

Help

Blackboard and Pedagogy Survey

This survey is designed as both a research tool and a way to plan workshops for the Program for Online Teaching.

Please select the best answers based on your usage of Blackboard as of right now.

1. Most of your classes in Blackboard are:

fully online classes	39.5%	(17)
hybrids	16.3%	(7)
on campus classes	44.2%	(19)
TOTAL	100.0%	43

2. How long have you been using Blackboard?

one year or less	18.6%	(8)
1 - 3 years	30.2%	(13)
3 or more years	51.2%	(22)
TOTAL	100.0%	43

3. Which features of Blackboard do you use regularly? (check all that apply)

Digital Drop Box	27.9%	(12)
Gradebook	83.7%	(36)
Assignments	81.4%	(35)
Question Pools (used in Tests and Surveys)	41.9%	(18)
Scholar	4.7%	(2)
Messages	48.8%	(21)
Lecture Hall or Office Hours	14.0%	(6)
Glossary	4.7%	(2)
Internal Math Content	9.3%	(4)
Google Scholar	2.3%	(1)
MERLOT content	2.3%	(1)

4. Do you make invisible, or remove, features you aren't using for a class?

Yes	86.0%	(37)
No	14.0%	(6)
TOTAL	100.0%	43

5. Do you change or customize the Course Menu items (the Course Menu is the buttons or links in the left frame)?

Yes	93.0%	(40)
No	7.0%	(3)
TOTAL	100.0%	43

6. Do you run other websites or programs inside Blackboard, or that look like they are inside Blackboard? (An example might be an external URL linked from the Course Menu to another site.)

Yes	76.7%	(33)
No	23.3%	(10)
TOTAL	100.0%	43

7. Are you happy, in general, with Blackboard's Discussion Board?

Yes	34.9%	(15)
No	55.8%	(24)
TOTAL	90.7%	43

8. If you use the Discussion Board, do you run a separate forum for technical, FAQ or procedural issues?

Yes	34.9%	(15)
No	48.8%	(21)

- 1 I don't like Blackboard much, compared to ETUDES. The interface with ETUDES seems much more intuitive. There are many, many things I'd alter in Blackboard, given the chance. It is, however, very commonly used, and often familiar to our students. I would have stayed with ETUDES, except for the feeling of impending doom with it going to die pretty soon, and due to the strong encouragement of AIS staff to migrate to Bb.
- 1 I have all my handouts and project information on BB. Also I use it for announcements. The advantage for my students is that they have access to all the class information even if they lose their hard copies. The advantage for me is that I have backup.
- 1 I plan to use Blackboard for one onground course in the fall. I feel that the look of Blackboard could be improved. I use WebAssign for online homework, gradebook and discussion forums--it seems to me to be much easier for students to navigate. WebAssign can be embedded in Blackboard.
- 1 I use Blackboard for Announcements. I put syllabus, handouts and project guidelines in Course Content. This way my students have 24-hour access to the class info. No excuses!
- 1 I used Blackboard for the first time this semester. It was a great tool to be able to communicate with the students via e-mail and to post comments. However, I did find the gradebook in Blackboard to be very limiting and a bit frustrating in comparison to other grading programs I have used. Nevertheless, I will continue to use it until I know of another option available through MCC.
- 1 I'm a Mac user, and I don't feel that Blackboard interfaces well with Mac. I don't use many features of Bb because when I type in the windows it loses focus, repeatedly. Currently I cannot get the discussion forums to display correctly, and so I cannot tell which comments I have read, and which I have not. The help desk insisted that it was working properly, but last semester I didn't have this problem. I would either like to have the bugs fixed, and learn techniques for using Bb better, or move on to a more user friendly system with better support.
- 1 MCC should encourage the development of appropriate online courses by giving reassigned time for their development w contractually obligated measureable outcomes/courses. There should also be a premium paid for the first time that an online course is offered and that section should be limited in students numbers. In addition, we should be providing 24 hour service for all users of the system (students and instructors) and have an adequate staff to assist all instructors in preparing the course materials to include having them prepare ADA required materials.
- 1 Moodle is not a course management system I would be interested in whatsoever. It is cumbersome even to someone who has 40 hours of training.
- 1 One of the best features of Blackboard has been the Grademark tool. I use it all the time to grade written work. I'm not a huge fan of Blackboard but I'd be hesitant to move away from it without some analogue to Grademark. I guess if there were tracking functions in Google Docs, this might work?? The Gradebook is a nice feature but a total mess in Blackboard. Lots of room for improvement there - not sure how other CMS deal with this.
- 1 One of the negatives is the new structure of the discussion boards. It's very confusing that you have to expand a thread in order to see who has posted. It's not so easy to glance at the discussion board for new postings. I'm not sure how they thought this was an "improvement."
- 1 Overall, I am pleased with the functions offered in Blackboard. My primary goals in online teaching are to make all of my courses more user-friendly, challenging- yet fair, and to create the environment of a learning community (rather than academic isolation). I am constantly expanding my uses and my abilities in Blackboard to accomplish these goals.
- 1 Thank you :)
- 1 Thank you for asking.
- 1 Through a statewide technology group I am involved with, I am able to have a Moodle course hosted, so I will be experimenting with it in the coming year. So far, they (Blackboard and Moodle) don't seem so different.
- 1 Would definitely like a retooled discussion board in BB. That is the weak link, IMHO.

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