

Tech Snacks: The Pulse App

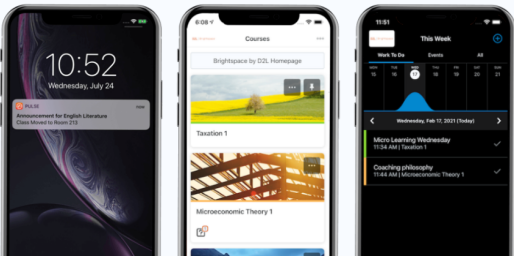
The Brightspace Pulse App is a mobile app that is available for both Android and Apple devices. During Brightspace orientation sessions, OTLE strongly encourages students to sign up for Brightspace notifications — either through text messages, emails, or the Pulse app. In our annual Brightspace survey, 67% of students who took the survey found the app helpful or very helpful.

The Pulse App: Stay Up-to-date on the Go!

Pulse helps you stay connected and on track with your Brightspace courses!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



What is the Pulse App used for?

Many of our students choose to download the Pulse App for Brightspace notifications instead of signing up for text and/or email notifications. Sometimes there is a disconnect on what the students expect from the app and what the app can actually do for them.

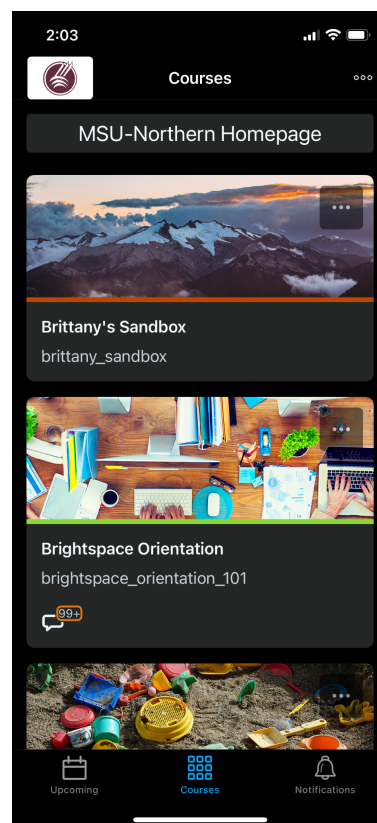
What do students see?

The Pulse App allows students limited access to their Brightspace courses. Students don't have access to everything they normally would when using the browser, but they do have access to the following:

Home Page with Course List — Upon logging in, students will see a “Courses” homepage that will have all the courses they are currently enrolled in.

Calendar — On the homepage, there is also a “Calendar” button that will display the Brightspace Calendar (with due dates, etc.).

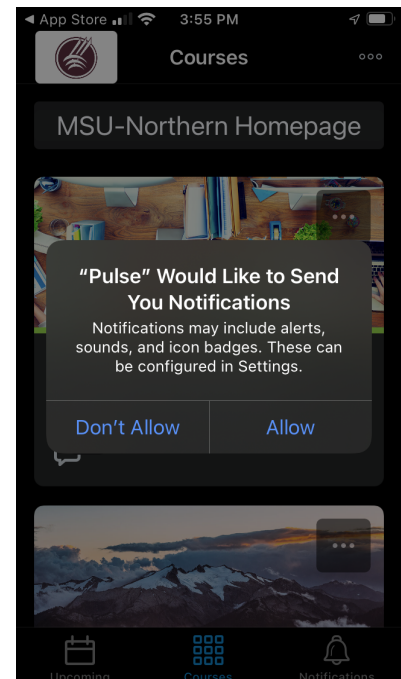
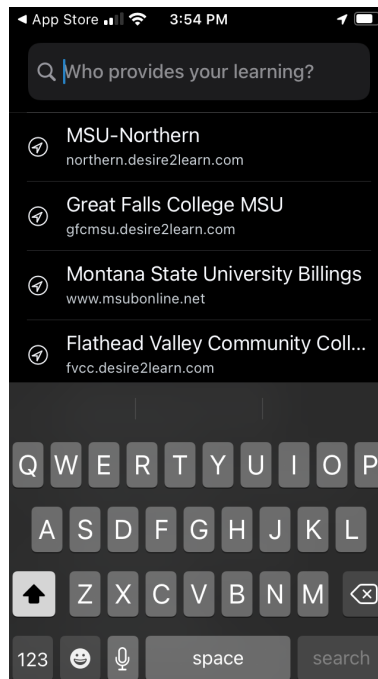
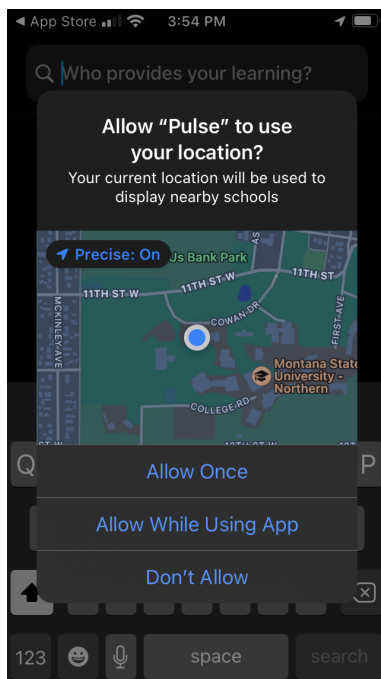
Notifications — Also on the homepage, there is a “Notifications” button that will show students all of the notifications they would see under the bell icon inside Brightspace.



Content — In each individual course, students have access to the Content Area, where they can see all of the content modules you have set up as the instructor. Here, students can click the different content you've linked in each module.

Grades — In each individual course, students can view their grades. This will only show them their grades for specific grade items, but it will give them the option to “View Grades in Browser” — which will bring up the comprehensive gradebook with feedback.

Logging in for the first time



Things to keep in mind

Pros:

- Provides students with instant push notifications to their mobile devices
- Provides an alternative to text and email notifications
- Is similar to InfiniteCampus — the platform high schools use to keep track of grades
- Includes a button that launches Brightspace in the browser

Cons:

- OTLE has no back-end way of “fixing” issues with the app
- Students can't access the Brightspace email tool from the app
- Students can't customize notifications in the app as they can within Brightspace
- The app does not make it easier to complete activities on a phone (Quizzes, etc.)