

UGC parameters and D2L Brightspace:

D2L Brightspace's Compliance with
Non-SWAYAM Parameters

Introduction



If you're an Indian institution aiming to launch a fully online university and offer courses digitally, you must either use the government's SWAYAM platform or select a compliant alternative.

This document outlines the specific provisions and parameters required by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and explains how D2L Brightspace meets and exceeds these compliance standards.

Provisions for assessment of a Non-SWAYAM platform

USER AND COURSE MANAGEMENT

User Management

The platform must facilitate:

- Role-based authentication
- User registration, profiling
- Personalized dashboards
- Activity analytics
- API integration with external apps and tools

Course Content Management

The platform must facilitate:

- All file types (PDFs, docs, MP3s, MP4s, etc.)
- E-learning formats
- Data collection

Personalized Learning Experience

The platform must facilitate:

- Personalized learning paths
- Set criteria for progression

BRIGHTSPACE PROVIDES

- ✓ User management, status updates on course and user progress, per-user analytics, and API/LTI integrations.
- ✓ All file types: PDFs, SCORM, xAPI bundles, audio, video, and external links, with data collection on user and course information.
- ✓ Personalized learning paths and progressive content disclosure using Release Conditions.

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

The platform must facilitate:

- Online chats
- Discussion forums
- User groups
- Built-in messengers

BRIGHTSPACE PROVIDES

- ✓ Groups, sections, discussion forums, instant messaging, and email are provided.

ASSIGNMENT AND QUIZ MANAGEMENT

The platform must facilitate:

- Creation of self-assessments and announcements
- All question types:
 - › Multiple choice
 - › Matching
 - › True/false
 - › Short/long answers

BRIGHTSPACE PROVIDES

- ✓ 11 question types with automatic grading for objective questions.

ACCESSIBILITY ACROSS DEVICES AND MOBILE LEARNING

The platform must support:

- Course access on:
 - › PCs
 - › Tablets
 - › Laptops
 - › Smartphones

BRIGHTSPACE PROVIDES

- ✓ A consistent, rich user experience across various devices.

SECURITY AND PRIVACY

The platform must facilitate:

- Privacy controls
- Protected logins
- Secure server locations for data safety

BRIGHTSPACE PROVIDES

- ✓ Data privacy and security, following OWASP principles and privacy-by-design approach.



Parameters for assessment of a Non-SWAYAM platform



USER FRIENDLINESS

Easy to use, proper navigation, appealing UX/UI

The UI/UX provides a rich, engaging experience that is easy to learn for those familiar with web-based browsing and applications.

Representation of content

Content can be represented in various formats, including text, graphics, animations, audio, video, tutorials, and case studies, etc.

Availability of interfaces and delivery mechanisms

Brightspace's responsive design adapts to any screen size and includes instant messaging, email, web conferencing, and audio/video capture.

Availability of proper internet connection in the case of web-based interfaces

Brightspace is a cloud-hosted application on AWS, requiring an internet connection and a standard browser, with a minimum bandwidth of 1.5Mbps.



CONTENT STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT

Production of content

Brightspace allows content creation using rich HTML editors built into the core platform.

Video/audio storage mechanisms

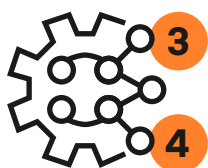
Video and audio can be stored locally on Brightspace (AWS servers) or linked from OneDrive or Google Drive.

Ease of access to content

Content is accessible via a standard internet connection and browser, without needing special tools or plugins.

Reliability and availability of content at all times

Brightspace consistently achieves 99.9% global uptime and often exceeds that mark.



SYNCHRONOUS INTERACTION

Via video/audio conferencing, live chat, and more

Brightspace enables synchronous learning with virtual classrooms, videoconferencing, chat, and whiteboard capabilities.

ASYNCHRONOUS INTERACTION

Via discussion forums, blogs and more

Discussion forums that support asynchronous learning are available in D2L Brightspace. This allows students 24/7 access and the ability to link to external websites and knowledge bases.



LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

With interactive content, activity management, group projects, and more

Brightspace supports interactive content, including quizzes, assignments, surveys, discussions, and group-based activities.

PEER GROUP INTERACTION

Via social media integration, group activities, breakout rooms, and more

Brightspace offers social media integration and group activities, with breakout rooms available through its virtual conferencing feature.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES/RESEARCH FORUMS



Collaboration among internal/external communities

D2L has an engaged learning community that provides input for Brightspace and D2L, influencing product development and roadmaps.

Collaboration methodology

There is an online community portal for both internal and external users.

8 ADAPTIVE LEARNING

With learning paths, skill gap analyses, and personalized content

Skill gaps can be identified using assessments, and learning can be personalized with Release Conditions in Brightspace.

9 GROUPING LEARNERS WITH DIFFERENT MENTORS

One mentor is to be assigned for 250 learners as per the regulations

The mentor role in Brightspace can be customized, assigning mentors to courses via sections and groups for any number of learners as needed.

10 DASHBOARD OPTIONS FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Including management, system admins, faculty, and students

Teachers have a course-specific dashboard for monitoring learners, and students can track their progress through Brightspace.

PROCTORED EXAMINATION METHODOLOGY



Online question bank management, paper setting, and valuations

Quizzes in Brightspace allow for online question banks and automatic objective evaluation, with subjective evaluation done by faculty.

Online student registrations and exam scheduling

Students can be registered and have schedules sent online.

Online generation of grades based on continuous evaluation

Grades can be updated at the end of the course or periodically, as determined by the instructor or institution.

Learner authentication

Learners authenticate with a user ID and password, with the option to add a remote proctoring layer for extra security

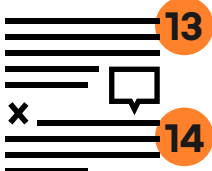


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EXAMINATION SUPPORT (MULTIPLE CHOICE AND SHORT/LONG ANSWER)

Via various question types, including multiple choice, short/long answer, and more.

There are 11 types of questions available for assessments, including multiple choice and short and long answers.



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PROVISIONS FOR THE CREATION, SUBMISSION AND GRADING OF ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

Via different types of assessments, including graded discussion forums

Assignments can be created and submitted online, with instructors able to grade, annotate, and provide written, audio, or video feedback.

ABILITY TO KEEP STUDENTS INFORMED ABOUT ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Via communication and notification features

The calendar tool and notifications inform students about upcoming deadlines and assignments, while Intelligent Agents track progress and activities.



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PLAGIARISM CHECK PROVISIONS

Via plagiarism monitoring and evaluation

Plagiarism detection is available through the integration of tools like Turnitin and Urkund.



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METHODOLOGY FOR ONLINE PAYMENT GATEWAY

Via integrated payment gateway services

The institution's website has a course catalog for users to select courses and purchase using a payment gateway.



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FLEXIBILITY

Browsers supported

Brightspace works with the latest versions of Apple® Safari®, Google® Chrome™, Microsoft® Edge, and Mozilla® Firefox®.

Main site having responsive design

Brightspace's responsive design adapts to any mobile, desktop, or tablet screen size.



SUPPORT FOR THE FOUR-QUADRANT APPROACH

Quadrant-I is e-Tutorial:

Includes organized multimedia content such as video and audio files, animations, simulations, video demonstrations, virtual labs, and video transcriptions.

Brightspace delivers structured content, including audio, video, HTML, SCORM, and xAPI bundles, with video transcriptions and audio/video-reader capabilities for accessibility.

Quadrant-II is e-Content:

Includes digital self-learning materials, e-books, illustrations, case studies, presentations, web resources, related links, open-source content, videos, books, research papers, historical subject information, and more.

Digital content is delivered in a self-learning mode, including case studies, e-books, presentations, videos, audio, or external links.

Quadrant-III is the Discussion forum:

This area allows for real-time doubt clarification by the course coordinator or team.

Collaboration is facilitated through discussion forums and instant messaging, allowing students to interact with peers and instructors, with no automatic restriction on the number of participants, set by the administrator or institution.

Quadrant-IV is Assessment:

Includes multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short- or long-answer questions, quizzes, assignments, and solutions, with discussion forums for FAQs and clarifications.

Brightspace offers 11 question types for subjective and objective assessments, usable in assignments, evaluations, tests, and exams.



PROVISION OF ONLINE AWARD OF CERTIFICATES/DEGREES

Via online access to certificates for students

Certificates can be awarded through the application as required.



PROPOSED METHODOLOGY TO TRAIN THE FACULTY TO EFFECTIVELY DESIGN, DEVELOP AND DELIVER MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (MOOCS)

Via training and professional development for faculty

Brightspace can train instructors on designing and developing MOOCs through its learning program.



SECURITY FEATURES FROM TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY PERSPECTIVES

Available at all levels including IP tracking of the learner

Each user IP can be tracked by an administrator.



SCALABILITY

Maximum users

Brightspace is cloud-hosted and scalable, with no limit on the number of users.

Number of users able to log in simultaneously

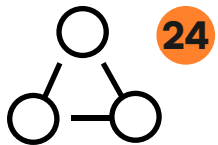
The platform allows for unlimited simultaneous logins, supporting millions of learners worldwide.



PROPOSED METHODOLOGY TO ENSURE THAT THE FACULTY ENGAGES WITH, MOTIVATES AND ASSESSES STUDENTS

Through continuous engagement with learners through a variety of methodologies and activities

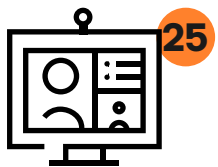
Brightspace offers personalization and engagement tools for faculty, including Intelligent Agents, personalized feedback, gamification, and badges.



PROVISION FOR AN APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONAL SETUP IN THE HEI FOR MAINTAINING AND RUNNING THE PLATFORM

Including a centralized structure for management

Organizations and sub-organizations can be set up as needed on the platform.



PROPOSED METHODOLOGY TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF COURSES

High-quality, consistent content

Brightspace enables collaboration among instructors, content developers, and quality auditors to ensure course quality and consistency.








D2L BRIGHTSPACE

ABOUT D2L

D2L is a global learning innovation company, reshaping the future of education and work. We're leading the way into a new era of personalized learning, driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to high-quality education, regardless of their age, ability or location. Our signature technology product—D2L Brightspace—enhances the learning experience for millions of learners at every stage of life, from the earliest days of school to the working world.

Learn more at D2L.com

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