



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE  
**CENTER FOR  
TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

# **SPARK (RE)ORIENTATION** **FOR NEW & RETURNING INSTRUCTORS** **FALL 2025 SCHEDULE**

**August 11 thru 15, 2025**

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
**SALUKIS**



**SPARK**

your knowledge,  
and

**IGNITE**

your

**POTENTIAL.**



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# What's SPARK?

**SPARK** is a synchronous and asynchronous experience of **Support**, **Professional development**, **Advancement**, **Resources**, and **Knowledge for ALL** new and returning **SIU faculty**.

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*The SIU Center for Teaching Excellence has organized a series of face-to-face and online--synchronous and asynchronous--activities to support faculty and graduate teaching assistants with their (re)orientation to successful teaching at SIU.*

## IMPORTANT & USEFUL DETAILS

### SPARK (Re)Orientation Details

The [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) is excited to offer (re)orientation activities for SIU instructors and graduate teaching assistants. We hope you'll complete or attend several of our asynchronous, synchronous, online and in-person events so we can SPARK your knowledge and ignite your potential.

**SPARK** is our days of **S**upport, **P**rofessional development, **A**dvancement, **R**esources, and **K**nowledge for ***ALL new and returning SIU faculty***.

### Information for ALL Instructors and Graduate Teaching Assistants

Events are open to ALL faculty and graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) *except where noted*. The agenda is focused on socializing and teaching activities. Graduate assistants with a teaching assignment (GTAs) should check with their academic homes (i.e., colleges or schools) about which CTE events to attend.

### Information for NEW Instructors & Graduate Teaching Assistants

**NEW on-campus instructors (TT, NTT) should attend the orientation on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.;** GTAs are invited to the New Instructor Orientation on August 12; however, many Schools have their own activities planned for GTAs. Check with your program directors regarding what to attend.

- More Information and Support for **Faculty**: [New Instructor Orientation Webpage](#)
- More Information and Support for **Graduate Teaching Assistants**: [GTA Orientation Webpage](#)
- [NIPO: Self-paced New Instructor Pre-Orientation and D2L Training for Faculty and GTAs](#)<sup>1</sup> → [\[Instructions\]](#)
- [New Faculty \(TT, NTT\): Start-the-Semester Checklist](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Requires access to D2L. You can request access while completing New Faculty Orientation Registration or by emailing [teach@siu.edu](mailto:teach@siu.edu).

## SCHEDULE

### Pre-Orientation Summer Sessions – **ALL INSTRUCTORS**

When	What	Who	Where
Async, on-demand	<p><a href="#">NIPO: Self-paced New Instructor Pre-Orientation and D2L Training for Faculty and GTAs</a></p> <p>Get a head start with NIPO, our self-paced D2L training and pre-orientation for new faculty and GTAs. Explore key teaching tools, suggested teaching strategies, and essential resources—on your own schedule.</p> <p>Topics: D2L basics, teaching resources, pedagogical practices</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> SIU faculty and GTAs.	<p><b>D2L Brightspace</b></p> <p>Requires access to D2L; you will need to claim your account if you are new to SIU.</p>
Async, on-demand	<p><b>LinkedIn Learning</b></p> <p>Review the LinkedIn Learning library to learn what you want to learn – from D2L Brightspace to instructional design, accessibility, or assessment. Search the catalog for topics of interest!</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> SIU faculty and GTAs.	<p><a href="#">LinkedIn Learning D2L</a></p> <p>Requires access to LinkedIn Learning; you will need to <a href="#">claim your NetID/account</a> if you are new to SIU.</p>
Async, on-demand	<p><b>Stop Squirreling Around: Add LinkedIn Learning to Your Courses for Students</b></p> <p>Like LinkedIn Learning, here's a short tutorial that explains how to make it a part of your course content in D2L Brightspace.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Craig Engstrom</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> SIU faculty and GTAs.	<p><b>Async Recording</b></p> <p><a href="#">Add LinkedIn Learning to Your Courses in D2L Brightspace</a></p>
Async, available on-demand (watch any time)	<p><b>(Re)Designing Course Outlines &amp; Syllabi for SIU</b></p> <p>Review standard SIU template, obtain information about required SIU requirements (syllabus attachment), and get answers to questions.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Leticia Velasquez, CTE Instructional Designer – Staff</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> SIU faculty and GTAs.	<p><b>Async Recording</b></p> <p><a href="#">(Re)Designing Course Syllabi and Outlines for SIU.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Here is the SIU syllabus template.</a></p>

<p><b>July 29 @ 11 a.m. CST &amp; August 5 @ 2 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor Instructor Training</b>  <b>Topics:</b> This comprehensive training webinar is intended for instructors who plan to use LockDown Browser and/or Respondus Monitor with online exams. The training will cover: How to use LockDown Browser to prevent digital cheating in proctored testing environments; How to use Respondus Monitor in non-proctored environments to protect exam integrity and confirm student identity; Advanced settings, including combining proctored &amp; non-proctored settings; Best practices and tips for success with both applications.  <b>Presenter:</b> Respondus Training, <a href="mailto:training@respondus.com">training@respondus.com</a></p>	<p>Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and graduate teaching assistants.</p>	<p><a href="#">Online &gt; Registration Required: Click to see all available sessions</a></p> <p><b>Respondus regularly runs sessions; see all the times via <a href="#">Webinars - Respondus</a></b></p>
<p><b>Async, available on-demand (watch any time)</b></p>	<p><b>Copyleaks: Plagiarism and AI Detection Tool</b>  Explore the capabilities of Copyleaks, a powerful tool designed to detect plagiarism and AI-generated content in academic work. This session will provide an in-depth look at how Copyleaks can help maintain academic integrity by identifying unoriginal content and AI-generated text. Learn how to integrate this tool into your teaching practices to enhance the authenticity of student submissions. Our experts will demonstrate the features of Copyleaks and offer practical tips on using it effectively in your courses.  <b>Presenter:</b> Copyleaks Team (Laina Haymes)</p>	<p>Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and graduate teaching assistants.</p>	<p><a href="#">Online &gt; Click to watch a Copyleaks session via Microsoft Stream</a></p> <p>Check out our how-guide: <a href="#">How-to Use Copyleaks in D2L</a>.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>Professional Photographs/Headshots</b>  Say 'cheese!' 📷  New and returning faculty can obtain a high-quality photo for newsletters, faculty webpages, and other promotional materials by <a href="#">booking a time directly with University Communications and Marketing</a>. A professional headshot is also great for conference/workshop bios.   <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Some Colleges, Schools, and programs arrange for headshots to be taken as part of their orientation programming. Check with your office administrator before booking.</p>	<p>Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty</p>	<p><a href="#">Reservations are required; book a photo appointment via this form.</a></p>

## Monday, August 11: Getting Ahead of the Pack 🐶 by Learning Something New – ***ALL Instructors***

When	What	Who	Where
1 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Teaching with Microsoft Teams: Connecting Classrooms Across Modalities</b> 🔗 Microsoft Teams isn't just for meetings—it's a powerful platform for teaching and learning in face-to-face, HyFlex, and fully online environments. This session will explore how to use Teams to host virtual lectures, organize class materials, foster collaboration, and support student engagement across formats. <b>Presenter:</b> Craig Engstrom	Open to <b>ALL</b> new or returning faculty and graduate teaching assistants (GTAs).	<a href="#">Online &gt;&gt; Register for Teaching with Microsoft Teams</a>
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Leveling Up D2L Brightspace Content with Creator+ &amp; H5P</b> 🎮📄 Take your course materials to the next level! This session introduces <b>Creator+</b> and <b>H5P</b> , two powerful tools for designing interactive and engaging learning content in D2L Brightspace. Learn how to create dynamic elements like accordions, knowledge checks, image hotspots, and more—no coding required! Learn how to choose the best option to achieve your teaching goals! <b>Presenters:</b> Jacqueline Nelles, D2L Brightspace Senior Trainer	Open to <b>ALL</b> new or returning faculty and graduate teaching assistants (GTAs).	<a href="#">Online &gt;&gt; Register for Leveling Up D2L Brightspace Content</a>



## Tuesday, August 12: New Instructor Orientation: Embracing a Culture of Support and Inclusion – **NEW** **TT, NTT, and GTAs**

### Registration, Schedule, Location, and Information

- [Registration for Faculty: New Instructor Orientation \(NTT and TT instructors\)](#)
- [Registration for Graduate Teaching Assistant Registration](#)
- **Morris Library, Guyon Auditorium** -- Directions via [Google Map](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

When	Topic	Who	Where
8:10 – 8:30 a.m.	<b><i>Coffee + Light Breakfast Snacks Available</i></b> Mingle with new instructors (NTT, TT, and GTA)	<b>New</b> Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Rotunda (Outside of Guyon Auditorium)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b><i>Welcome to SIU</i></b> – Craig Engstrom, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence – Sheryl A. Tucker, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Juliane P. Wallace, Associate Provost for Academic Administration – Julie K. Dunston, Associate Provost for Academic Programs – Shelly Gehrke, Associate Provost for Student Success	<b>New</b> Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium
9 – 9:50 a.m.	<b><i>Embracing A Culture of Inclusive Pedagogy</i></b> – Craig Engstrom, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence – Shelly Gehrke, Associate Provost for Student Success	<b>New</b> Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium
9:50 a.m.	Break		
10 – 10:30 a.m.	<b><i>Supporting Access and Accommodation</i></b> – Brady Jiter, Assistant Director for Digital Accessibility – Carmen Clark-Stokes, Accommodations Coordinator	<b>New</b> Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium
10:35 a.m.	Break		






When	Topic	Who	Where
10:50 – 11:45 a.m.	<b><i>Instructor Support and Collaboration</i></b> <b><i>10:50 to 11:10 a.m.</i></b> – Michelle Kibby, Faculty Ombudsperson – Lanel Love, Student Ombudsperson  <b><i>11:10 – 11:25 a.m.</i></b> – Khalid Meksem, Professor, School of Agriculture Science, Faculty Senate President – Aayush Timsina, Graduate Professional Student Council President  <b><i>11:25 – 11:45 a.m.</i></b> – Matt Romero, Associate Professor, Aviation Management, Faculty Association – Michael Olsen, Associate Professor of Practice, School of Languages and Linguistics, NTT Faculty Association – Rachel Tollet, UniServ Director, IEA/NEA (Representing GAU)	New Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium
11:45 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	<b><i>Technical Support Teams</i></b> – Wil Clark, Chief Information Officer – Craig Engstrom, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence – Nick Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources – Jennifer Horton, Associate Dean, Morris Library	New Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium

When	Topic	Who	Where
12:30 – 2 p.m.	<b>Information Stations – Stop by a table to Ask Anything</b> (Questions about OIT, LinkedIn Learning, Library, D2L Brightspace, Video Production) Join us at the Faculty Q&A Hub to get answers to all your questions about where to find a resource on campus, SIU classroom culture, academic resources, or any other faculty-related concerns. Whether you're a new faculty member navigating the campus for the first time or a returning faculty member seeking specific information, our experts are here to help.  Presenters: CTE staff, SalukiTech and Office of Information Technology, SIU Library Staff	All Faculty & GTAs	Morris Library Rotunda (Outside of Guyon Auditorium)
2 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Tenure &amp; Promotion Overview</b> – Sheryl A. Tucker, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Julianne P. Wallace, Associate Provost for Academic Administration	Tenure-track Faculty (Required)	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium
3 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>HR Highlights: Your Benefits at a Glance</b> A hearty welcome from your friendly Human Resources team! Get a brief introduction to the benefits available to SIU employees. This session will provide an overview of key offerings including health insurance, retirement plans, and campus resources. You'll also learn where to find more information and who to contact with questions as you get started. – Kyle Crawford, Director of Benefits and Payroll and – Susan Lynd, Assistant Manager for Benefits	ALL NEW Faculty (not appropriate for GTAs)	Morris Library Guyon Auditorium

***Colleges or Schools may schedule afternoon activities for new and returning faculty. Please check with your College or School to verify if there are any events you are expected to attend.***

## Wednesday, August 13: D2L Brightspace – Overview to Advanced – *ALL TT, NTT, and GTAs*

When	What	Who	Where
9 – 9:50 a.m.	<b>D2L Brightspace Overview</b>  Learn the basics of the D2L tools every SIU instructor should know to manage face-to-face or online courses. This session will introduce the following key features and go a bit more into details on how to use them: Course home, Welcome page, Content area, Gradebook, Attendance, Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes. <b>Presenter:</b> Leticia Velasquez	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click to register for D2L Brightspace Overview</a>
10 – 11:15 a.m.	<b>D2L Brightspace Engagement: Tools to Boost Interaction and Presence</b>  This session introduces engagement-focused tools in D2L Brightspace that help instructors create interactive, responsive, and student-centered learning experiences. Learn how to meet Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) expectations using built-in features like Intelligent Agents, YouAttend, and Creator+, and explore options for video-based assessments with Bongo. <b>Presenter:</b> Leticia Velasquez	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click to register for D2L Brightspace Engagement</a>
12 – 12:50 p.m.	<b>Online Lunch with Craig &amp; Abby</b>  Join us online for a casual and informal lunch-hour conversation with Craig (CTE Director) and Abby, our new LMS Administrator! This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and hear about what's next for D2L Brightspace at SIU. We'll also chat about upcoming CTE initiatives and how we can better support your teaching. <b>Presenters:</b> Craig Engstrom, Abby Razer	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click to register for Online Lunch with Craig and Abby</a>

<b>1 – 2:50 p.m.</b>	<p><b>D2L AMA: Ask Me Anything with a Brightspace Expert</b> 🤖</p> <p>Got questions about D2L Brightspace? Bring them to this open Q&amp;A session with <b>Craig Romanec</b>, a Brightspace expert from D2L. Whether you're curious about advanced features, troubleshooting a tricky issue, or just want to learn how others are using the platform, this is your chance to ask directly and get real-time insights.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Craig Romanec, D2L Brightspace Instructor Trainer (15+ years)</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click here to register for D2L AMA</a>
<b>2 – 2:50 p.m. (Option 1)</b>	<p><b>Designing and Assessing Core Curriculum Courses (or Any Course, Really)</b> 🎯</p> <p>This session provides guidance for instructors teaching within SIU's Core Curriculum (and beyond). Learn how to align your course with Core Curriculum goals, design meaningful assignments, and assess student learning in ways that support general education outcomes. Whether you're new to the Core or looking to refine your approach, this session will offer practical tools and examples.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Jeff Punske, Director, University Core Curriculum Shelly Gherke, Associate Provost of Student Success</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click here to register for Designing and Assessing Core Curriculum Courses</a>
<b>2 – 2:50 p.m. (Option 2)</b>	<p><b>D2L Brightspace Ask Me More: AMA+ with the CTE Team</b> 🎉</p> <p><i>Couldn't make the 1 p.m. AMA or still have questions after exploring D2L?</i></p> <p>Join the CTE team for a relaxed AMA focused on <i>your</i> real-world teaching needs. We'll answer questions about SIU-specific workflows, share tips for using D2L Brightspace tools effectively, and help you make the most of the platform in your courses.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Abby Razer, Leticia Velasquez, Craig Engstrom, CTE Staff</p>	Open to <b>ALL</b> faculty and GTAs.	<a href="#">Online &gt; Click to register for this AMA+ (Ask Us More) session</a>

## **Thursday, August 14 & Friday August 15: Prep Time! – *ALL TT, NTT, and GTAs***

Many colleges, schools, and academic units may host meetings, training sessions, or other events during this time. Check with your department or program director(s) for any required activities or updates.

As you prepare your courses, the **Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)** offers the following support services:

- **[24/7 D2L Brightspace Support](#)**

For technical questions or help using D2L features.

*Note: For login or password issues, please contact [SalukiTech](#).*

- **[Book a 1-on-1 Online Consultation with CTE Staff – Limited Availability](#)**

Schedule a personalized session for help with course design, D2L tools, or teaching strategies.



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