

Google+

Getting Started

WHAT IS GOOGLE+

Google+ is a social networking application integrated into the Google Apps suite. If you are a faculty, staff, or student at UAF, you have access to the entire suite of [Google Apps for Education](#). Accessing Google+ and creating a profile for yourself opens a wide range of possibilities for you and for your students to share, communicate, and discuss things related to your course or its content. Once you've created a Google+ profile, you can use Google Hangouts, Chat, Communities, Pages, and YouTube along with text, links, and photos to share and collaborate.



GETTING STARTED WITH GOOGLE+

When you log in to any of the [Google products](#) (i.e., Google mail, Google Drive, Google Calendar) you will see a "+Me" or your "+first name". Click on this and you will be taken to the Google+ profile set up.



Add your profile information. You choose what you want to include. There is an option to see exactly what others will see. Located at the top of the profile page, select View profile as Yourself, Public or enter a name of someone in one of your circles.

Use Circles to organize your collection of connections. Create circles for individual classes, units, peers, family, project partners and other groups. People can be in more than one circle. Circles make it easy to quickly communicate with a group. You also have the option to share a circle, making it easier for a class of students to connect with one another.

HOW CAN I USE G+ WITH STUDENTS?

- invite your students to join a community where you share announcements, resources for your course, or current events that relate to the class topic
- create a detailed profile to give students a better understanding of who you are
- ask students to post questions for an upcoming lecture or review questions for an exam

HOW CAN I USE G+ IN MY PROFESSION?

- join a professional community that is interested in like-minded topics
- find others who share your interests
- promote your program by creating a program page
- create a public or private community for an event

USING G+ HANGOUT

- have a synchronous conversation (office hours, consultation, exam review)
- invite a remote speaker to join the class
- share documents for collaborative writing or planning projects
- connect with colleagues when in-person meetings are not possible
- introduce faculty to newly admitted students so you can begin forming associations before classes start
- when students run into technical troubles, ask them to share their computer screen with you for helping to troubleshoot misunderstandings

RESOURCES

- Getting started and Google+ help: <http://www.google.com/+learnmore/>
- Use Google+ in a smart and safe way <http://www.google.com/+safety/>