

Content Options

Item	An Item is a downloadable content item, such as a PowerPoint, PDF, Spreadsheet, Word Document, or image to which a description or other items may be attached. An item may contain multiple documents.
File	A link to a single file document such as a PowerPoint, PDF, Spreadsheet, or Word Document.
Image, Video, Audio	Allows instructors to attach a multimedia file to a Content Area.
Web Link	External link to a Web site or resource outside of Blackboard.
Learning Module	Provides access to multiple types of content through one access point. Content is accessed sequentially and follows a logical pace. Each page of the Learning Module builds on the learning experience of the previous page.
Lesson Plan	The Lesson Plan enables the instructor to develop course content by choosing from a variety of pre-formatted Content Information and Curriculum Resources options.
Syllabus	The Syllabus Builder provides step-by-step instructions for creating a dynamic, HTML-based syllabus or course outline.
Course Link	Link to another item within the same course.
Content Folder	Allows instructors to create an assignment with multiple types of content. Any Content Type or Tool can be placed in a Folder.
Blank Page	Creates a link, that when accessed by the student opens a new page with instructions, content descriptions, and/or attached documents.
Module Page	A page containing dynamic, personalized Course Entry Page that will help users keep track of tasks, tests, assignments, and new course content.
Mashups	<p>Mashups allow instructors to add course content from Web-based presentation, image and multimedia sites. Multimedia content may come from the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flickr: a site for viewing and sharing photographic images. • SlideShare: a site for viewing and sharing PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, or Adobe PDF Portfolios. • YouTube: a site for viewing and sharing online videos. • Kaltura Media Kaltura is a repository for instructor –created media. Instructors use the Kaltura Mash-up option to add this content into a Blackboard content area.

Assessment Options

Assignment	Assignments describe any content which will require a student to submit a completed document to back the instructor through the Grade Center. Assignments may be downloaded into a zip file for grading, or annotated and graded using the Inline Grading option.
Inline Grading	You can view, comment, and grade student-submitted assignment files without leaving the Grade Assignment page. Documents are converted to a format that is viewable inside the web browser. Supported document types that can be converted are Word (DOC, DOCX), PowerPoint (PPT, PPTX), Excel (XLS, XLSX), and PDF (PDF).
Tests, Surveys & Pools	Tests and surveys are used to measure student knowledge, gauge progress, and gather information from students. You can create tests and surveys and then deploy them in a course area. You assign points to test questions for grading evaluation, but survey questions are not scored. Blackboard evaluates tests automatically, and posts grades to the Grade Center. Blackboard retains all test and survey questions for re-use in another assessment. These repository is called a pool.
Item Analysis	Used in conjunction with Blackboard tests, Item Analysis provides statistics on overall test performance and individual test questions. This data helps instructors recognize questions that might be poor discriminators of student performance. This information may be used to improve questions for future tests, or adjust credit on current attempts.
Peer and Self-Assessment	Self and Peer Assessment is designed to facilitate student's objective, analytical, and learning skills, by allowing students to review each other's work.
Safe Assignment	SafeAssign prevents plagiarism and to creates opportunities to help students identify how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.
Mobile Compatible Tests	Blackboard assessments that are designed to work in a mobile environment.
Grade Center	The Grade Center is a central repository for assessment data, student information, and instructor notes. The Grade Center allows instructor to record and calculate grades, generate reports and communicate grade information to students in My Grades, including columns displaying performance results.

Tool Options

Announcements	Announcements inform students by posting timely information critical to course success such as when assignments are due, changes to the syllabus, corrections or clarifications of materials, and exam schedules. When you add an announcement, you can also send the announcement as an email to students in your course.
Discussion Board	The discussion board is a tool for collaborative learning. Users participate in class discussions asynchronously.
Blogs	The blog tool gives instructors and students the tools to create rich media journals within a course. Blackboard blogs include a comment option, so that students can respond to and interact with one another.
Journals	Like a blog, except that the interactions and comments may be kept private, so that only student and instructor interact.
Wiki	Wikis provide users with tools for collaboratively creating rich media websites. Students collaborate in a shared workspace to author content, assemble research, and present their work.
Blackboard Collaborate	Blackboard Collaborate offers a robust tool set that allows instructors to web conference and connect with one student or an entire class. Instructors and students can collaborate using audio, video, and recording capabilities. Other functions include private and public chat, a whiteboard, application sharing, a clip art library, and the ability to add and edit content at any time.
Blackboard IM	The Blackboard Collaborate messaging tool allows users and instructors to interact with each other via instant message chat. None of the other features of Collaborate are available with IM.
Calendar	Instructors can use the course calendar to indicate important course related events including instructor office hours, exams, guest speakers, and course items with due dates.
Contacts	The contacts list may include phone numbers, email and physical addresses. If available it is set up by the user.
Content Area	Course materials including assignments, links, assessments, folders and communication tools including discussion boards, wikis, and blogs.
Course Link	A link from one part of a course to the other. This would include links from announcements to course content, such as the syllabus.
Digital Content	Educational content from a wide variety of publisher sources, including; Cengage, Wiley, Macmillan, McGraw-Hill, and Pearson
Retention Center	The Retention Center is an instructor-only tool that enables you to give focused attention to students who need it. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.
Echo Content	Recorded lecture content from the Echo 360 system.
Email	Email students, groups or colleagues in courses or organizations. Mail is delivered through Cardinal Mail.
Glossary	Instructors can build a glossary consisting of terms and definitions specific to their course.

Groups	Instructors create formal groups of students to collaborate on work. Groups may be created one at a time or in sets.
ItunesU	Link to UIW's iTunes website.
List All Users	Feature that allows you to generate a list of all Class and organization members
Manual	Systematic guidebook for Blackboard student users. There is also a Blackboard Help link for instructors that includes tutorials and videos.
My Grades	Allows students to view grades of tests and gradable assignments.
Rave	RAVE alerts are sent when there is a school emergency. Alerts can also be sent to each time your instructor posts grades, announcements, calendar events, and/or assignments in Blackboard.
Respondus Lockdown Browser	<p>The Respondus LockDown Browser increases the security of online testing. The Lockdown Browser prevents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access the address bar on their browser. • Exiting the test until the test is complete. • Access to other areas of Blackboard. • Screen captures
Study Mate Class Server	Study Mate is an authoring tool that allows you to create ten Flash-based activities and games using three simple templates.
Tools Area	A page listing tools the instructor has available for the course.
Help	The Blackboard Help link includes tutorials and videos created specifically for instructors.