We’re pleased to introduce you to Google+, an online resource that helps you connect with people, find information, and share content— all in new ways. You can connect with everyone from colleagues to students to experts you have never met to share anything from research to opinions to videos. Use Google+ with simplicity and ease, from your computer, tablet or phone.

Where do I sign up?
To get started, visit [www.google.com/+](http://www.google.com/+). If you don’t have a Google account, this site will help you create one at no charge in just a few minutes.

How can Google+ help educators and faculty?
We’ve developed a number of tools that aid you in teaching, connecting, and searching.

### Hangouts
Hangouts let up to ten people enjoy a shared video conference, at no charge. Use this space for anything from collaborating with colleagues all over the world to holding foreign language labs with several students.

- Hold **office hours** with groups of students without having to tramp across campus in a snowstorm.

- **Bring speakers from around the world to your class** without having to pay for a flight or arrange difficult logistics.

- Give **off-campus lectures** without actually heading off-campus.

- Keep up with campus life by posting a public **Named Hangout** to check in with students.

- Share your screen and Google Docs on **Hangouts with extras**.

- You can even join Hangouts from your **mobile phone**.

### Instant Upload
With your permission, your Android phone can send photos that you take on your device straight to your private web album on Google+, ready to share as you see fit.

- Have students in your journalism class take photos on a **campus photo hunt** to post to the class.

- Post **photos from your conferences and talks** in real-time.
### Circles

Circles make it easy to organize your online world by putting different people in their own groups.

- Put your ECON 101 students in one circle, department colleagues in another, grant and research folks in another – then easily post different updates to each Circle.

- You can create as many Circles as you want and change (or abandon) any of them whenever you want. If you post something to someone in two circles, **they only receive it once**.

- Instead of printing handouts, share info with students through Circles created for each class. Conversations on your stream are archived, so you can share them later with new students.

- Create **Circles of other professionals** working on relevant research topics to stay current with ongoing work in your field.

### Stream

Your Google+ **Stream** is where you publish updates, photos, links, news and events. It’s also the place to see all the posts that people in or out of your Circles have shared with you. Google+ lets you easily select the sources of your Stream.

- Encourage students to comment on **content you’ve shared** to foster class engagement on topics of interest.

- **Finish the discussion you started in class** by posting an update to all or some of the students in your stream.

### Search

Type your search term into the Google+ search box, and your results will include Google+ public posts (including your own), trending topics from the web, and people (whom you can add to your Circles).

- Use search to **find class starters**. For a lesson on the “iron curtain” you might find an interesting story about Berlin when the wall went up or old photos from Eastern Europe.

- **Stay current on trending topics**. Search for “occupy” and find some of the latest news, links and pics about the financial sector protests.

- **Follow interesting people**. Find an old classmate from your PhD program or an expert you’ve never met; connect with them both.