

SB-1 redefines "syllabus" and creates specific reporting requirements

- 4 elements:
 - The name of the course instructor;
 - A calendar for the course outlining what materials and topics will be covered and when during the course they will be covered;
 - A list of any required or recommended readings for the course;
 - The course instructor's professional qualifications.
- Syllabus must be posted on the first day of the semester, remain for not less than 2 years
- Accessible to the public without user registration
 - No more than 3 clicks from main page of the institution's website
 - Searchable by keywords and phrases
 - Undergrad courses only
- Institution has to prepare a written report regarding compliance to Chancellor



OAA & OTDI selected SimpleSyllabus to meet these requirements in Summer 2025 – Implementation Committee charged with how to set it up

- All Ohio public institutions have chosen to use SimpleSyllabus
- Many other institutions nationwide are using it
- Simple Syllabus Implementation Committee (SSIC) charge: Prepare systems and train faculty for the transition to a standard syllabus format to comply with SB-1's transparency requirements and protect academic freedom. Tasks include:
 - Decide upon what content must be included and what should not be included in a standard syllabus and create corresponding template to comply with SB-1's changes to [Ohio Revised Code §3345.029](#)
 - Further develop template to allow for individual program needs (e.g. accreditation requirements)
 - Develop and provide trainings on how to use the new Simple Syllabus system
- Membership includes representatives from most colleges, USG, CGS, and OTDI (posted on [SB-1 compliance website](#))



Issues addressed so far by SSIC

- **How much content will be public?**
 - Adhere as closely as possible to legal requirements of SB-1 in university-level template (no extra information)
- **What about all the other content that people usually put in a syllabus?**
 - Privately available to students, instructors, others involved in the course
 - Labeled as "Other Course Information" provided either in SimpleSyllabus or Canvas at instructor's discretion
 - Some data pulled automatically from SIS or Canvas into private "Other Course Information"
- **What about programs that have accreditation or legal requirements for additional content?**
 - Subcommittee reviewing these requirements
 - Most content can live in "Other Course Information"
 - Programs like Nursing with legal requirements for syllabus content can add additional fields in their college-level template for SimpleSyllabus



Issues addressed so far by SSIC

- **Who can edit content in SimpleSyllabus?**

- Instructors and TA's will have access
- Departments can request OTDI give additional access to instructional designers, course directors, or lead instructors to edit content and avoid duplication of effort
- Instructors can import their own content from previous semester, and can give permission for another instructor to import their content
- Graduate courses will not be available in public search (not required by SB-1)
- Graduate course instructors have the option to use SimpleSyllabus
- University-wide policies listed as links, not full text
- Instructor qualifications available as a free-text field, with ODHE guidance provided in help text
- Monthly messaging to university community in Faculty Affairs email newsletters



Next Steps and Timeline

- SimpleSyllabus is building beta version by end of February – to be beta tested by Bookends courses in 2nd term of Spring
- OTDI targeting SimpleSyllabus availability to all instructors in early April for Autumn 2026 courses with relevant data imported from Canvas and SIS
- Committee, OTDI to develop training resources and help text within SimpleSyllabus to guide colleges, departments, and instructors
- Committee to make recommendations to offices, Senate, other committees regarding policy changes to adapt to new definition of "syllabus" in state law
 - e.g. Until university policies can be updated to align with SB-1's definition of "syllabus," it is understood that syllabus requirements can be met by providing information EITHER in the syllabus or in "Other Course Information" provided in Carmen Canvas or Simple Syllabus.
 - e.g. UG independent study courses (X19X, X99X) are required to post syllabi, depts should create a generic one that instructors can use



Questions?

