

# Session Description

## **Finding Opportunity: Orientation and Learner Success Sites**

**Date:** Thursday, November 21st

**Time:** 11:15 AM to 12:00 PM

**Conference Session:** Concurrent Session 6

**Lead Presenter:** Jo Montie (University of St. Thomas - Minnesota)

**Co-presenter:** Karin Brown (University of St. Thomas - Minnesota)

**Track:** Learner Services and Support

**Location:** Northern Hemisphere Foyer

**Position:** 5

**Session Duration:** 45min

**Brief Abstract:** Learn how our online modules promote knowledge and skills that assist undergraduate learners in a campus-based program with the “work of being a student” and better positioned for academic success. Examples from first-year experiences include orientation, registration, technology, degree planning, as well as preparation for a first online course.



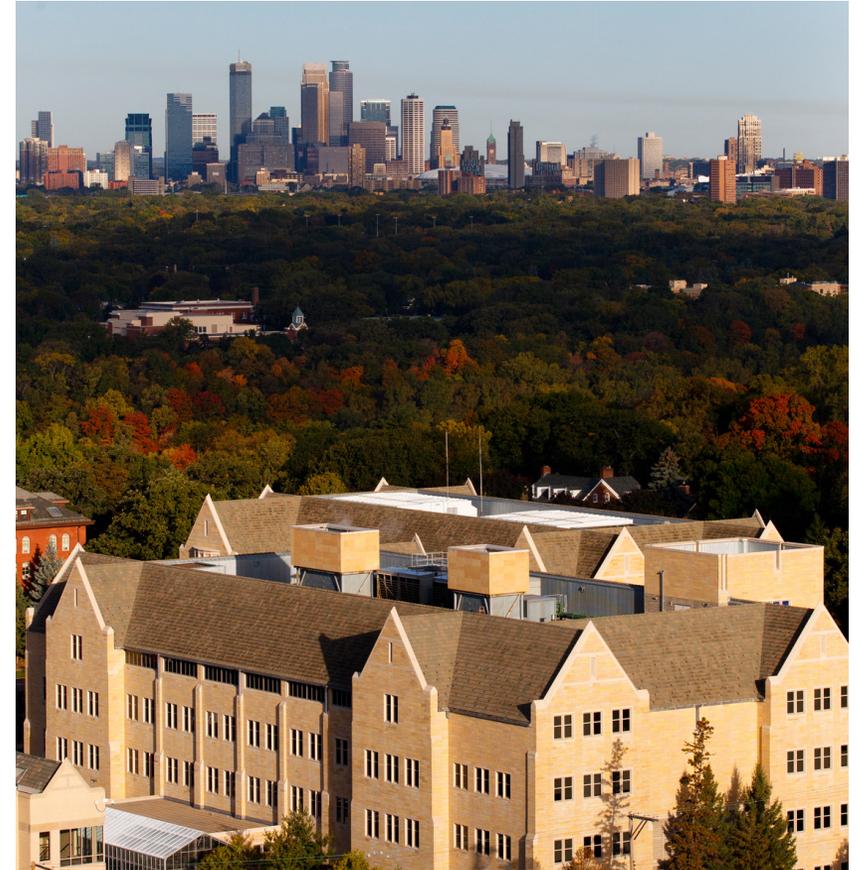
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# **Finding Opportunity: Orientation and Learner Success Sites**

Presenters: Jo Montie and Karin Brown  
St. Thomas E-Learning and Research (STELAR)  
[Stthomas.edu/stelar](http://Stthomas.edu/stelar)

# About the University of St. Thomas

- Private, Catholic university with campuses in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Rome
- 10,000 students (undergraduate and graduate) with a growing interest in online and blended education
- STELAR (St. Thomas eLearning and Research) Center

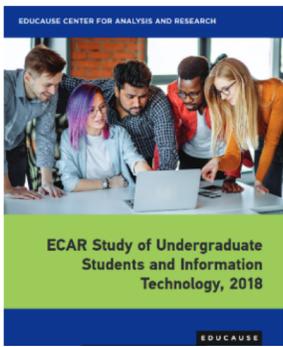


# Session Goals

*As we consider student success sites\* we will...*

- Describe site design features and activities that support learner success goals;
- Assist you in identifying concepts and practices that you may take and apply to your own setting.

\* Student Success Sites are "Digital learning resources available to students before, during or towards the end of their educational program that contribute to student success" (Montie, 2018)



# Student Success Framework

## EDUCAUSE ECAR (2018)\*

**Academic  
Success  
Tools**

**Work of  
Being a  
Student  
Tools**

**Communicate the benefits** of using these tools to students

**Leverage early-alert messages-** personalized and student-centered

**Tailor messages to the audience,** including faculty and staff

**Help faculty** buy-in, use and communicate the benefits of tools **to their students** to increase their use

# Site: Registration Planning Tool

## Highlights:

- First year students self-enroll into the site prior to coming onto campus for in-person orientation and registration (O & R)
- Welcoming home page, connection to people and community
- Clear purpose of site
- Positive student feedback (first run)



# Navigation and Module Ease

## Highlights:

- Personalized and some variety
- Predictable
- It's their first "course"!



## Tips and Reminders

- **If you have completed college credits:** You are the one who worked to earn the credit, so you are the person who can best inform us about the college classes you have already completed.
-  What questions do you have about your previously earned credit? Take notes on your [Ideas and Questions](#)  document. Why is this important? We want to advise you to take the classes you need and to avoid taking classes that you may not need!
- **If you have not completed college credits:** All is well! Many incoming students have not completed any previous college credits and they are still right on track! You are not required to review this section of the Registration Readiness course.

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# Site: Tommie Tech for Undergraduates

## Highlights:

- Know what tools are available and how to find them (what and how)
- Videos and text to help highlight “why”
- All new students enrolled into site, invited (not required) to explore
- Extensive review process- (students, staff, faculty)

⋮	▶ MODULE 1-Tech Basics: Before Your First Classes Start
<hr/>	
⋮	▶ MODULE 2-Apps and Resources for Learning Success
<hr/>	
⋮	▶ MODULE 3: Try It Practice Activities (Complete anytime during or after modules 1 and 2)
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# "Touch and Try" Options

**Modules 1:** Sign ups; Wow/Huh/Action

**Module 2:** Discussion, tutorials and apps to download

**Module 3: Try Its! (Points-based activities)**

- Set Your Notification Features: Try It!
- Check Your Browser: Try It! (self-correcting feedback)
- Find Your Librarian and Library Research Guide: Try It!
- Create Your Canvas Profile Page: Try It!
- Submit an Assignment: Try It!
- Zoom Video Conferencing: Try It!
- Check Your Internet Speed: Try It!

# Self-correcting, meaningful feedback!

How many working browsers are recommended to have? (Please scroll to the end of the page after you submit your answer to read additional tips.)

One

At least two

**Yes, at least two update-to-date browsers, and we suggest Chrome, Firefox or Safari in Canvas. Edge does not work well in Canvas.**

Checking that you using the correct, up-to-date browser can be one of the first things to try when you experience a tech glitch. So for example, if something is not opening up correctly or you do not see some of the buttons or content when you log into something, it is possible it is the browser.

**If you still have questions or need more help** with your browser after following suggestions on this Check Your Browser page, contact the St. Thomas ITS Help team either in person or at [techdesk@stthomas.edu](mailto:techdesk@stthomas.edu).

None-browsers are a thing of the past

**Correct!**

# Site: Degree Planning Essentials

## Highlights:

- Understand requirements and degree tracking tool
- Take ownership of plan, know how to get support
- Guided navigation
- Complete module and pass quiz before registering for the next semester. Canvas quiz pass then released a hold from SIS (Banner) automatically.



### Meet Your Site Moderators

Contact one of the Site Moderators if you have questions about degree planning after completing this module, or you can set up an appointment with your Academic Advisor.



**Susan M. Anderson**  
Director of Support and Compliance  
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651.962.6300



**Drew Puroway**  
Associate Director of Support and Compliance  
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651.962.6300



### Tech Help

If you have trouble watching the videos in this site (i.e., if they start and stop, or the sound or visuals are not working), please try the following quick check activities to check your equipment:

- [Check Your Browser and Internet Speed](#)
- [Test Your Machine's Ability to Access Video](#)
- Also this is good information to bookmark: [St. Thomas technology and Canvas help](#).

If after these activities you still have trouble with your videos or some other technical aspect of the site, please contact the St. Thomas [techdesk@stthomas.edu](mailto:techdesk@stthomas.edu).

# Site: Orientation to Online Learning

## Highlights:

- Access 3 weeks prior to class starting
- Self-assessment reflection tool
- Short videos, student guide
- 3 modules
- Points-based learning checks and practice activities
- Option to earn the Certificate of Completion

The screenshot displays a user interface for the 'Orientation to Online Learning' site. It features three main sections:

- Accessibility:** A section with an information icon and a list of instructions: 'Learn more about St. Thomas [Disability Resources](#), e', 'For subtitles on videos, click the CC button. For a full screen, click the full-screen square in the lower right of the video.', and 'Let a Site Moderator know if you have difficulty accessing any content!'.
- Meet Your Orientation Moderators:** A section with a group icon and two profiles:
  - Jo Montie (pronouns she/her/hers):** Online Learning Support Systems Facilitator, email JKMONTIE@STTHOMAS.EDU, phone 651.962.4467, and location STELAR St. Thomas E-Learning & Research.
  - Karin Brown:** Instructional Designer, 'Use the Canvas inbox', and location STELAR St. Thomas E-Learning & Research.
- Start Here and Navigation Tips:** A section with a navigation icon and a button labeled 'Start Here' next to the text 'Select Start Here' and 'to get to the Self-Assessment.'

# Self-Assessments and Qualtrics

Your Tech Prep	Somewhat		
	Agree/Yes	Agree/Somewhat Disagree	Disagree/No/Don't Know
I have access to a reliable computer multiple times a week (including a laptop, desktop or iPad, not only a smartphone).	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am connected to the internet with a fairly fast, reliable connection.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
I know who to contact for technology help.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have at least two up-to-date internet browsers on my computer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know where to find free St. Thomas software.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have headphones or speakers, and a microphone to use if a class has a videoconference.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Self-Assessment: Online/Digital Learning

### Recommendations: *YOUR TECH PREP*

Your responses suggest that you might find it helpful to spend time in the **Your Tech Prep module** to be further prepared with the technology before you have assignments due.

### More suggestions include:

- The Locating Desktops or Laptops page (Your Tech module) provides ideas on accessing a computer for coursework at times when you need more than a Smartphone. If after reviewing those materials you still struggle with accessing a reliable computer, reach out to a site moderator or advisor to problem-solve together.
- The Check Your Browser and Internet Speed page helps you test out both of these things and gives you ideas for fast, reliable internet connection. If after reviewing these materials you still struggle with accessing a fast, reliable internet connection, contact a site moderator or advisor to problem-solve together.
- Yes, Bookmark Technology Help to know when and how to contact the St. Thomas Tech Desk and the 24/7 Canvas support.
- Changing to another browser can be one of the first things to try with a tech glitch. See the Check Your Browser page to learn how to identify your browsers or add another browser.
- The Information Technology Services (ITS) website and ONEStThomas intranet have free software to support your studies.

# Learning Success Reflection

Question 1 1 pts

After reading [Success Routines and Time Management](#) page, which of these ideas seem the most important for you to use? Perhaps pick up to 1-3 things you'd like to try to work to do more in your upcoming classes. Describe a specific strategy or way you'll try to further apply your success tip idea.

HTML Editor 

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One of the more important tips that I got from this page was to make a calendar and stick to it. I am usually very good at making calendars that have all of my meetings, appointments and work schedules, but I needs to get better at actually scheduling in time to do things that could be done anytime, like working out and especially homework.

# First Year Experience Course Coming Soon!

## Highlights:

- Lets students know how to get involved in the St. Thomas community
- Provides information on how to be a healthy and successful college students
- Introduces students to foundational concepts related to oppression and social justice

## Modules:

- Welcome to the St. Thomas Community
- Spark Your Engagement at St Thomas
- Wellness, Alcohol, Mindfulness, and Sleep
- Active Bystander Intervention
- Nutrition and Stress
- Academic Success and Integrity
- Tommienomics- Financial Education
- Vocation- Joys, Gifts, and the Needs of the World
- From Vocation to Career
- Sustainability
- Social Identities and Intersectionality
- Systems of Oppression
- Developing Intercultural Skills
- Religious, Spiritual, and Secular Worldviews and Ways of Life

## Talk and Explore More!

- What concepts and practices might you take and apply to your own setting?
- In what ways does our learning connect with your learning?
- Please take our log in information for a sample site, and complete our session eval!

# Evaluate Sessions and Win!



👍 Evaluate Session

- Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
- Complete session evaluation\*

\*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) \$25 gift cards** will be awarded

Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website

# Keep On Learning with Us!

**St. Thomas E-Learning and Research (STELAR)**  
**and <https://www.stthomas.edu/stelar/>**  
**and our blog <https://blogs.stthomas.edu/stelar/>**



**Jo Montie**

Online Learning Systems Facilitator (St. Thomas STELAR)

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# Student Success Site: Development Process Considerations

**STELAR Blog** <https://blogs.stthomas.edu/stelar/> for blogs on this and other topics!

1. Articulate the goals and identify ways to assess the goals of the site.
2. Create a clear home page and simple site navigation so students start and stay with it.
3. Design resources that are accessible to all students, not just some students.
4. Offer a variety of ways that students can engage in their learning.
5. Embed welcome, equity and anti-bias messages into these resources.
6. Plan an effective introduction of the resource to students so that they know how to find it and why to use it.
7. Involve the faculty, staff, and student leaders connected to the student experience.
8. Apply a framework of continuous learning that will help you reach your goals and grow systemic capacity.