



Simple Syllabus Implementation Committee Update  
4/22/2026  
Ajit Chaudhari & Sue Sutherland



## SB-1 redefines "syllabus" and creates specific reporting requirements (ORC §3345.029)

- 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 submits a written report regarding compliance to Chancellor (June 30)



## 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](#))



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## 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 "Course Details" provided either in SimpleSyllabus or Canvas at instructor's discretion
  - Some data pulled automatically from SIS or Canvas into private "Course Details"
- **What about programs that have accreditation or legal requirements for additional content?**
  - Most content can live in "Course Details"
  - Programs like Nursing with legal requirements for syllabus content can add additional fields in their college-level template for SimpleSyllabus



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## 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



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## Issues addressed so far by SSIC

- Beta test completed in March
  - Bookends courses, SSIC members, other volunteers
  - All colleges except for Dentistry represented
  - Surveys for students, instructors
- Latest updates on [Faculty Affairs](#) and [SB1 Compliance](#) websites
- Guidance text for public-facing and other fields within Simple Syllabus



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## Next Steps and Timeline

- Committee to evaluate how to present AI policy for the course
- OTDI targeting SimpleSyllabus availability to all instructors on April 23 for Autumn 2026 courses with relevant data imported from Canvas and SIS
- Committee, OTDI developing job aids, videos, workshops to guide colleges, departments, and instructors (register in BuckeyeLearn)
- All technical help requests will be handled directly by OTDI at [syllabus@osu.edu](mailto:syllabus@osu.edu)
- 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 "Course Details" 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

