technology

As the administrative home for educational technology across campus, including the university's learning management system, Brightspace, AdvancED's EdTech team, situated within AdvancED, provides both technical and pedagogical support for faculty, staff and students using EdTech tools and resources. The EdTech team provides a core set of digital tools designed to enhance and support teaching and learning across campus, detailing on-demand resources that ensure educators are set up to achieve academic success in the classroom. The EdTech team also drives the strategic adoption of emerging learning technologies that have the potential to strengthen both residential teaching and online education, positioning Vanderbilt University as a leader in educational innovation and excellence.

Scholary & Innovative Teaching

Through AdvancED's teaching and learning support, we seek to foster scholarly and innovative teaching that engages all students and educators in transformative learning for the purposes of personal and academic growth, the co-creation of knowledge and the development of solutions to our world's greatest challenges. AdvancED offers teaching and learning support in three main areas:

- Event programming: From stand-alone workshops to cohort-based learning communities and more, our team offers extended programming that provides educators with opportunities to explore evidence-based best practices and become more effective teachers.
- Collaborations: Available at the unit, department or program level within Vanderbilt University, collaborations allow for the customization of educational development resources to enhance student learning and faculty success.
- Consultations: Focused on each instructor's specific needs, faculty engage with our team in strategic conversations that consider teaching context and address learning goals.

OBJECTIVE 1: LEAD IN DIGITAL & LIFELONG LEARNING

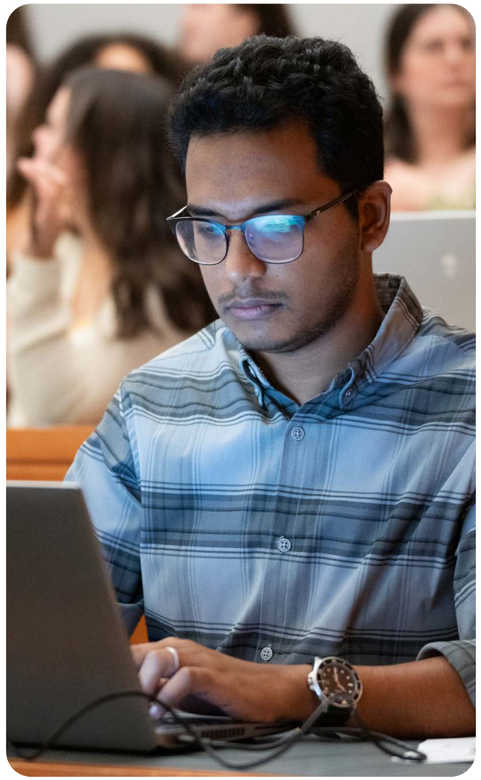
Bringing Vanderbilt to more corners of the world with Vanderbilt Online

> “The thing I enjoy the most about being an online student at Vanderbilt is the flexibility of being able to work full-time in your profession, while managing your degree. The staff, professors and the entire team of the online degree is really helpful, making sure that the professionals who are full-time in the industry do not have to make compromises in order to achieve this degree and achieve their goal.”
>
> - Saad Rajput, Engineering Management Student

Vanderbilt Online, launched in April 2023, houses all of Vanderbilt University’s online offerings. Vanderbilt Online was created from a vision of providing a centralized hub for all online learning opportunities for learners, simplifying the navigation process and enabling accessibility for all. This concept and vision led to its tagline: “**Immersive learning reimagined online**”, propelling Vanderbilt into the forefront of cutting-edge online education. Working directly with academic schools and colleges, AdvancED validated all information ensuring programs were marketed appropriately, highlighting their most important features. Built in partnership with external vendors Common Media and Upstatement, enhanced search functionality was implemented in November 2023.

This online platform introduced an efficient and seamless experience for our students. Saad Rajput, who immigrated to the United States in 2012, now has the opportunity to obtain a Vanderbilt degree effortlessly, with all information readily accessible. Rajput is a current student in the Engineering Management online program within the School of Engineering.

Vanderbilt Online not only services students worldwide, but also Vanderbilt employees. Many staff have taken advantage of the tuition discount, affording them the opportunity to prioritize advancing their education with Vanderbilt. For instance, Nadine De La Rosa, Director of Strategic Initiatives within Vanderbilt’s Dean of Students office, is an alumna of Peabody College, having obtained a Leadership & Learning in Organizations doctoral degree.



Vanderbilt’s commitment to fostering growth among its employees allowed Nadine to pursue this opportunity with Vanderbilt, exemplifying the university’s dedication to providing accessible, high-quality education, empowering all to achieve their academic and professional goals.

> “I chose to learn online at Vanderbilt because I knew I wanted perspectives from all over the region and different fields. I’ve had classmates from all over the country and having access to a knowledge base and practices that surpass the southern region was valuable. Also, I knew I wanted an academic rigor with leading faculty and practitioners and it was the perfect formula that fit my needs.”
>
> *- Nadine De La Rosa, Leadership and Learning in Organizations alumni and director of executive projects, Vanderbilt Dean of Students division*

Growing our digital footprint with the launch of the Master's of Legal Studies Program

The Office of Learning Innovation, situated within AdvancED, partnered with the Vanderbilt Law School to introduce the Online Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program. This program aims to provide non-lawyers with a deeper understanding of American law and legal systems in a 10 course, 30-credit hour program.

Christopher Serkin, MLS Program Director

"As we've developed this online degree program, we have invested heavily in understanding the gold standard of online education and recognize that online classes should not be simply videotaped versions of in-person classes. In fact, they should be intentionally designed from the ground up to be interactive and responsive, integrating readings, videos, quizzes and discussion posts. All the classes in the curriculum follow this pedagogical approach."

– Christopher Serkin, MLS Program Director

To facilitate the implementation of the MLS program, OLI offered a comprehensive range of services - instructional design, content development, digital media production and project management - ensuring a seamless and efficient implementation process. The MLS program welcomed its first cohort of students in Spring 2023 and has had a significant impact since its inception, with a total of 70 learners enrolled in the Master of Legal Studies program over the last year. The program is designed for people outside of the legal field and has attracted a diverse array of students; 19 enrollees are Vanderbilt employees, while 51 students represent a diverse array of professions including government officials, paralegals, real estate professionals and law enforcement. Learners chose our MLS program for numerous reasons including career goals, personal growth, advocacy for self and others and professional development. The MLS program was a significant investment by the team, resulting in the Digital Media Team developing 226 course videos. This culminated in a robust 10-course Master's program aimed at equipping students with the knowledge needed to work within the U.S. law.

Since the program's inception, enrollment has increased by 135.7%. This showcases the success and high demand for a program focused on delivering a comprehensive understanding of the U.S. legal system, equipping students with essential legal knowledge and skills to succeed in their careers.

"I enjoy being an online student at Vanderbilt because it offers a lot of flexibility with work and home life balance. I have two young children, a 10-year-old and an 8-year-old, and I have a pretty big job at Vanderbilt. Being an online student gives me that flexibility to complete the work successfully, but also succeed in the other areas of my life."

- Lindsey Moloney, MLS Student and Director of Operations at The Wond'ry, Vanderbilt's Innovation Center

Lindsay Moloney, MLS Student and Director of Operations at The Wond'ry, Vanderbilt's Innovation Center

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES ENROLLMENT TRENDS JANUARY 2023 - JUNE 2024

TOTAL APPLICATIONS

184

ADMISSION RATE

71%

YIELD RATE

70%

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

70%

NUMBER OF STATES REPRESENTED BY ENROLLED LEARNERS

33

STUDENTS WHO ARE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

19

STUDENTS WHO REPRESENT A DIVERSE ARRAY OF PROFESSIONS

51

Unleashing Vanderbilt's global potential through MOOCs

The importance of meeting learners where they are remains a top priority at Vanderbilt University. With a vision to expand Vanderbilt's online program offerings to a global audience, Vanderbilt University partners with Coursera to deliver high-quality, accessible massive open online courses (MOOCs) to learners worldwide. Since the inception of the partnership, Vanderbilt University and Coursera have launched 33 courses and 12 specializations, with the majority of courses released in 2023 - 2024. These online courses have reached 2,556,394 learners in over 220 different countries, amplifying and enhancing the Vanderbilt brand. In the past year, many of these courses were designed by Jules White, senior advisor to the chancellor for generative AI in education and enterprise solutions. White has played a pivotal role in launching high quality, progressive courses that push the traditional boundaries of thinking, encouraging learners to embrace stepping outside of their comfort zone. White has launched 9 courses on the Coursera platform, most notably launching the first course on prompt engineering using ChatGPT, a trending topic across a variety of industries.

Shawn Keen showing how his Envision Glasses operate.

> The Coursera course that Jules taught was really transformative. Not just learning how to effectively AI prompt and how to get the information I want, but applying it to all kinds of different aspects of my life, like the AI art and creative story writing I do, and getting a new job."
>
> *- Shawn Keen*
> *Coursera Learner*

This course was met with tremendous success, garnering over 255,000 enrollments and impacting the lives of many. Shawn Keen, a 100% visually impaired individual, was one of these impacted learners, sharing that enrolling in Jules' course changed his life. Due to this technology, Keen had the opportunity to transition from working a state job to obtaining a sales manager position at Envision, an AI technology company revolutionizing products for people with disabilities.

Additionally, Bob Higgins, CEO of Barge Designs and Vanderbilt University alumnus, saw the tremendous benefit coming from White's courses. Higgins co-designed and delivered the Generative AI Leadership & Strategy specialization with Jules White, which has over 5,000 learners enrolled to date. While Vanderbilt's previous generative AI Coursera courses focus on teaching the strategies behind using generative AI platforms, the Generative AI in Leadership & Strategy Specialization is geared towards equipping leaders with the skills needed to harness the full potential of generative AI, transforming leadership strategies and productivity in business and personal life. Higgins has encouraged his employees to enroll in these courses to further enhance their knowledge and skills.

Through these courses and expanded educational offerings for global learners, Vanderbilt University continues to cement its position as a global leader in the generative AI space.

Dr. Jules White and Shawn Keen

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, VANDERBILT'S COURSERA COURSES BROUGHT IN OVER $1M IN REVENUE IN A SINGLE QUARTER.

$1,096,435.62

(Q3 January - March 2024)

Anchored in Success: tailoring student services to meet the needs of online learners

Upon reviewing our programs, AdvancED identified an opportunity to deliver a more tailored, curated set of services specifically designed to meet the unique needs of our online learners. With the launch of the Master of Legal Studies program, the Office of Learning Innovation piloted a tailored set of online services to provide online students with the support to belong, succeed, thrive and grow. As part of this piloted program, MLS learners now have access to a curated set of student services provided by our on-campus teams, re-imagined to fit their needs.

The services are offered through the following offices:

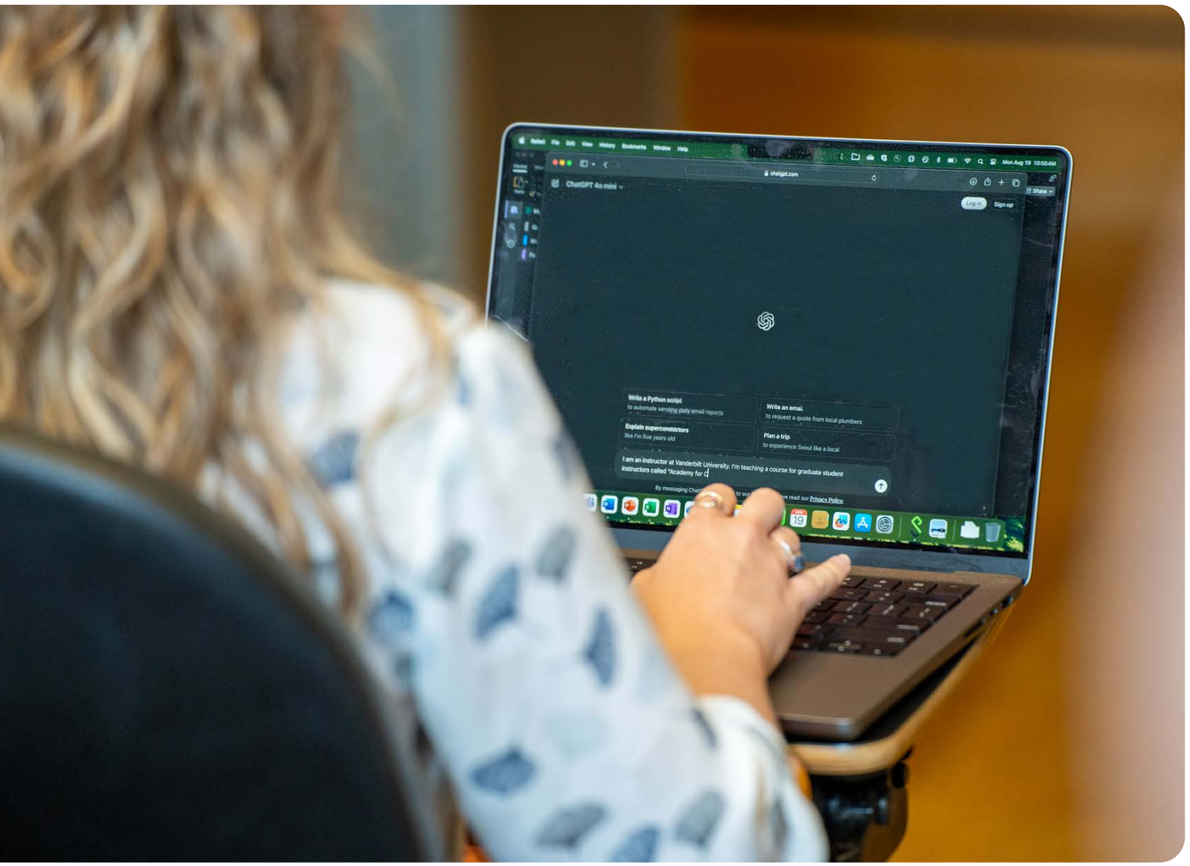
- Career Services
- Library Services
- Writing Studio
- Student Access & Accommodations
- Student Care Network
- Project Safe
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Financial Aid

To orient students to the new support model, offices were highlighted in short form videos to introduce their teams, services and contact information.

With support from the Dean of Students and the Board of Trust, the online fee structure was designed as a reduced version of the residential fee model to align with the level of services and access needed. Starting in Fall 2024 this model will be the new standard across Vanderbilt's online campus community for the remaining 18 online and hybrid programs offered, further establishing Vanderbilt as an innovative leader in creating responsive and inclusive learning experiences.

OBJECTIVE 2:
SUPPORT & ADVANCE CUTTING-EDGE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Leading the way in generative AI to meet the demands of the future



AdvancED plays a crucial role in shaping Vanderbilt's approach to generative AI by empowering our community to harness AI's potential in a responsible and secure manner, solidifying Vanderbilt's reputation as a leader in generative AI. After seeing the need for faculty, staff and students to find information about the use of generative AI at Vanderbilt, AdvancED took the initiative to strategically spearhead the development of a centralized generative AI website. AdvancED collaborated with the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Education, Student Accountability, Student Affairs and the Graduate School to develop a robust website that accurately and effectively provides guidance on generative AI use at Vanderbilt. After five months of research, composition, design and implementation the site was launched in January 2024, and includes:

- General guidance on best practices for using generative AI and building generative AI literacy
- Strategies for effective generative AI use for faculty, staff and students
- An overview of the initiatives, trainings, awards and grants currently available to Vanderbilt faculty, staff and students
- A curated catalog of generative AI courses and specializations designed by Vanderbilt faculty
- A dynamic news feed featuring staff, faculty and student achievements related Generative AI

Once the hub launched, AdvancED facilitated a series of workshops to strengthen use of generative AI in the classroom. These workshops were met with positive feedback from attendees, who found the content provided to be beneficial and applicable to their craft. Following these workshops AdvancED sponsored the Innovation in Teaching: Generative AI award in order to continue to encourage thoughtful and creative approaches to using generative AI in the classroom.

Innovation in Teaching: Generative AI award winner Alex Christensen

The work didn't end there. Vanderbilt forged ahead to the next level, creating its own generative AI platform, Amplify. In 2023, Jules White and team developed Amplify, a secure private-access gen software with custom features and solutions. This platform provides the VU community a safe, cutting-edge environment for innovation, ensuring equity for all.

AdvancED provided project management support for the Phase 1 pilot of the Amplify platform, bringing together stakeholders from various offices across campus to approve and ensure the success of Phase 1. Completed in a month, the initial phase targeted superusers of generative AI in order to evaluate the viability of the platform, identify bugs and early pain points in the platform and recruit champions to drive campus-wide adoption. When feedback was requested from Phase 1 superusers, 93.3% reported they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the platform. Due to this success, Phase 2 launched in Spring 2024, with over 719 users (and increasing) accessing the platform.

Through the phased implementation approach, feedback indicated significant training was needed to efficiently navigate the platform. In response, AdvancED created detailed training materials to ensure everyone has the necessary resources to succeed. As Amplify continues to evolve, AdvancED is poised to provide on-going support to ensure a successful campus-wide launch in FY25.

> "We were fortunate to have the opportunity to be a leading voice early on in how generative AI intersects with teaching and learning."
>
> *- Michael Coley, Senior Instructional Technology Consultant, Office of Learning Innovation*

REPORTED THEY WERE EITHER SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH AMPLIFY

93.3%

NUMBER OF USERS SINCE SPRING 2024 LAUNCH

700+

Vanderbilt University demonstrated national leadership among universities by making the decision to disable Turnitin's AI detection. AdvancED effectively and transparently communicated the rationale for this decision: the lack of data and transparency from Turnitin, through the blog post "Guidance on AI Detection and Why We're Disabling Turnitin's AI Detector." This post has received over 45,000 views, being featured on top news sites such as Journal of the Medical Library Association, Wired, Business Insider, Inside Higher Ed and Bloomberg. AdvancED's holistic approach has allowed Vanderbilt to capitalize on the power of generative AI to catalyze innovations in teaching, research and learning.

Supporting the campus community in the use of educational technology tools

Our dedicated EdTech team within AdvancED provides both technical and pedagogical support for instructors using the Brightspace platform throughout Vanderbilt University's campus. Throughout fiscal year 24, our EdTech team supported 1,213 users, with an impressive average rapid response time of 48 minutes. Support for these users extends across a range of areas, including online course development, strategic implementation and standard technical support.

TOTAL USERS SUPPORTED

1,213

AVERAGE RAPID RESPONSE TIME IN MINUTES

48

In addition to our support efforts, our team performed significant upgrades to Vanderbilt's integrated learning management toolkit, transitioning from Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) 1.1 to LTI 1.3, the most up to date version. While LTI technology rarely needs updates, its updates bring with them significant improvements in the ease of use for integrated tools. Every third-party company that relies on this technology to communicate with learning management systems must update their systems to reflect the new version, and our team then must reintegrate each of these tools to ensure they're operating in the most current version. Furthermore, our EdTech team facilitated the onboarding of three new tools, elevating Vanderbilt's technological arsenal:

- Hawkes Learning: a courseware and textbook publisher
- MATLAB Grader: An automated platform for grading
- Aktiv Learning: A STEM student engagement platform

The EdTech team engages a comprehensive strategy when developing their workshops, ensuring a comprehensive workshop catalog is available for instructors to ensure their desire to learn how to use Brightspace tools effectively is nurtured. Relevant offerings include an Introduction to Brightspace series for new users, workshops focused on the team's supported external tools and timely webinars and workshops to highlight new developments in the world of educational technology.

With a total of 4,389 constituent interactions in FY24, our EdTech team remains dedicated to providing top-tier, accessibility-friendly support within the Vanderbilt community.

Piloting innovative tools to meet the demands of today's learners

Continuing education is at the ethos of Vanderbilt's brand identity. Historically, all non-credit offerings were housed within the Brightspace Continuing Education platform. After a thorough evaluation into our online learning experience, we discovered an opportunity to reimagine the learning experience for our non-credit learners, with a learning platform tailored to their specific needs. With this feedback, the Office of Learning Innovation embarked on a software needs assessment to pilot a new learning platform, which led to the launch of NovoEd, a Learning Management System (LMS) designed to meet the needs of professionals who want to continue their lifelong learning journey. NovoEd provides a social learning environment that emphasizes collaboration and project-based learning.

As Vanderbilt's first offering, the Office of Learning Innovation partnered with Vanderbilt's School of Nursing to develop and deliver a set of micro-credentials within the new system. Currently, the Office of Learning Innovation is creating a second program, the Applied Drug Discovery & Development certificate, in conjunction with Vanderbilt's School of Medicine slated to launch in 2025.

Additionally, the Owen Graduate School of Management Executive Education successfully transitioned and launched 10 programs on NovoEd, while the LMS was simultaneously utilized to facilitate learning materials for Vanderbilt's Leadership Academy. These transitions showcase Vanderbilt's commitment to providing unique learning experiences and top-tier courses, through platforms that are cutting-edge, flexible and ensure a seamless educational experience.

OBJECTIVE 3:
FOSTER SCHOLARLY AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING

Elevating Vanderbilt's faculty through evidence-based teaching and learning support

Vanderbilt faculty & staff at the AdvancED launch event in March 2024

The Office of Education Design and Development (OEDD) within AdvancED provides instructional development to support, foster, and develop evidence-based pedagogy. The Office of Education Design and Development's goal is to engage all students and educators in transformative learning experiences for the purposes of personal and academic growth. A variety of educational programs contribute to this goal, including faculty and teaching assistant orientations, high impact professional development workshops, liaison programs and curated stand-alone programs. Some of the OEDD's liaison programs are collaborations with Arts & Sciences (Core Pilot), Blair School, School of Medicine, School of Engineering and School of Nursing. In the 2023-24 academic year, across programs there were 49 workshops offered with a combined total of 569 participants attending. OEDD is valuable for the resources it makes available, but also for the space it creates for faculty to share their own ideas.

A participant from the Inclusive Lab Pedagogies faculty learning community summarized this idea when they said,

> "One of the most useful takeaways was the recommendation to share course materials, such as syllabi, with each other. This open exchange of ideas allowed us to gain new perspectives and incorporate innovative approaches that we may not have considered on our own."
>
> **-Anonymous Vanderbilt Faculty Member**

In September 2023, OEDD launched a pilot program called the New Faculty Teaching Academy (NFTA). This series of workshops highlighted Vanderbilt faculty resources and best practices in course design, assessment and student feedback, time management and student engagement challenges. The NFTA program involved 23 participants, 12 of whom sought out one-on-one meetings with our AdvancED staff to think through thoughtful approaches for making a positive impact in the classroom. A key feature of this program was the opportunity for faculty to observe accomplished teachers from across the university, as well as observe one another's class preparation and teaching.

WORKSHOPS OFFERED

49

PARTICIPANTS THAT ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

569

Strengthening the quality of academic offerings through high-touch models

AdvancED holds one-on-one consultations to personalize learning solutions for individual instructors. Offered by appointment, consultations typically begin with a question from an instructor about how to handle a particular classroom or learning dilemma. Professional staff share resources, provide options and brainstorm with faculty in a safe space to create a plan for addressing the issue.

Our consultations are conducted across a wide range of Vanderbilt units to instructors of all academic ranks, including graduate students, continuing track faculty, tenure-track professors and tenured professors. Every quarter approximately 75 consultations take place. Participant feedback data shows that 98% of the participants find the consultations productive and provide skills to enhance their teaching skills. These metrics and participant testimonials highlight the real-world effects of our efforts to support pedagogical excellence and continued development of Vanderbilt's academic landscape.

> [My consultation] was wonderful, extremely beneficial and led me to become a more confident instructor.
>
> -Anonymous Vanderbilt Faculty Member

> [My consultation] could not have been better. [The staff consultant] was able to understand and to speak to my STEM topic, helping me find a perfect balance between designing a growth-oriented grading system that still provides explicitly clear benchmarks that my students are more accustomed to.
>
> -Anonymous Vanderbilt Faculty Member

> [The staff consultant] gave me helpful, concrete feedback in a supportive manner. It helped me think about what practices I use or could use to further support diverse learners that I hadn't thought about before or in that way.
>
> - Anonymous Vanderbilt Faculty Member

PERCENT OF THOSE WHO FIND CONSULTATIONS PRODUCTIVE

98%

APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY SESSIONS ARE HELD PER QUARTER

75

Building a foundation for teaching success through top-tier resources

In addition to programming, AdvancED offers a wide range of teaching guides. Teaching guides are written summaries of best pedagogical practices in specific contexts, ranging from the first day of class to increasing civility in the classroom and beyond. Typically three to five pages in length, each guide builds on scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) literature and provides actionable steps for faculty to implement in their teaching in order to advance student learning. With a comprehensive collection of 82 teaching guides, we provide important information to faculty highlighting key items such as high-impact practices, important online resources and local Vanderbilt resources. The guides, on average, garner 500,000 website visits per quarter, showcasing their significant impact in enhancing teaching effectiveness not only at Vanderbilt, but in institutions of learning across the world.

WEBSITE VISITS PER QUARTER

500,000

LET'S LOOK AHEAD

Expanding our structural support

On the heels of its 2023-2024 success, the New Faculty Teaching Academy (NFTA) will expand its series of six face to face workshops designed to launch the teaching careers of faculty in their first years of teaching at Vanderbilt, providing tools for supporting engaging and inclusive learning environments. This educational development opportunity offers faculty a collegial space in which to explore and apply evidence-based teaching strategies. Incentives for participating include professional development and enrichment as a college teacher, opportunities to build community and network with other junior faculty members at Vanderbilt, *a copy of What Inclusive Instructors Do: Principles and Practices for Excellence in College Teaching* (by Tracie Marcella Addy, Derek Dube, Khadijah A. Mitchell and Mallory E. SoRell) and a letter of program completion. Visit our program launch page for more information. The deadline for applications is Sunday, August 25.

Throughout this academic year, we will offer a series of workshops organized around various "high-impact practices" (HIPs) in teaching and learning as defined by extensive research by the American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U). Using millions of data points collected via the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), HIPs are those teaching practices that have demonstrated significant educational benefit for students, especially those who are historically underserved and underrepresented in higher education. This year's workshops will cover topics including navigating difficult conversations, ungrading, applying gamification in the classroom, inclusive assessment and more. To learn more, visit the AdvancED events webpage.

Expanding Vanderbilt's impact and reach

AdvancED seeks to facilitate pedagogical innovations that will expand access to Vanderbilt's world-class education. Recently, Vanderbilt was selected to join a cohort of institutions who similarly seek to leverage digital learning to achieve greater equity in higher education. As Vanderbilt's representatives in the DIEECA cohort, the AdvancED team and University Enrollment Affairs will be partnering with faculty in 2025 to develop online, credit-bearing courses for low-income high school students nationally. If you are a faculty member interested in learning more, please reach out to advanced@vanderbilt.edu.

Looking beyond the classroom, AdvancED aims to expand Vanderbilt's global presence. With the rapid development of Vanderbilt's Coursera courses, our programs are reaching new bounds, allowing a global audience to experience the quality of a Vanderbilt education from their own homes. Virtual learning environments enable Vanderbilt to reach a global range of lifelong learners. With upcoming courses in Gen AI Ethics & Social Impact and Data to Decisions (Analytical Reporting with Gen AI), our team will continue to seek partnerships within the Vanderbilt community to develop more courses for a global scale.

In addition, our team is partnering with Vanderbilt's on-campus community to create Vanderbilt specific online certificates, providing unprecedented access to world-class Vanderbilt faculty and curriculum. With two certificates in the works - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Applied Drug Development & Discovery (AD3) - our team will continue to expand Vanderbilt's online portfolio, ensuring global education access for all.

Catalyzing pedagogical innovation and excellence at Vanderbilt

AdvancED is committed to fostering faculty dialogue, learning and collaboration around pedagogical best practices and innovations. In an effort to advance our mission, we are excited to host AdvancED's inaugural Spring Summit for Vanderbilt faculty in spring 2025.

This groundbreaking event will bring together faculty from diverse disciplines to showcase and inspire innovative teaching practices. With a dynamic schedule designed to drive continuous improvement and excellence in education, the summit will empower faculty to enhance their teaching skills and explore cross-functional collaboration within the Vanderbilt community. Please look out for more details in the coming months on the AdvancED webpage.

Boni Yraguen speaking at the AdvancED Teaching Assistant Orientation in August 2024.

As we look ahead, AdvancED is dedicated to ensuring the continued success and development of the Vanderbilt community, upholding the institution's mission of academic excellence. Our commitment to industry research and trends ensures that our team maintains a strong repertoire of current knowledge and practices, allowing us to regularly publish new tools, disseminate the latest information, and creatively challenge the traditional boundaries of higher education.

The Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education provides highly collaborative support in three key areas:

DIGITAL & LIFELONG LEARNING

• AdvancED will help you design and implement high-impact educational experiences that reach students in every location and stage of learning.

• Successfully design and develop creative and thought-provoking student centered digital learning experiences.

• Explore new ideas while iterating on best practices in instructional design, digital media, assessment, or program design.

• Reach global audiences to expand your impact by launching content in the form of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

> "In the last year, I have had several opportunities to work with the team in AdvancED. I have found them to be very reliable partners as Peabody works to expand digital learning. They are professional, well-organized and truly collaborative. Each time we have worked together, every team member, no matter their role, has worked hard to understand our goals and objectives, then foster an authentic relationship where ideas can flourish. We are truly partners as we work to deliver a high-quality product that prioritizes actively engaging students in their learning."
>
> **– Susan Freeman Burns, Director of Digital Education, Peabody College**

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

• From deploying technology in the classroom to understanding the latest developments in AI, AdvancED provides expertise to help you design innovative, tech-enabled learning experience.

• Stay up-to-date on the latest developments in educational technology through our on-demand resources.

• Troubleshoot your Brightspace questions with the direct support from our team of dedicated experts.

• Get hands-on experience during our workshops to better understand how technology tools can support your teaching goals.

SCHOLARLY AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING

• The classroom is core to Vanderbilt's mission of discovery. AdvancED will help you hone your expertise to the learning styles of your students and maximize the impact of your teaching.

• Join us for programs and workshops that encourage faculty to explore beyond the traditional teaching boundaries, integrating unique perspectives and forward-thinking methodologies.

• Schedule a faculty consultation where we offer a menu of tools and resources for success both in the classroom and in your professional journey.

• Collaborate with our team of experts on your department, school, or programmatic initiatives that will enhance our student and faculty experiences.

> "The VU Brightspace team has become like a family to me. They are responsive...kind...and every semester help think creatively about how to troubleshoot challenges with how to approach complex changes to coursework. I am especially thankful for Michael Coley who is responsive to brainstorming how to build a gradebook that supports a 15 credit hour class with great calmness and clarity. This team makes my life as an instructor less intimidating and they provide a layer of knowledge that is welcomed and appreciated."
>
> **- Kristen Tompkins, Sr. Lecturer & HOD Capstone Director, Peabody College**

At AdvancED, we believe that collaboration is key to driving academic excellence and innovation. Through the development of strategic partnerships, sharing best practices and designing new innovative experiences, our team is poised to support the Vanderbilt community to embrace a more vibrant and forward-thinking landscape of education.

Dare to grow with us and let's transform the future of education.

PARTNER WITH US!

The Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education
Vanderbilt University
Published 2024