Blackboard Learn Upgrade

Coming Spring Semester 2013

Facts for Faculty
Why Upgrade?

Blackboard 8 will no longer be available.

**Blackboard Learn** (aka Blackboard 9.1) has:

- Newer, more modern look, feel, navigation.
- Better performance.
- Enhanced and additional features to support the learning environment.
Upgrade Goals

• Consolidate Blackboard Learn University-wide (One BU)
  • Use one common LMS system.
  • Streamline course management for students.

• Improve Learning Management Services
  • Provide better support for pedagogy.
  • Provide better technical and support services.
Blackboard 8.0 → Blackboard Learn

Same basic functionality, but:

- Fewer clicks.
- More intuitive.
- Drag-and-drop content management.
- Customizable home page for each course.
About the Pilot

Goal: to test the conversion process and the functionality in a variety of contexts.

- 35 Different Courses
- 30 faculty, 2,064 students
- Schools/Colleges Represented
  - Represented—CAS, CFA, CGS, COM, ENG, LAW, MED, MET, SPH, and SED
  - Library new system rollout training
  - SAR and SSW are using Bb Learn in ODE
- 10 Graduate
- 23 Undergraduate
- 2 non-credit

- Class Size
  - CAS CH 101—900 Students
  - CAS WR 100—209 Students
  - MED—185 students
  - SPH Courses—between 30 and 60 Students
  - All others < 30 Students

- Sections
  - CAS WR 100 & CH 101—(Multiple sections)
  - All others are single section
Pilot Insights to Date

- There have been no systemic problems facing faculty/students.
- All reported issues are being resolved and analyzed for trends.
Implementation: Two Phases

1. Smoothly convert all Bb 8.0 courses to Blackboard Learn with all basic functionality.

2. Support faculty in the use of new tools and functions.
Training Cohorts

Faculty
- Full-time/Adjunct Faculty
- Instructors
- Doctoral Candidates/Teaching Fellows
- Course Directors (BUMC)

Staff
- Academic
- Librarians
- Administrative
- Help Desk
- Clerkship Coordinators (BUSM)

Students
- Undergraduate
- Graduate

Teaching Assistants
Ongoing Software Support

• Help Desk support for faculty and students.
  • E-mail: ithelp@bu.edu
  • Phone: 617-353-HELP (353-4357)
  • At 533 Comm Ave or the IT Help Center @ Mugar

• Expanded support model for faculty.
  • Educational Technologists [http://www.bu.edu/tech/consulting/edtech/](http://www.bu.edu/tech/consulting/edtech/)
  • Training partners in each school/college.

Faculty can use all support options at any point
Ongoing Pedagogy Support

Focuses on pedagogy and how new technologies can enhance pedagogy.

Provides training and support for the use of technology for range of faculty comfort/skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

Help provide technology training and support and advise on instructional design and development/production of technology.
Final Facts

- Blackboard Learn is new and better.
- Blackboard Learn for Spring courses is available in October.
- The upgrade has been managed with faculty input and leadership.

- There’s support: what you need when you need it.
  - For mechanics of use.
  - For pedagogy.
# Steering Committee Members

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College/Department</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Heineke, Janelle</td>
<td>SMG/CEIT</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Vaughan, Deborah W</td>
<td>MED</td>
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<td>Burstein, Leo</td>
<td>MET</td>
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<td>Carruthers, Jeffrey B</td>
<td>ENG (ECE)</td>
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<td>Coleman, Nancy</td>
<td>ODE</td>
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<td>Weigmann, Stefanie</td>
<td>LAW (Law Library)</td>
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<td>Dill, Dan</td>
<td>CAS (Chemistry)</td>
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<td>Dorfman, Jay</td>
<td>CFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eubanks, Ivan S</td>
<td>CAS (Writing)</td>
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<td>Jaramillo, Deborah Lynn</td>
<td>COM</td>
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<td>Leone, Cataldo W</td>
<td>SDM</td>
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<td>Norwich, Lorraine S</td>
<td>DOS (Disability Svcs.)</td>
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<td>Schadt, Robert W</td>
<td>SPH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withers, Paul</td>
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<td>Jaeckel, Roland</td>
<td>IS&amp;T</td>
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<td>Screnci, Domenic A</td>
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Questions?