

Release Overview

The new version of Blackboard includes a number of enhancements.

New Interface:

Blackboard 9 uses a web 2.0 interface that allows you to:

- Drag-and-drop items to rearrange content
- Select drop-down menus
- Access page-specific help information

New Course Home Page:

Each new course opens to a course home page that contains new modules such as:

- "What's New"
- "To Do"

This home page automatically updates when changes are made and provides information on:

- Content changed in the course since the student last visited
- Items requiring the students' attention
- Items past due or are due in the near future

Faculty are able to:

- Customize the home page
- Drag-and-drop the modules
- Select their desired course entry point

Improved course management workflow:

Course Content:

- Editing tools are now embedded throughout the course
- Options accessible from any location within the course
- The Control Panel is available on the main course menu
- Mashups pull data easily from YouTube videos, SlideShare presentations, and Flickr photos

Course Menu:

- Drag-and-drop items to change their order
- Items are visible to the student by default.

Course and Communication Tools:

- Both tools have been combined into a single Tool area.

Confirmation Messages:

- Confirmations now display on the same page where the changes were made.

Automatic Notification:

- Students and instructors can opt to be notified via email when changes are made to the course/organization.

Easier Group Creation:

- Instructors can now create any number of groups at once
- Students can be assigned randomly to groups
- Students can create and join groups themselves
- Instructors can modify or restrict access to student-created groups

Communication and collaboration:

The Discussion Board has two enhancements to streamline grading and create consistency.

- Instructors can clearly identify and grade users who are members of Groups participating in group discussions.
- Instructors can enter grades, comments, and feedback when viewing Discussions similar to the experience in Wikis Blogs, and Journals.

File Collection and Exchange:

- Digital Drop Box is no longer available
- Groups now have a new file exchange tool
- You can now choose to deploy Assignments to individuals or groups

Assignments:

Group Assignments:

- Assign a single grade to all of the students in a group
- Override group grade for individual students

Multiple Attempts:

- Students can now submit multiple attempts for the same assignment
- Instructors can grade and comment on each attempt individually
- Instructors can allow specific students to submit an additional attempt
- When a student submits an assignment, Blackboard will automatically rename the file using a standard file naming convention

Assessment and Grade Center

Creating and taking Tests have several enhancements to reduce errors and increase efficiency.

- Test-takers are reminded to submit answers before they are allowed to leave a test.
- Random Blocks and Question Sets are both available for instructors to add groups of questions to tests. Random Blocks pull questions into a test from a pool based on certain criteria. They are dynamic and reflect changes to the question pool. Question Sets are static and are made up of specific questions selected to be in the Question Set used in the Test.
- Question and response statistics are displayed for each question on the Assessments Attempts page.

The Grade Center has been enhanced to improve grading efficiencies and reduce errors.

Instructors can color code Grade Center cells that meet certain criteria such as grade threshold, exempted grade and so on. This new feature helps instructors spot trends and action areas in large Grade Centers.

Grade Center: Full Grade Center

Create Column Create Calculated Column Manage Reports Filter Discover Content Work

Move To Top Email Set Columns By: Layout Position Order: Ascending Hide Color

Grade Information Bar Last Saved: May 13, 2011

Last Name	First Name	Practice Quiz	Your ocean is...	Chapter 2 Assig	Chapter 3 Assig	Submit Un
Akbar	Mina	38.00	9.00			-
Brown	Tony	42.50	7.00			-
Casper	Chris	40.00	8.00			-
Drama	Dan	50.00	7.00			-
Dubois	Alyssa	42.50	8.00			-
Farrell	Andy	33.00	6.00			-
Freedman	David	32.00				-
Gonzales	Monica	56.00	10.00			-
Hernandez	Juan	57.00	9.00			-
Ibrahim	Kamel	55.00	9.50			-