



# Brightspace Pulse 1.12

*Learner Guide*

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## Document change history

This version of the document replaces all previous versions. The following table describes the most recent changes to this document.

Revision Date	Summary of Changes
May 4, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated <i>Brightspace Pulse platform requirements</i> topic to reflect new iOS support.</li> <li>Added <i>View PDF and MP4 topic files offline</i> topic.</li> </ul>
January 5, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed the <i>Edit a course name</i> topic (no longer supported).</li> <li>Added the <i>Courses and course content in Brightspace Pulse</i> and <i>Viewing courses and course content</i> topics.</li> <li>Updated the <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (iOS)</i> and <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (Android)</i> topics to reflect icon changes.</li> <li>Updated <i>Brightspace Pulse platform requirements</i> to reflect new iOS and iPhone support.</li> </ul>
November 3, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated formatting for consistency.</li> </ul>
October 6, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (iOS)</i> and <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (Android)</i> topics to reflect icon changes.</li> <li>Added the <i>Discussions in Brightspace Pulse</i> and <i>Read and reply to discussion threads</i> topics to reflect the new discussions functionality.</li> <li>Updated the <i>Brightspace Pulse platform requirements</i> topic to add EMEA region support.</li> </ul>
July 7, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated <i>Brightspace Pulse platform requirements</i> to add support for new languages.</li> </ul>
June 2, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (iOS)</i> and <i>Brightspace Pulse interface overview (Android)</i> topics to reflect the new tabbed interface.</li> <li>Additional updates throughout resulting from the new tabbed interface.</li> </ul>

## What is Brightspace Pulse?

Brightspace Pulse is a mobile app that can help learners stay connected and on track with their courses in Brightspace Learning Environment. It provides one easy view of course calendars, readings, assignments, evaluations, grades, and announcements. The app can help learners make better decisions about how to handle workload, when to submit assignments, and when to prepare for tests. Real-time alerts can let learners know when classes are canceled, rooms are moved, or new/updated course content and grades are made available. The schedule view and weekly visualization provides learners with a quick, at-a-glance view of what is due today, this week, and later in the term across all their courses.

Use Brightspace Pulse to do the following:

- See all the important dates and deadlines for each course
- Mark activities as complete
- Anticipate busiest times with a quick glance
- Receive the latest grades, course content, and announcements
- Share updates by email, text message, and social media
- Enter events and deadlines
- View courses and course content
- View course details and customize how much assignments and tests are worth
- Seamlessly log in to Brightspace Learning Environment via a browser to complete tasks

## Brightspace Pulse platform requirements

### **Brightspace platform support**

Brightspace Pulse is compatible with Brightspace platform 10.5.1 and higher. By default, Brightspace Pulse is turned off and must be turned on for use in your organization.

### **Region and language support**

Brightspace Pulse is supported in the following geographic regions:

- U.S.
- Europe, Middle East, Africa (EMEA)

You can download Brightspace Pulse from any global **Google Play™** (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.d2l.brightspace.student.android>) store or **Apple App Store®** (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brightspace-pulse/id1001688546?ls=1&mt=8>) in the following languages:

- U.S. English
- Mexican Spanish
- Canadian French
- Brazilian Portuguese


### Operating system support

**Note:** Brightspace Pulse is optimized for mobile devices.

Android	iOS
Android™ 4.4 or later on tablets or phones	iOS® 10.0 or later on the following devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• iPhone® 5, 5c, 5s</li><li>• iPhone SE</li><li>• iPhone 6, 6 Plus, 6s, 6s Plus</li><li>• iPhone 7, 7 Plus</li><li>• iPod® touch (5th and 6th generation)</li></ul>

## Getting started

### Log in to Brightspace Pulse

1. Tap the  **Brightspace Pulse** icon.
2. Learn more about Brightspace Pulse by swiping left/right or proceed to the next step by tapping **Next**.
3. Tap **Pick Your School**. You can quickly find your organization by turning on your device's geolocation service.  
**Note:** Brightspace Pulse searches for all organizations within a 55km / 34-mile radius from your current location. The list may not include all institutions that use the Brightspace platform. If there are no search results, you can type the URL for your organization's Learning Management System (LMS).
4. Enter your Brightspace Learning Environment credentials and then tap **Log In**.  
Brightspace Pulse loads learner course data by retrieving calendar events from Calendar. These events might

include dates from Content, Checklist, Discussions, Assignments, and Quizzes in Brightspace Learning Environment, if instructors set due dates in these tools.

## Brightspace Pulse interface overview (iOS)

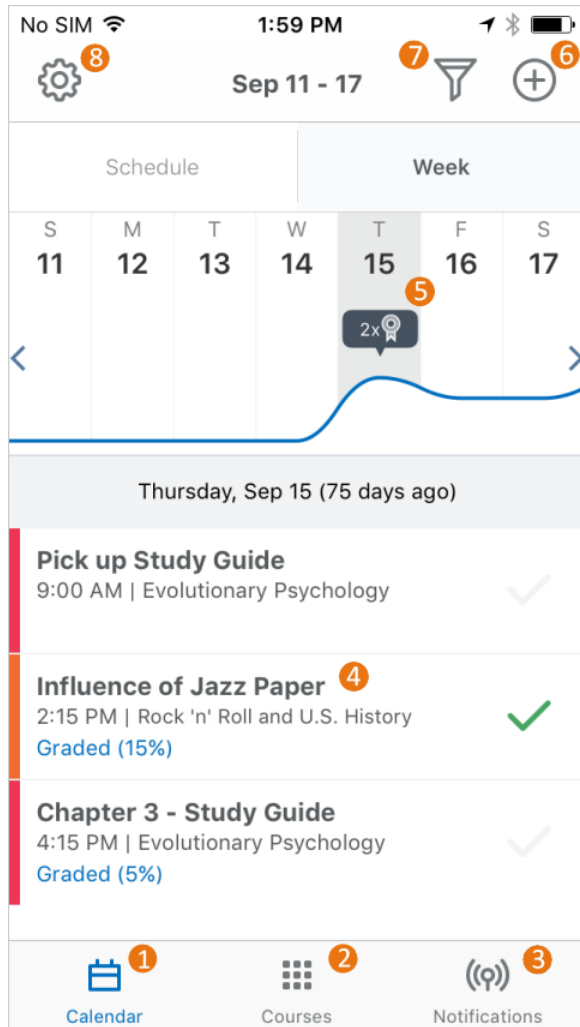










Figure 1: The Brightspace Pulse interface on iOS

1. The  **Calendar** tab includes **Schedule** and **Week** sub-tabs to toggle between views:
  - **Schedule** view displays a complete list of all activities for the duration of your courses.

- **Week** view displays a list of activities for the selected day and a graph that displays the week's activities at a glance.
2. The  **Courses** tab displays all courses and course content. By default, this tab displays when you log in to Brightspace Pulse.
  3. The  **Notifications** tab displays course content updates from Brightspace Learning Environment and allows you to read and reply to discussion threads.
  4. The activity list displays **To-dos, Readings, Assignments, and Evaluations**.
    - Navigate activities by swiping up or down.
    - Swiping left/right moves to the next/previous week. As you navigate, the graph updates.
    - Tapping an activity displays detailed information and actions you can perform.
    - Tapping a  checkmark icon marks the activity as complete (.
  5. From the **Calendar** tab, with **Week** view selected, the graph indicates which days are the busiest.
    - Navigate weeks by swiping left/right or using Apple VoiceOver. As you navigate, the activity list updates.
    - Tapping a day updates the activity list.
  6. The  **Add activity** icon allows you to fill in any gaps in your schedule.
  7. The  **Course filter** icon filters the **Schedule** and **Week** view by courses and/or activities.
  8. The  **Settings** icon allows you to log out, provide feedback, or view the version number.

## Brightspace Pulse interface overview (Android)

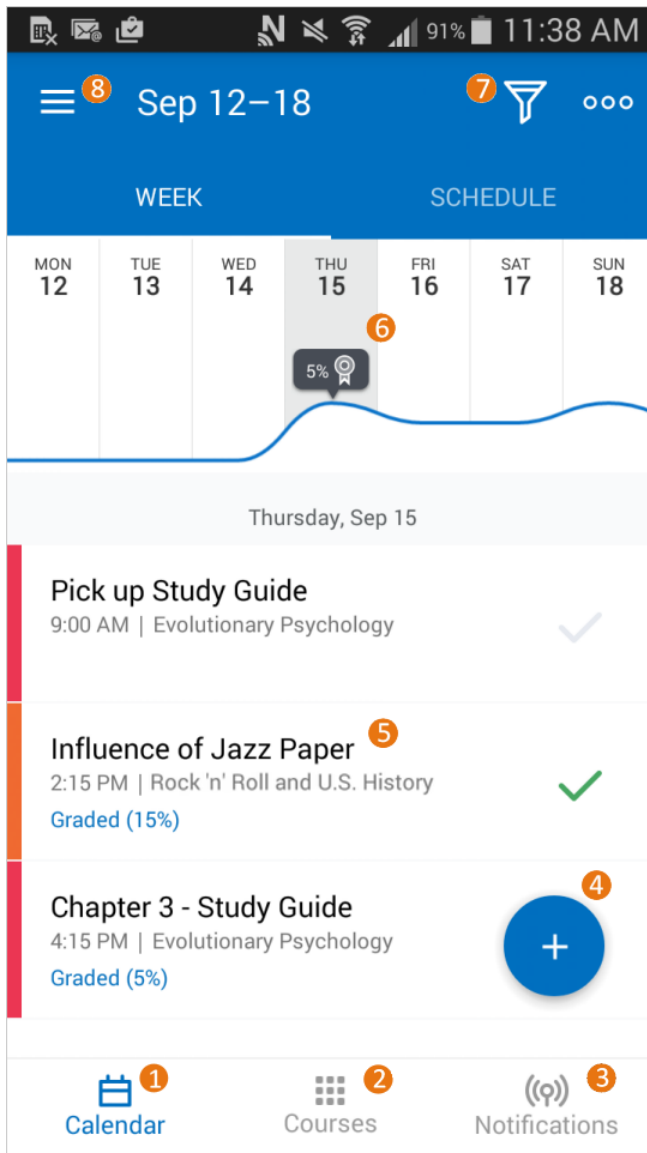












Figure 2: The Brightspace Pulse interface on Android

1. The  **Calendar** tab includes **Week** and **Schedule** sub-tabs to toggle between views:
  - **Schedule** view displays a complete list of all activities for the duration of your courses.



- **Week** view displays a list of activities for the selected day and a graph that displays the week's activities at a glance.
2. The  **Courses** tab displays courses and course content. By default, this tab displays when you log in to Brightspace Pulse.
  3. The  **Notifications** tab displays course content updates from Brightspace Learning Environment and allows you to read and reply to discussion threads.
  4. The  **Add activity** icon allows you to fill in any gaps in your schedule.
  5. The activity list displays **To-dos**, **Readings**, **Assignments**, and **Evaluations**.
    - Navigate activities by swiping up/down.
    - Swiping left/right moves to the next/previous day. As you navigate, the graph updates.
    - Tapping an activity displays detailed information and actions you can perform.
    - Tapping a  checkmark icon marks the activity as complete (.
  6. From the **Calendar** tab, with **Week** view selected, the graph indicates which days are the busiest.
    - Navigate weeks by swiping left/right. As you navigate, the activity list updates.
    - Tapping a day updates the activity list for that day.
    - Streamline your view by tilting your device to landscape view, hiding the activity list.
  7. The  **Course filter** icon filters the **Week** and **Schedule** views by courses and/or activities.
  8. The  **Settings** icon allows you to log out, provide feedback, or view the version number.





## Log out of Brightspace Pulse

1. Tap the **Settings** icon:
  -  (iOS)
  -  (Android)
2. Tap **Sign Out**.

## Using Brightspace Pulse

### Activity categories in Brightspace Pulse

Brightspace Pulse displays the following activity categories, which are mapped from data in Brightspace Learning Environment:

Icon	Activity	Mapping from Brightspace Learning Environment
	Assignment	assignment submission folder, discussion forum and topic, checklist, survey
	Evaluation	quiz, grade item
	Reading	content topic
	To-Do	None. A To-Do activity is personal data created in Brightspace Pulse by the learner.

## Viewing and editing activities

From the activity list, tapping an activity displays more details.

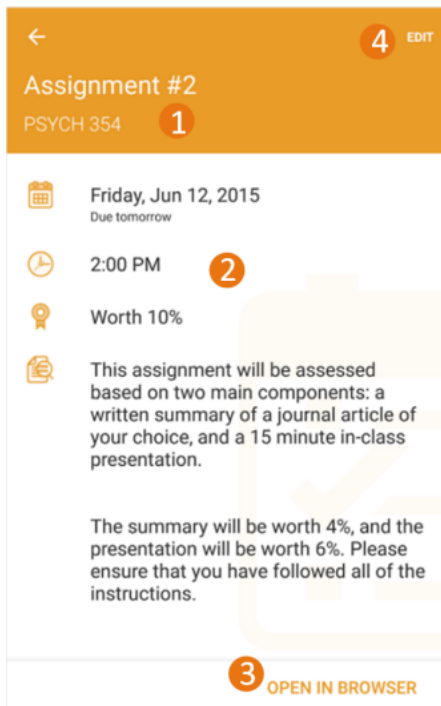
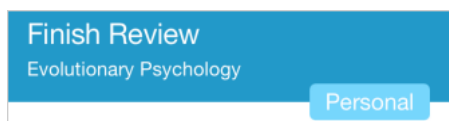


Figure 3: Activity details in Brightspace Pulse

### 1. Activity **Title** and **Course**.

**Tip:** You can easily distinguish between personal activities you created in Brightspace Pulse and activities created by your instructors in Brightspace Learning Environment. A personal activity is identified by a **Personal** label:



### 2. Activity details:



- **Date due.**
- **Time.**
- **Grade worth.** This value is initially empty and must be set by the learner.
- Activity notes, for example, special instructions for an assignment.

3. Tap **Open in Safari** (iOS) or **Open in Browser** (Android) to open the activity in Brightspace Learning Environment, for example, an exam in the Quizzes tool.
4. Tap **Edit** to edit the activity details.  
**Note:** When editing an activity created in Brightspace Learning Environment, the **Title** and **Grade worth** fields are the only editable fields.

## Filter by courses and activities





You can see important dates in the graph and activity list by filtering by one or more courses and activities. For example, you can filter by a specific course and assignment activities to display outstanding work. By default, filtering is on for all courses and activity types; however, filtering is off for graded activities (Show graded activities only is unchecked).



**Note:** Filters are retained after closing Brightspace Pulse; however, logging out or clearing the app returns to the default settings.

1. Tap the **Course filter** icon:
  -  (iOS)
  -  (Android)
2. Tap the courses and/or activities you want to filter by. A check mark indicates that filtering is on for the course or activity, displaying that data in the graph and activity list.
3. Tap **Done** (iOS) or swipe to the left (Android).

## Add an activity

To fill in any gaps in your schedule or to add your own personal activities, you can add an activity.

1. Tap the **Add activity** icon:
  -  (iOS)
  -  (Android)
2. Tap an activity type:
  - **To-dos** 
  - **Readings** 

- **Assignments** ()
- **Evaluations** ()


3. Fill out the necessary fields.

**Note:** You must associate the activity with a relevant course in Brightspace Learning Environment.

4. Tap **Save**.

## Mark an activity as complete


After completing an activity such as an assignment or reading, you can mark the activity as complete. The activity summary displays how many activities have been completed in the current week.

From the activity list, mark an activity as complete by tapping a  check mark. To provide a sense of accomplishment, a completion message displays.

Tapping a  check mark marks the activity as incomplete.

## Courses and course content in Brightspace Pulse

Learners can view courses and course content in Brightspace Pulse, enhancing their learning experience on the go.

The  **Courses** tab lists courses that the learner is currently enrolled in. By default, this tab displays when you log in to Brightspace Pulse.

When viewing course content in Brightspace Pulse, supported content types include:


- HTML
- PDF (special features such as password protection are unsupported)
- MP4 video (H.264, AAC)
- DOC, DOCX
- XLS, XLSX
- PPT, PPTX
- MP3 audio
- Brightspace Capture video

Unsupported functionality includes:

- creating or editing course content hierarchy

- pinning and unpinning courses (all enrolled courses display in Brightspace Pulse)


## View courses and course content

1. Tap the  **Courses** tab. A list of enrolled courses displays.
2. Tap a course.
3. From the table of contents, tap a module.
4. Tap a topic to view it.

## View PDF and MP4 topic files offline

To complete learning activities without an Internet connection, learners can download PDF and MP4 topic files for offline viewing in Brightspace Pulse.

Note the following:

- Downloaded PDF and MP4 topic files can only be viewed in Brightspace Pulse. Although downloaded files use the mobile device's file storage, they cannot be viewed in another app or transferred from the mobile device.
  - The limit of downloadable files is determined by the available space on the mobile device.
  - For PDF files, there is no support for special PDF features (password protection, printing restrictions, etc.), or support for other document types (DOCX, XLSX, PPTX, HTML, images, etc.).
  - For MP4 files, there is no support for streaming video, or other video and audio formats (MP3 audio, etc.).
1. In Brightspace Pulse, view a topic file containing a PDF or MP4.
  2. From the ellipsis (...) menu at the top of the page, tap **Make available offline**.
  3. Without an Internet connection, in Brightspace Pulse, navigate back to the table of contents and tap the downloaded topic file, indicated by the  **Downloaded File** icon.
  4. To remove the topic file from the mobile device, from the ellipsis (...) menu at the top of the page, tap **Remove from device**.  
**Tip:** To remove all downloaded content files from the mobile device, navigate to the top-level for the course, tap the ellipsis (...) menu, and tap **Remove any offline content**.

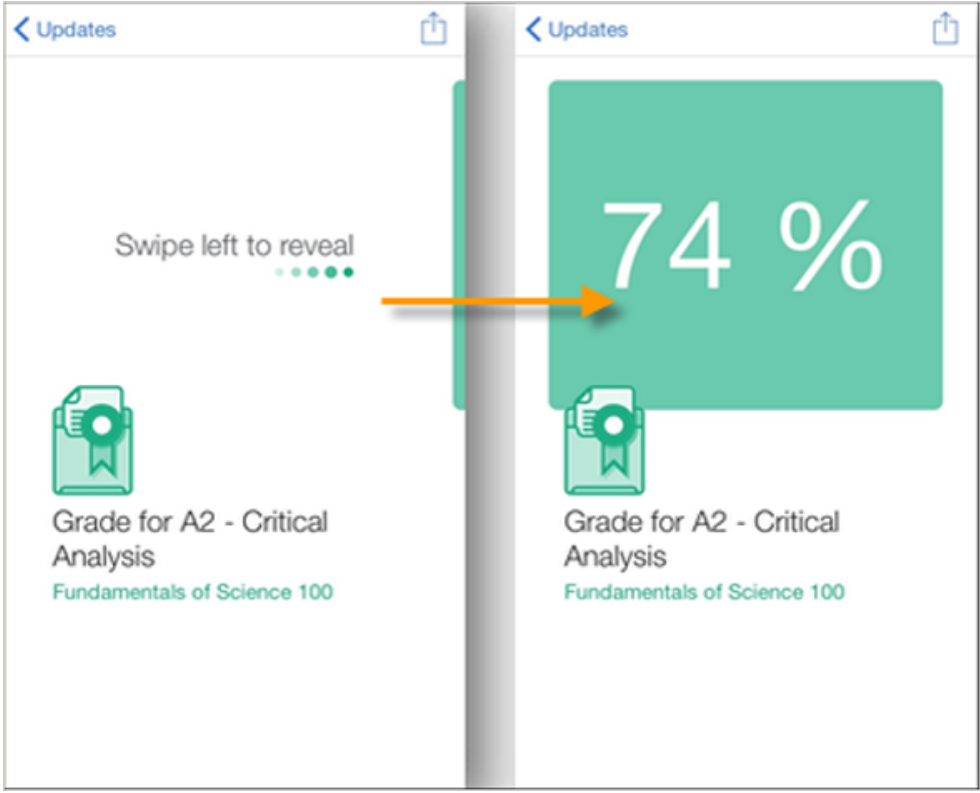
## Viewing updates

Brightspace Pulse provides you with updates that offer you tips and keep you informed about course-related news, updates, and grades from Announcements, Grades, and Content in Brightspace Learning Environment. These updates show up in the Updates/Notifications tab in Brightspace Pulse.



**Note:** After logging in for the first time, course updates do not appear until new updates are created in Brightspace Learning Environment.

To view updates, tap the  **Notifications** tab.

Update type	Description
Introductory updates	When you log in to Brightspace Pulse for the first time, introductory updates appear. Each update provides a tip on how Brightspace Pulse can keep you notified of the latest grades and Announcements for your courses.
Created or updated course content	<p>To keep you informed about course content, Brightspace Pulse sends updates when course content is created or updated in Brightspace Learning Environment.</p> <p>You can view new and updated content associated with an update, viewing the content directly in Brightspace Pulse. This also applies to content where a due date has been associated with the item.</p> <p>To view the content, tap the update and then tap <b>Open</b>. If there is no file URL available, tap <b>Open in browser</b>, which opens the content in Brightspace Learning Environment.</p>
Created or updated Course Overview documents	<p>When an instructor adds or updates the Course Overview document in Brightspace Learning Environment, you receive updates in Brightspace Pulse and the Brightspace Learning Environment minibar.</p> <p>In Brightspace Learning Environment, you can optionally choose to receive instant notifications via email or text message when the Course Overview document is updated.</p>
Course announcements	When an instructor wants to communicate changes to course updates, information, and reminders via course announcements, you receive a course announcement in Brightspace Pulse.

<p>New grades</p>	<p>When an instructor enters grades in a grade book, you receive grade updates in Brightspace Pulse.</p> <p>View grades in Brightspace Pulse by tapping the update and then swiping left to reveal the grade.</p>  <p>Figure 4: Revealing a grade in Brightspace Pulse</p>
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### Sharing updates with others

You can share updates with others by tapping the share icon ( on iOS or  on Android). For example, you can share a course content update with other learners via instant message, email, or social media.



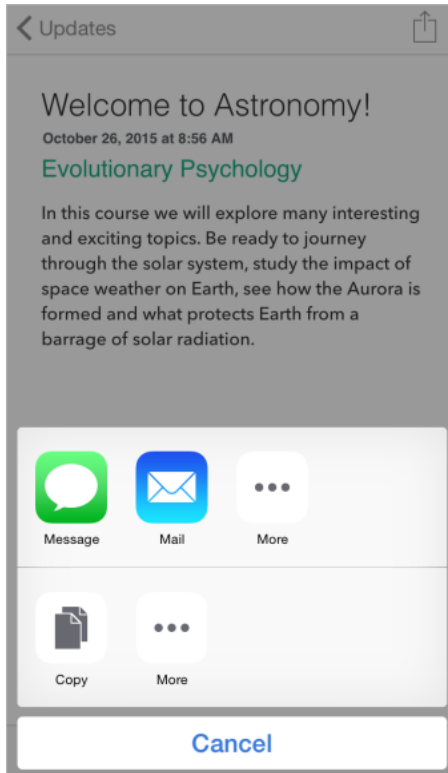



Figure 5: Sharing updates in Brightspace Pulse

## Discussions in Brightspace Pulse

You can read and reply to discussion threads in the  **Notifications** tab. This increases awareness of course activity and engagement in learning activities with other learners.

Unlike other notifications in Brightspace Pulse, discussion notifications do not appear in the device's notification area and do not invoke an alarm or vibration.


In Brightspace Learning Environment, you must first subscribe to a topic or discussion thread for a course offering you are enrolled in. You cannot subscribe or unsubscribe to topics or threads in Brightspace Pulse.

When reading and replying to discussion posts:

- A link is provided for viewing the original post, with original formatting, in a web browser.
- Formatting is simplified for consistency - bold, italics, underline, strikethrough, subscript, superscript, and HTML lists are supported. However, font face, color, size, images, and other embedded objects are unsupported.

- Web links (URLs) can be followed.
- Unlike Brightspace Learning Environment, the learner can only reply to the original post, not a specific post in the discussion thread.
- There are no formatting options when replying.

## Read and reply to discussion threads

1. Tap the  **Notifications** tab. A red dot displays on the **Subscriptions** sub-tab.
2. Tap the **Subscriptions** sub-tab. A list of discussion threads displays. The list is sorted with the discussion threads that have the most recent activity at the top, and any discussion threads that have new activity since you last checked are highlighted to indicate an unread state.
3. Tap the thread containing the activity. A list of posts displays.
4. Reply to the thread.

## Troubleshooting Brightspace Pulse

### **I cannot find my organization or school when I search**

If your organization or school does not display in the list when you search, you can add it manually using its URL. This field is available when there are zero search results or if you choose to disable your mobile device's geolocation service.

### **I cannot connect Brightspace Pulse to my school or organization**

If you cannot connect to your school or organization, the problem could be:

- Your school or organization has turned off access. You can contact them to find out.
- You entered your ID or password incorrectly. Try again.
- Your school or organization is using a Brightspace platform version that is incompatible with Brightspace Pulse.

**I cannot see the courses that I am enrolled in**

It's possible that the courses you're enrolled in haven't started yet or they don't have any dates associated with them.

**I don't see any updates in the Updates tab or I cannot access my course documents, announcements, grades, etc.**

When you initially log in to Brightspace Pulse, no course content updates appear until new updates come from Brightspace Learning Environment; however, introductory updates appear. The Brightspace Pulse app provides you with updates when announcements are created in your courses and when you receive new grades from your instructors.

**Percentage values don't appear for any of my activities**

While Brightspace Pulse can retrieve data from your courses in Brightspace Learning Environment, it cannot determine percentage values for individual activities. Percentage values must be manually added by learners in Brightspace Pulse.

**I don't see updated course content in the Updates tab**

Course content updates only appear in the **Updates** tab if the instructor checks the **Notify students that the content has changed** option for the updated content in Brightspace Learning Environment. Contact your instructor for more information.

## About D2L

A global leader in EdTech, D2L is the creator of Brightspace, the world's first integrated learning platform.

The company partners with thought-leading organizations to improve learning through data-driven technology that helps deliver a personalized experience to every learner, regardless of geography or ability. D2L's open and extensible platform is used by more than 1,100 clients and almost 15 million individual learners in higher education, K–12, healthcare, government, and the enterprise sector—including Fortune 1000 companies.

The company has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore.

**[www.brightspace.com](http://www.brightspace.com)** (<http://www.brightspace.com>) | **[www.D2L.com](http://www.D2L.com)** (<http://www.d2l.com>)

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