

Using Piazza in the Spring 21 Semester

[Piazza](#), a wiki-style discussion board plug-in for Blackboard, has recently changed their licensing structure, moving from a predominately free service to a paid service. **As a result, there are some short-term - yet critical - steps necessary to keep your course available for students during the spring semester.**

Faculty leveraging Piazza must use the “contribution-supported” option from their Manage Class page so they are not prompted to purchase a license. The University will be exploring licensing options through the semester for a longer-term solution.

1. Faculty will see new license options in 2021 classes (this will not appear in older class sections). Once in a 2021 class, faculty must use the “contribution-supported” option to ensure Piazza correctly functions in the upcoming term.

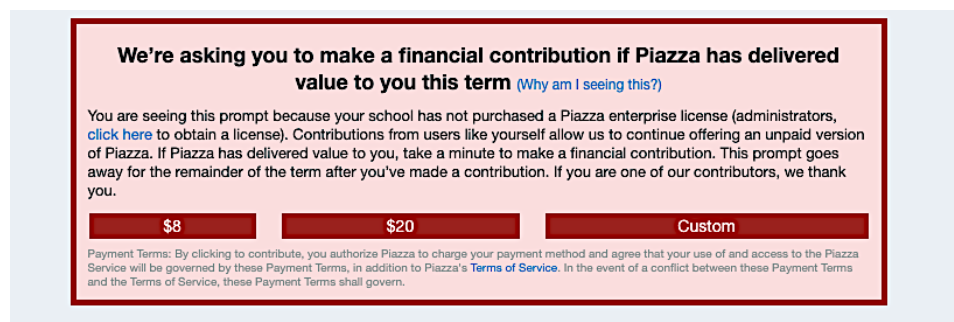
Piazza License: Instructor license Contribution-supported Non-class K-12/Waived

- ↳ Users are prompted to make an optional financial contribution if they find this service valuable. Once they make a contribution, the prompt will no longer be displayed for the remainder of the term.
- ↳ Students see prompts to make \$4, \$5 and \$8 contributions, instructors see prompts to make \$8, \$20 and custom contributions.

Piazza has set Mason’s default to “contribution-supported” for new classes, so faculty will see this license type selected by default in their classes created after this point. If faculty have already created their course, they should be able to edit their license from the Manage Class page.

2. Within the “contribution-supported” option, both faculty and students will see a version of this message. The prompts appear to all users, though with different dollar (\$) amounts. Students see prompts for \$4, \$5, \$8. Instructors see the graphic below (this is Piazza’s best alternative to an ads-model).

Faculty should communicate to students that they should not feel obliged to make a contribution; the service will continue regardless of contributions.



We're asking you to make a financial contribution if Piazza has delivered value to you this term [\(Why am I seeing this?\)](#)

You are seeing this prompt because your school has not purchased a Piazza enterprise license (administrators, [click here](#) to obtain a license). Contributions from users like yourself allow us to continue offering an unpaid version of Piazza. If Piazza has delivered value to you, take a minute to make a financial contribution. This prompt goes away for the remainder of the term after you've made a contribution. If you are one of our contributors, we thank you.

\$8 \$20 Custom

Payment Terms: By clicking to contribute, you authorize Piazza to charge your payment method and agree that your use of and access to the Piazza Service will be governed by these Payment Terms, in addition to Piazza's [Terms of Service](#). In the event of a conflict between these Payment Terms and the Terms of Service, these Payment Terms shall govern.

More information about this change can be found directly within Piazza’s Support articles: [Paid Model for Piazza Q&A](#).