What is Blackboard?

Blackboard is a learning management system (LMS). It allows students and faculty to participate in classes delivered online or use online materials and activities to complement face-to-face teaching.

Blackboard enables instructors to provide students with course materials, discussion boards, virtual chat, online quizzes, an academic resource center, and more. The degree to which Blackboard is used in a course varies. In some courses, instructors may use Blackboard to supplement their on-campus class by uploading the class syllabus and course/study materials to Blackboard. Other courses may be conducted entirely through Blackboard, without any on-campus sessions. The use of Blackboard is optional though so check with the instructor of a course to find out if it will be used in your specific course(s).

Why would a student or faculty member use Blackboard?

Faculty members that use Blackboard have student access to online resources that wouldn't otherwise be available to them. Below are just a few examples.

- Get access to course materials online: Faculty can post copies of the course syllabus, PowerPoint slides, study materials and more for students to download.
- Submit assignments online: Students can submit assignments online. Faculty members can grade and make notes on those assignments without having to print them.
- Take tests online: A professor can create an exam students take completely online that can be graded instantly. No need to fuss with scantrons anymore.
- View grades online: Students can view all of their grades online and have a visual record of how they are doing in a course.
- Get access to interesting multimedia: Faculty can post videos and other multimedia in Blackboard to enhance the student learning experience.
- Attend class during weather related emergencies: With Blackboard Collaborate and other remote tools, a faculty member can hold class even when the university is closed due to inclement weather.
- Get to know your classmates: With tools like discussion boards and blogs, students can get to know each other and collaborate on class assignments online. They can ask questions about course content for example and have their peers assist them.

If you're a faculty member and want to learn more about the tools available in Blackboard and how they may enhance your course, contact the Faculty Technology Center.

Can faculty members use Blackboard for groups other than classes?

Blackboard classes can be configured for groups other than classes.

- Departments have created sites for all of the Majors and Minors. This allows departments to post announcements and events for students in specific areas of study.
- Departments have created Curriculum Committee and Promotion Committee sites, so materials can be posted for, reviewed by, and discussed prior to meetings.

How do I use Blackboard?

Various knowledge base articles are available right here! Use the menu on the left or the search box at the top right of the page to find the topic you are interested in learning more about.

Blackboard Training

Faculty: Training Classes for Faculty and Staff
Students: Contact Learning Support to schedule an in-person tutorial.
Where can I get help?

Get Help with Blackboard