

Expanding Possibilities with PrairieLearn

Designing Interactive Assessments Across Disciplines

Celebrate Learning Week, May 9, 2025 | 12:00–1:30 PM

Facilitators: Dr. Fatemeh Salehian Kia (Faculty) & Kyla McCallum (Graduate Student)

Workshop Overview

This session introduces **PrairieLearn**, an open-source assessment platform that supports scalable, randomized, and interactive assessments. Designed to support both traditional and innovative pedagogy, PrairieLearn enables:

- Immediate feedback on practice and assessment tasks
- Flexible question design with autograded code, diagrams, SQL, and more
- Scalable grading and analytics, even in large classes

The workshop includes a live demo, a research spotlight, and a breakout activity using synthetic trace data.

Agenda

12:00–12:10 – *Welcome & Introduction*

Overview of PrairieLearn’s core features and how to request a course at UBC.

12:10–12:25 – *Demo: PrairieLearn in Action*

Live walkthrough of interactive question types and assessment workflows.

12:25–12:35 – *Guest Demo: Dr. Ramon Lawrence (UBCO)*

How PrairieLearn is used in large database courses, including gamified live quizzes.

12:35–12:45 – *Research Spotlight: What the Literature Says*

PrairieLearn has been studied in terms of:

1. Scalability & Efficiency
2. Immediate Feedback Loops
3. Design Flexibility
4. Student Engagement
5. Instructor Analytics

12:45–1:10 – *Breakout Activity: What Can We Learn from the Data?*

Participants will join breakout groups to explore a synthetic dataset and generate research questions about learning behaviors.

- Access the [Dataset](#)
- Post Your Group's Questions on the [Padlet Board](#)

1:10–1:25 – Group Report-Out & Discussion

Each group shares highlights and insights.

1:25–1:30 – Resources & Wrap-Up

Links to documentation, case studies, and how to stay involved with PL at UBC.

About the Dataset

We created a **synthetic dataset** modeled after actual student interactions in a course. It includes:

- Two assignments
 - Ten students, each with interactions for both assignments
 - Trace data including:
 - Number of attempts
 - Duration per question
 - Auto-graded and manually graded scores
 - Submission performance
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Resources

- [PrairieLearn Documentation](#)
 - [PrairieLearn GitHub](#)
 - [PrairieLearn Support Slack](#)
 - [UBC Course Support & Integration \(LT Hub\)](#)
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