

# Yellowdig Startup Guide

To obtain the best results in your Yellowdig community, we highly recommend completing the [Instructor Certification Course](#) developed by Yellowdig if you have not already. It is self-paced and should take about an hour to complete. We have found that it makes a big difference in helping your community get started on the right foot.

If you haven't yet, [join the UCF Yellowdig Faculty Community](#). This is a great place to ask questions and pick up some tips from other teachers.

All of these steps are covered in the [Enabling and Set Up of Yellowdig in Webcourses@UCF video](#).

1. To use Yellowdig in your course, you must first enable it by going to the [Navigation under Settings](#) and clicking Enable. Then you will see the Yellowdig tool appear in the course navigation menu.
2. Create a single Assignment which will account for the entire semester of participation in Yellowdig. Set the Submission Type to External Tool and find and select Yellowdig from the list of tools. We encourage making sure the "Load in a New Tab" is selected to help give users a larger view of the community. Note that if you have imported the Yellowdig assignment from a previous course section, you will need to access the assignment to create the new community.
3. Within the assignment you created, click the link to set up the Yellowdig community within your course. Choose the appropriate community organization based on your course modality:
  - a. **DL Fee Eligible (Less than 20% in person classroom)**: For courses with modalities **MR, W, RL, RS, VL, and V**
  - b. **P/M/ML Modalities**: For courses with modalities **P, M, and ML**

When creating your Yellowdig community, please make sure to include the course modality in the community's name, e.g. "**CLP4390-24Fall 0W60**" or "**Leadership Theories & Concepts (LDR4115-24Fall 0W60)**".

4. If you've used Yellowdig in a previous semester or section of this course, you can [copy settings and/or content from the previous Yellowdig community](#) into the new community.
5. After establishing your Yellowdig community, [set up the earning windows](#). When you select a start date and end date for students to participate during the semester, it will generate weekly earning windows by default. Click to View/Edit Periods to review the first and last day of the earning windows to ensure they are starting and ending on the day you want. To adjust, change the last day of the semester in which students can earn points. Note that you can [merge earning periods](#) (For instance, you might want two-week earning periods instead of one-week).
6. Review the [point system](#). (It's recommended to stick with the default points.)

7. Configure your [topics](#). These topics should be thematic or global (“counterpoint,” “muddiest point”). Consider having a “Questions” no-points topic so students can select that topic if they have questions that others can answer. You can then filter by that topic and give Accolades to the students who have correctly answered a question.
8. Configure your [accolades](#) to recognize students for exemplary contributions. It’s important to dole out accolades early in the course.
9. [Set your preferred notifications](#) within Yellowdig.
10. Introduce Yellowdig in [your syllabus](#).
11. Make sure you have the latest version of the *Yellowdig FAQ* page in your course. This page answers the main questions that students might have about Yellowdig, most notably about grading and where to go for technical help. The Yellowdig FAQ page can be pulled in from the [Templater tool](#). In your course, add the FAQ page to a module or link to it from the syllabus, another page, and/or the Yellowdig assignment.
12. Consider creating weekly or bi-weekly [events in the course calendar](#) or [non-graded assignments](#) as reminders for students to post in the community.
13. Create your own [introduction post within your Yellowdig community](#) and record a quick video. [Pin the post](#) to the top for the first week or two.
14. Ask students to post their own introductions in the Yellowdig community the first week of class to get the ball rolling.
15. Consider sharing the [Yellowdig Student Guide](#) to help your students understand and interact with Yellowdig. We recommend creating a post in your community to share the PDF and [using the “@community” feature](#) to notify your students.
16. Check out the [top ten lessons learned](#) from UCF faculty who have used Yellowdig before!

**If you have thoughts or questions, feel free to post them in our [Yellowdig Faculty Community](#). You can always reach out to Webcourses@UCF Support ([webcourses@ucf.edu](mailto:webcourses@ucf.edu)) for additional support, as well as Bob from Yellowdig for [one-on-one consultations](#).**