

## **BLACKBOARD ULTRA EXPERIENCE**

The new Ultra experience is a completely redesigned interface with simplified, intuitive workflows, a modern look and feel, and an improved mobile experience. Everyone will see the new Ultra landing page and navigation.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW NAVIGATION**

#### **MODERN LOOK AND FEEL**

The overall design of Blackboard has not changed significantly in 9+ years. The new look and feel of Blackboard Ultra is clean and contemporary. Through simplified icons and a consistent visual design, the new Ultra experience feels modern and innovative.

#### **IMPROVED RESPONSIVENESS ON MOBILE DEVICES**

Blackboard Learn Ultra is designed to be fully responsive on a mobile device and to display consistently across devices. That means you will have a better experience when you log into Blackboard directly in the browser on your mobile device. Note that courses using the Original course view may be only partly mobile-responsive, and using a computer is recommended for submitting assignments or tests in a course using the Original course view.

#### **PROFILE TO MANAGE YOUR BLACKBOARD PERSONA**

Your Blackboard Profile lets you customize the information students see about you in your Blackboard courses. Edit your profile to add an image to represent you, add contact information, and modify your notification settings. Your profile image appears on course content pages, rosters, discussions, messages, and in the Activity Stream.

#### **ACTIVITY STREAM WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE ACTION FOR ALL OF YOUR COURSES**

On the Activity Stream, you can see what's new in all your courses and jump directly into course activities from the list! You don't need to dig through the system or miss submissions from students. You see a prioritized list of what's relevant to you, including updates to discussions, recent messages, and new student submissions to assessments. For a student, the Activity Stream also highlights upcoming or past due dates, newly added content, and recently posted grades.

#### **COURSE LIST DISPLAYS PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE COURSES IN A TIMELINE**

The new Courses page sorts your courses into a timeline so that you can focus on courses that are currently active. You can search for courses by name or filter the view. Courses you mark as a favorite will appear at the top of your course list, making it easy for you to access the courses you use most frequently.

You can even make courses visible or hide them from students right from your Courses list. You can no longer reorder your course list; courses are listed in alphabetical order.

## RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS VIA EMAIL ABOUT COURSE UPDATES

Stay up to date on activity in your courses with updated notifications. You will receive a daily digest of activities in any of your courses, based on your configuration of what notifications are important to you. You can also customize the notifications you receive in your Activity Stream and disable email notifications.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BLACKBOARD ULTRA COURSE VIEW

The Ultra Course View extends the benefits of the base navigation to courses with a cleaner, more modern design, easy-to-use workflows, and powerful new tools. All courses will continue to use the Original view by default, and faculty can choose whether to enable the Ultra Course View on one or more of their courses. Learn more about the Ultra Course View by watching the Ultra Course View Preview, or by attending an upcoming workshop.

### CLEAN, MODERN LOOK

The Ultra Course View is cleaner and more modern than the Original Course View. It is simpler to use and more intuitive, as well. Tools are contextual to reduce clicks and content appears in the course using peek layers that slide from the right.

### CONTENT DISPLAYED ON A SINGLE PAGE

Content is displayed on a single page within learning modules and folders that expand and collapse, so it is easier for students to find the content and assessments they need.

### ADD CONTENT WHEREVER YOU WANT

Quickly add files, links, assignments, and other content and assessments wherever you want! In addition to uploading files from your computer, you can also add content from cloud storage systems like OneDrive For Business, Dropbox, or Google Drive.

### ADD FILES VIA DRAG AND DROP

Quickly add files to your course by dragging them to the content panel of your course. You can drag one or multiple files, or even a folder (in some browsers). Learn more about creating content.

### BUILD COMPLEX CONTENT AS DOCUMENTS

While you can build your content primarily using uploaded files, the Ultra Course View includes a new content type, Document, that allows you to build complex pages with a mix of text, images, videos, and files. Documents are optimized for mobile devices, so you and your students can access them directly from a smartphone browser.

## BRAND NEW TEXT EDITOR

The brand-new text editor in the Ultra Course View is optimized to create content that is mobile-compatible, so that you and your students can access it directly from a smartphone browser. The text editor is simplified, but includes tools for formatting text, adding links and media, and embedding mathematical and scientific formulas in your text.

## ENABLE CONVERSATIONS FOR STUDENT QUESTIONS

If you enable Conversations for individual content items, students can discuss the content with you and their classmates. They can ask for help, share sources, or answer questions others have. As the conversation develops, it appears only with the relevant content. You can enable conversations for Documents, Assignments, and Tests.

## EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND ITEM VIEW FOR THE GRADEBOOK

The Item List is your new default view of the course gradebook. You can view all the coursework you have assigned and your grading progress. Quickly see how many students have submitted an assessment, how many you need to grade, and how many grades need to be posted. You also can see when you have completed grading an item.

Use the toggle in the upper left to switch from Item to Student Grid view. The Student Grid view is a traditional spreadsheet-like view of the Gradebook.

## KEEP GRADES PRIVATE UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO POST

In the Ultra Course View, you can control exactly when students are able to see the grades you have entered. Once you enter a grade, it is private until you Post it. You can post individual grades or wait and post all of the grades for a particular assessment at once.

## AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGN ZEROES FOR PAST DUE ASSESSMENTS

If your assessment has a due date enabled, Blackboard can automatically assign a zero to any student who does not submit the assessment by the due date. You can override the zero with a grade, of course, but the automatic zero can help students realize that they have missed a due date. While automatic zeros is enabled by default, you can disable it in the Gradebook settings.

## VIEW STUDENT PROFILE PHOTOS

Get to know your students with the new profile photos, which they can edit from their Profile in the global navigation menu. These photos appear in the Roster, Gradebook, Discussions, Conversations, Messages, and more.

## SET ACCOMMODATIONS ONCE FOR A STUDENT TO APPLY TO ALL ASSESSMENTS

In the Ultra Course View, you can set accommodations for a student once via the Roster, and then they will apply to all assessments in your course. Accommodations can affect due dates, by never marking a student's submission as late, or the time limit, by providing extra or unlimited time for assessments with a timer.

## **COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS APPEAR AS POP-UPS IN THE COURSE**

In the Ultra Course View, you cannot have announcements sent to students via email, like you can in the Original Course View. Fortunately, announcements appear in the Activity Stream along with other course updates. Announcements also appear as pop-ups for each student the next time they enter the course.

## **SEND MESSAGES INSTEAD OF EMAIL**

The Ultra Course View does not include the Send Email function that you may be used to in the Original Course View. Instead, send Messages. You and your students can send messages to each other, multiple people, or the entire class. Unlike sending an email in Original Course View, the Messages are kept in the system and can also be sent via email.