Blackboard Learn: Essentials
Facilitator: Edward Everett
Date: Wednesday, January 4
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am
Location: SML 307
Essentials focuses on the basic features of Blackboard giving faculty the tools to build a course in Blackboard Learn. This session is recommended for all faculty and organizational leaders new to Blackboard.

Not All Courses are Created Equal: Developing and Maintaining a Sense of Community in Fully Online Learning Environments
Facilitator: Mary Gozza-Cohen PhD
Date: Friday, January 6
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Location: SML 200A
One of the most prominent fears for faculty and students alike when teaching or taking a fully online course is the perceived lack of social presence in the absence of in-person interactions. Fully online courses that are designed with community-building tasks and activities have resulted in greater student and Facilitator satisfaction and perceived learning. This workshop will include discussions and evidence-based materials that will help you think about online teaching and learning with a new lens.

ExamSoft Basics
Facilitator: Kathleen Day, MS
Date: Wednesday, January 11
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Location: SML 307
ExamSoft is a web-based solution that supports the entire testing process including exam creation, administration, secure delivery, scoring, and analysis. This workshop focuses on the mechanics of creating and posting exams. It is essential for anyone using the product including Administrative Assistants, Faculty, and Course Coordinators.

Teaching and Supporting International Students & Other ESL Learners
Facilitator: James Dyksen, MSED-TESOL, Academic Development Specialist, Office of Student Affairs
Date: Tuesday, January 17
Time: 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Location: SML 200A
International students and other students for whom English is a second language face a unique set of challenges and issues as they adjust to study in the degree programs at Jefferson, and, in many cases, to living in the US for the first time. This workshop will elicit faculty experiences teaching and working with ESL learners, including both concerns and effective strategies. The workshop is designed to develop awareness of the needs of international students and other ESL learners in Jefferson programs and classes, to discuss teaching, curriculum design and communication strategies that may help such students, and to identify resources across campus that may aid International and ESL learners with coursework and / or other areas of need.

Building a Better Lecture
Facilitator: Julie D. Phillips, PhD
Date: Friday, January 20
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: SML 200A
According to classroom observations and self-report data, instructors rely heavily on lecture as an instructional method despite research documenting the limited effectiveness of lectures as a teaching strategy. Lectures can be integral to the learning experience with an understanding of the factors contributing to its effectiveness as an instructional tool. This workshop will focus on identifying key uses of lecture and three simple strategies for building more effective learning experiences for students. Participants are asked to identify and bring a lecture they have previously developed for use during the experiential workshop.

Collaborate—Blackboard’s Virtual Classroom
Facilitators: Edward Everett, Mary Gozza-Cohen, PhD
Date: Monday, January 23
Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: JAH M13
Collaborate is Blackboard’s virtual learning environment for courses, office hours, or conference calls. With a variety of audio and video communication tools, faculty and learners easily can join a session from almost any device with a wireless connection. Faculty may even use Collaborate to host a guest speaker and other invitees without Jefferson credentials. The browser-based tool fully integrates with Blackboard and enables faculty and learners to share content, demo an application or collaborate in real-time. Faculty can also establish virtual breakout rooms for learners to engage in small groups.

Improving Assessment with ExamSoft
Facilitator, Kathleen Day, MS
Date: Wednesday, January 25
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Location: SML 307
ExamSoft is not just a secure delivery solution—it has the potential to improve teaching and learning exponentially! This workshop, which focuses on the feedback and analysis features of ExamSoft, is essential for item writers, course faculty, and administration.

Universal Design (UD) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL): What Are They and How Do They Impact My Students?
Facilitator: Mary Gozza-Cohen, PhD
Date: Tuesday, January 31
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am
Location: SML 200A
UDL and UD are terms that are often used interchangeably but they are different in several ways. Universal Design for Learning is “a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn” (Rose & Meyer, 1984). Universal Design refers to what we must do by law to ensure physical access to buildings and spaces for individuals with disabilities. This session will include discussions and information on UDL and UD and specific methods for implementing the principles of UDL in our teaching.