

## Instructional Media Center Missouri Western State University



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Visit us on the web  
[www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/)

### IMC Highlights

The IMC welcomes two new staff members:

Levi Neely is our Applications Programmer. Levi creates and customizes programs/applications for all campus needs. You may contact Levi at x4178 or [lneely1@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:lneely1@missouriwestern.edu)

Kevin Walsh is our part time Technician. Kevin offers support for the Northlands, Downtown Center and the Prison. You may contact Kevin at [kwalsh@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:kwalsh@missouriwestern.edu)

Missouri Western is currently seeking a Director and an Assistant Director for the Center for Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CALT). The center's support services will include: the Instructional Media Center, Study Away, Applied Learning, and First Year Experience Programs. The center will provide faculty, instructional support staff and administrators, as well as entire operating units access to, training for and assistance in implementing traditional, innovative and creative approaches to improve teaching effectiveness and enhance student learning.

Look for our next newsletter coming out in late June.

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### Tip of the Month

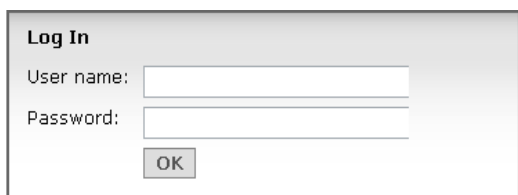
- With the hot summer temperatures upon us, it is important to remember that your portable devices, such as your laptop, cell phone, media player, etc., can be very sensitive to extreme temperatures. Don't forget other items which can also be effected such as disks, flash drives, videotapes, etc.  
In order to avoid damage to any portable electronic devices, try not to leave them in a hot car or any another area where the climate might rise above room temperature.
- Class Climate is available for all faculty and staff members to create surveys, collect data, conduct evaluations, etc. For assistance with any of the features Class Climate offers, please contact Cindy Wells at x4172 or [cwells5@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:cwells5@missouriwestern.edu) or Michelle Ritter at x5889 or [michend@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:michend@missouriwestern.edu)

- With summer upon us, the conference season is inevitably close behind. Classroom Services is happy to provide many of the pieces of equipment that you may need to present at a conference, including portable projectors, laptops, portable screens, and DVD players. All of these items are relatively small and lightweight, making them easy to transport to wherever you may be heading.

Although this resource is limited to University-related conferences and events, our staff is always willing to consult with you in order to best identify your needs. Once you have requested and reserved the equipment we will personally train you on the set-up and use of any technology you are not completely comfortable with.

Simply call our office at x4395 during our normal summer office hours, 8:00am to 4:30pm, or e-mail us anytime at [classroomservices@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:classroomservices@missouriwestern.edu) and we will be happy to assist you.

- Blackboard/WebCT has been updated to version 8. Several of the issues found with past versions of Blackboard/WebCT have been rectified and several of the course tools have been improved.
- All Blackboard/WebCT summer and fall courses should be available to instructors. Due to instructor request, students cannot view their summer courses until May 30, 2008. Please contact Cindy Wells immediately if this presents an issue.
- Content and material can be moved from past courses into current summer or fall courses with just a few mouse clicks. Courses taught in the older version of WebCT 4.1 are still available and all content can be converted to the new Blackboard/WebCT version. Contact Cindy Wells at x4172 or [cwells5@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:cwells5@missouriwestern.edu) for assistance with these moves or any other issues.
- If two courses need to be cross listed, please contact Tracy Sharp in the Registrars office at x4228. Cross listing allows two courses to view the same material, so any changes have to be made only once and will take effect in both courses. It is important that cross listing is completed before the online course material is created. If there are any questions, please contact Cindy Wells at x4172 or [cwells5@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:cwells5@missouriwestern.edu).
- When working in WebCT on computers other than the computer labs on campus, make sure to 'Check Browser' on each computer you will be working on.



The screenshot shows a 'Log In' form with two input fields: 'User name:' and 'Password:'. Below the password field is an 'OK' button.

**Browser Check**

Before logging in, it is highly recommended that you perform a browser check to see if your computer is properly configured to use the Blackboard Learning System.

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If there are any errors, there will be a red X and instructions on how to correct them.

## Educational Television Services, Danielle Hunt x4298 [hunt@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:hunt@missouriwestern.edu)

- Over the next few months, we're creating video segments highlighting academic departments for use on "Western Reports", the campus magazine-style television program. Let us know if you're interested in participating or have unique events occurring we might be able to use as opportunities for file footage. Email us at [television@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:television@missouriwestern.edu) or contact Kevin McQuirter, x5662 or [kmcquirter@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:kmcquirter@missouriwestern.edu)
- Planning an event that may be videotaped or televised and utilize PowerPoint? Contact us for help in setting up your presentation. Our video-friendly standards and templates will help you create a memorable presentation that reads easily and will wow your audience! Contact Tara Stoll for more information, x4171 or [stoll@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:stoll@missouriwestern.edu).
- Making arrangements for a campus event you may want video recorded? Contact Danielle Hunt to consult with you about your project needs, x4298 or [hunt@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:hunt@missouriwestern.edu)
- ETS recently aired a segment on Dr. Scanlon's upcoming retirement. It can be seen on the May edition of "Western Reports" which airs on MWTV, Channel 39 locally or on the Higher Education Channel, KHEN in Kansas City. MWTV viewing information can be found online at [www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/News/](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/News/)
- Interested in finding out when that Western television program airs you're interested in watching? All programming seen on Missouri Western Television is accessible via TV Guide. Current programming is available on *The TV Guide Channel* locally on St. Joseph Cablevision or online at [www.tvguide.com](http://www.tvguide.com) You can also access the same information on the IMC's website, [www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/ETS/tvproguide.html](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/IMC/ETS/tvproguide.html)

## Engineering Services, Jake Noyd x5877 [noyd@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:noyd@missouriwestern.edu)

- Classroom presentation is an ever-changing thing. Technology changes in both the consumer and broadcast markets are trickling into the educational realm, which can lead to challenges, one in particular being the aspect ratio of display devices.

The aspect ratio of an image is its width divided by its height. The aspect ratio of 1.33:1 or 4:3 has been used by broadcast television since its inception and has been our standard since our first "SMART" classroom was built. Now, with high definition, digital television and widescreen computer displays becoming more common, it's more difficult to support the varieties of aspect ratios in our campus classroom settings. The term "widescreen" has different meanings as it relates to computers, film and video.

So what should the aspect ratio be for projector display in the classroom? There's no clear-cut answer. For every argument in favor of one aspect ratio, there is an equally strong argument in favor of another. In the end, the aspect ratio that is usually chosen is the one that is easiest to support and best fits the typical source material.

Currently, 1.78:1 or 16:9 is the format that best fits the wide array of aspect ratios and resolutions in use in our campus learning environments. As HDTV becomes more common, hopefully this will become the dominant standard.