

Fall 2007 Blackboard Graduate Student Survey

Attempts 249

Question 1

Which answer best describes your primary role at UMBC? (S)

Graduate student	61.847%
Online Graduate student	36.948%
Unanswered	1.205%

Question 2

Which answer best describes your primary use of Blackboard? (B)

As a faculty member teaching a course.	0%
As a student in a Blackboard class site.	93.173%
As a teaching assistant of a Blackboard class site.	2.811%
As a member of a Blackboard organization or community site.	1.606%
As a manager of a Blackboard organization or community site.	0.402%
Unanswered	2.008%

Question 3

How do you normally log into Blackboard? (B)

Through myUMBC?	79.518%
Directly at http://www.umbc.edu/blackboard or http://blackboard.umbc.edu .	18.876%
Unanswered	1.606%

Question 4

Which browser do you use most often? (B)

Internet Explorer	63.052%
Mozilla Firefox	30.522%
Safari	4.016%
Opera	0.803%
Other?	0%
Unanswered	1.606%

Question 5

Which of the following best describes your use of Blackboard at UMBC?
(b)

As a supplement to a face-to-face course	34.137%
For an online course	48.996%
For a hybrid (part online, part face-to-face) course	11.647%
Community/Organization for research or other	3.614%
Unanswered	1.606%

Question 6

Please choose the following tools that you use on a regular basis. (Check all that apply) (B)

Course content (course documents including syllabus, PowerPoints, etc.)	88.353%
Announcements	73.494%
Email	49.398%
Discussion Boards	74.297%
Chat	5.622%
Groups	14.056%
Assignment Upload for papers/projects	57.831%

Turnitin Assignment Upload	16.064%
Wikis	5.221%
Blogs	6.024%
Wimba Voice Tools	0.402%
Pronto	0.402%
Blackboard Backpack	0.803%
Multi-Media: Audio/Video Files	2.811%

Question 7

How important are the following advantages to using Blackboard. (1 = Not important, 7 = Most Important) (B)

Answers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communicating directly with other students in your class.	8.835%	3.213%	11.245%	17.269%	14.458%	26.506%	14.458%
24/7 access to course content.	2.41%	4.819%	12.851%	71.888%	4.016%	0.402%	1.205%
Increased student engagement in the course.	10.843%	19.277%	17.269%	10.843%	17.269%	11.245%	7.229%
Reinforcement of learning through practice quizzes.	8.032%	6.827%	15.663%	9.639%	6.426%	10.843%	29.317%
Secure place to post grades.	7.229%	13.253%	19.277%	33.735%	6.827%	4.418%	5.221%
Convenient place to collect research materials and communicate with colleagues	14.458%	6.024%	8.032%	12.45%	15.663%	13.253%	21.285%
Other (Please describe in the last question)	0.803%	2.811%	1.606%	0.803%	5.221%	9.639%	0.402%

Question 8

What do you consider to be disadvantages of using Blackboard? (B)

Reliance on technology	41.767%
Learning curve to becoming proficient in the use of Blackboard	19.277%
Learning environment is too impersonal	22.088%
It's too time consuming	18.876%
Other (Please describe in the last question)	14.458%

Question 9

My professors are effectively using Blackboard in the following ways: (S)

User & Document Management

- * Password-protected class & group space
- * Upload or copy/paste documents (expiration) 66.265%

Communications & Interactivity

- * Announcement
- * Email, messages
- * Discussion & Chat 79.518%

Assessment & Grades

- * Electronic assignment delivery & collection
- * Quizzing, Surveys
- * Grade book 73.092%

Question 10

How would you rate your professors' overall use of Blackboard? (S)

Outstanding	29.317%
Good	52.61%
Fair	14.056%

Poor	2.41%
Unanswered	1.606%

Question 11

If you could pick one professor who uses Blackboard well, who would it be and why? (B)

Cheryl Coleman

I've only taken 2 online classes so I do not know this yet.

Well seeing as though I am a first time Grad student at UMBC, I would not really know yet which one of my professors would use blackboard well. But if I had to guess it would be my advisor, Mr. Rothstein in Sociology. He seems very well intuned with his students and really enjoys the technology that umbc has provided and encourages others to so the same.

George CHinnery, The most savvy professor I have had. Knows all of the ins and outs of blackboard and mant other internet features

Dr. Murphy uses the Bb in a variety of helpful ways. I felt that her assignments facilitated excellent online discussion and provided topics for in class cooperative learning. She also spent time responding to at least one posting per student over the course of a semester. I think she encouraged students to take advantage of Bb's benefits. I always knew that my responses would be carefully read by her and that she appreciated each person's ideas.

Zane Berge

I was never kept in the dark about any assignment. If I asked a question on blackboard, he would always respond in a timely fashion.

I really can't say any of my professors use all the features. Many don't use it at all. I have one professor who uses it this semester to post documents, but doesn't post grades or quizzes.

Dr. Mohamed Younis

They were all good. I could not pick just one.

Adriana Medina-Lopez-Portillo, PhD

EDUC698E Spring '06

Professor Medina showed a real interest in learning to use the interface provided by Blackboard. She valued our opinions. In particular she did not ditch the interpersonal communication that is so important in face-to-face classes, but she did her best to establish a community of exchange wherein we could learn from each other and from her. It was anything but an opportunity to "teach yourself for \$1200" type of course and for that I truly respect her interest in making it be anything but that.

In addition, as it was an online course, she made herself available via computer email for exchanges should one run into problems.

Rosa Heckle, I know she is not the professor, however I have had her for many courses. She fixes issues with the course very quickly and is always responsive.

The professors I have had have all been quick to respond and pleasant to talk to

Dr. Williams because he used it to increase communication between online learners. There's been less of that in my other courses.

Zane Berge,

He is my only elearning instructor so far in my educational experience. But with that, he very good with this technology.

Dr Laura Stapleton. Quizzes, grades, assignments, course material, communication, reminders. Everything is up on blackboard. I never have to worry about losing notes from her class (of course, my handwritten notes are irreplaceable!).

She even uploads links for additional reference.

And all this supplements what we do in class. I love how she uses BB.

Jon Wray uses Blackboard well because he is very computer savvy and uses all of the components of Blackboard. He is also always very up to date with posting assignments and documents.

none

Tim Brennan – everything was posted quickly and clearly.

My current professor.

Rosa

none

NA

Prof. Zane Berge provides a wealth of supplemental documentation that are hyperlinked in the Blackboard, and consistently uses the the tools for electronic assignment delivery, collection and grading.

I would have never passed the Lunar Robotics Quizzes by Dr. Susan Hoban if the quizzes had not been posted prior to the in class exam.

This is tough question to answer. All of my online instructors have used Blackboard quite well to complement their distinct instructional styles.

Zane Berge – he really used all aspects of Bb in an online class i took this summer

Dr Canfield is the professor that I would select that utilizes Blackboard very well. The course information is available before class, the exam and assignment grades are available right away and discussions are useful for preparing for future class and assignments.

Joan Shin.

Used many functions of the BB, modeled how to use the BB effectively, and encouraged students to learn how to use BB. She was also very visible and a very active participant of the on-line class.

Mariajosé Castellanos

Very good organization of the blackboard materials from grades to contents.

Dr Canfield

Dr. Carpenter/Dr. Hamilton for CHEM101 and CHEM102. Although I am not enrolled in the course, I have the opportunity to view the bb site as a teaching assistant. I believe that they use BB most efficiently, constantly posting the answers to their assignments after they've been completed, making general announcements, etc.

None.

Dr. Campbell; lays out material for entire course in a clear and concise way; encourages interaction (student/student, prof/student) through BB

Dr. Suzanne Rosenberg, because she frequently adds new announcements which make it critical to log on to blackboard weekly.

Dr. Denis Provencher. It contains everything needed for the class.

I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Dr. Canfield. He's one of the few professors that actually oversees his courses, and he does a good job with using Blackboard for posting questions, comments, announcements, quizzes, tests, submitting assignments, and grades.

Professore Zhang from IS631. I thought the course design was excellent. There were weekly discussion questions on related topics (not directly from the textbook). We could not edit submitted responses to the discussion questions. Also, tests/quizzes had constraints – we could not change an answer to a previous question.

Lisa Jordan – quizzes, and content

Dr. Zane Berge has the best command of the blackboard of all the instructors I have taken a course from. He effectively uses the grade book to provide feedback on assignment. He assists with technical troubleshooting.

Greg Walsh, although many of the other instructors also utilize blackboard well I feel that this particular instructor allow me to explore many of the other features of Blackboard within his course. This tended to help break up the monotony of the same thing (class format) over and over again.

Eunju Chen. She always responds to questions.

Dr. Greg Williams is very good at setting up the Blackboard class in a way that helps those who are new to Blackboard learn how to use it. I also like how he uses the announcements to send out reminders that assignments are due on a certain date.

Dr. Zane Berge utilizes the discussion board to create some phenomenal discussions. These are some of the best learning experiences that I've ever had.

Dr. Adler, because she is always very prompt in posting grades, but doesn't overuse the site.

Only have 1 professor this semester, Dr. Joyce Murphy.

Kelley Engle.

George Chinnery's course set up for edu688 is better than edu625's but that's all the experience I have

Laura Stapleton– she is the only one that has taken time to learn it and use it in such a way that is helpful to the student.

Kip Canfield – He utilizes a good mixture of online quiz and resource information with helpful web broadcast and video downloads to improve the learning process. A++

steve pitts

Chuck hodell , jhon buelow. Greg williams

I would choose Dr Murphy because I can rely on the information I need for class to be available when I need it. The discussions board topics were a great help and an excellent idea for getting to know the thoughts of my classmates. She also made it possible for us to receive helpful information from them.

George Chinnery -- uses it to provide links to additional resources.

Laura Stapleton, she is very prompt about posting the things that we need and if she doesnt have something already posted she finds a way to get what we need on blackboard so everyone has access. She also already has a lot on blackboard and just makes it available when needed. She also posts grades promptly.

Shari Waldstein

I can't say at the moment, because I have just started my program.

Dr. Lili Cui – almost everything of hers is on Bb, but she needs more space!

I have had only one class on-line with Deb Pretska and she was excellent in that I felt that she kept up with the communication.

Chuck Hodell, great job at the novice blackboard user and first class online user.

Dr. Joyce Murphy used it efficiently for grading, announcements and posting assignments.

Dr. Jack Sinnigen uses Blackboard well in that as students in his class, we are to participate on a weekly basis utilizing the tools offered on Blackboard. His class has allowed me to be more proficient in using Blackboard because I never really utilized Blackboard in my other classes.

Zane Berge. He knows he subjects well and makes you feel as though you are with him.

Professor Gou. She posts all announcements and assignments on Blackboard in timely manner.

Dr. Kuro

Nancy Shelton– I have had her twice and she uses blackboard to upload our reading assignments. It saves time and money because we do not have to purchase a textbook, or waste paper printing. However, if you do like to have a printed hard copy of your work than you can print it at your leisure.

Debra Petska

The course EDUC 603 was very informative she made herself very available and she knows the subject....Training Needs Assessment

Dr. Henry Emurian posted assignments, grades, and announcements as well as posted material pertinent and helpful to the course content. He also had the class do an exercise in which we tested the collaborative functions of Blackboard using the groups feature in which we could use as many of the functions (such as email, file share, and chat) as we wanted. This was a very good exercise and the class learned a lot from it.

Dr. Koru uses Blackboard in an excellent fashion. He uses quizzes and course discussion, and group sharing to its best.

Chuck Hodell-- it is well organized and the content is all there.

Can't answer the question as I've only had one professor so I have no basis for comparison.

The professors of structured system analysis and design are very good in terms of utilizing most of the Black board functionalities for the course.

Deb Petska

N/A Currently a grad student in one class so there are not many choices of professors. If you mean in general then I would pick someone who posts a lot of supplementary materials to help us learn the content of the class, ie more practice quizzes with answers or current events on the topics discussed in class if applicable etc. Also, one who promotes discussion online whether between students and/or along with the professor.

My professor for IS 631 because all information is easily accessible, exams and assignments are easy to turn in and I get my grades back in a timely manner.

Cheryl North–Coleman. She has all of her course information and lecture materials available on BB. It is easy to access this information any time of day.

Prof. Stephen Dean. Keep his students on toes and always checking our work.

This is my first course with blackboard. Can't compare,.

Dr. Shelton

I think there are a number of professors in the IS dept that make good use of Blackboard. For instance:

Dr. Gangopadhyay

Dr. Chen

Dr. Zhang

(These are the professor that I have either taken classes with or assisted with teaching).

Dr. Stephen Dean – while I did not have him this semester I have taken multiple online courses with him in the past and he has made a valiant effort to communicate with us frequently and be prompt with all of his work. When he teaches an online class we almost never lose out on any information due to his dedication to educating his students, online or in person.

Joan Shen

I have had one face-to-face session of a class that will use blackboard. I have poked around but still await the full blackboard experience.

Joyce Murphy– she posts necessary documents and we post responses.

Professor Kip Canfield.

Because he uses streaming video technology sometimes.

Greg Walsh because he uses most of bells and whistles. He experiments with the technology and isn't afraid to try something even if he has some kinks to work out with it.

Greg Williams – makes great use of tech. Love his weekly videos, makes it more personal (for a total online course)

Dr. Greg Williams – utilizes video and audio to supplement Blackboard experience and make the learning experience more personal.

George Chinnery. He utilized various aspects of it.

Dongsong Zhang – very interactive course atmosphere.

Professor Canfield because he makes sure that the readings are always posted.

Greg Williams uses the Blackboard like no one else. He was able to create an open, interactive learning community that I continually looked forward to checking out! Bravo for Greg who has set a high standard for me to aspire to in my career!!!

Chuck Hodell

Prof. Hoch

Claire Welty. She's always very busy and would not be able to teach the course without BB.

Canfield – we were able to post electronic interactive electronic documents that must work and exercise our learned materials.

I've had 2 other professors who have utilized Blackboard. By far, Dr. Cheryl Miller (PUBL 618) made the best use of Blackboard. She had all of the reading materials (journal articles, etc.) uploaded on Day 1 of the course. This eased my ability to print, organize and read the materials. It also allowed me the flexibility to access the materials from various locations--home, work, UMBC, public library, etc.--and given my busy lifestyle (work, family, 2nd job, etc.) this was a tremendous asset!

I also appreciated Dr. Miller's furnishing course handouts and grades via the Blackboard as there was no mystery as to the course content or the grade.

Dr. Allen Bush All his notes and powerpoint sides were posted, as well as links to other resources, old exams, and practice problems. He had a good assortment of information so if you didn't understand in class you should be able to better understand the material based on the info on blackboard. Grades were up-to-date.

Dr. Zane Berge. He actively gives feedback to the students in the course.

Fred Pincus

Because he uses every aspect from discussion board, announcements, grades, etc. I really got to use blackboard in his course.

And of course, the Lnguage teachers are very good at using the chats, grading, etc.

Heidi Platt

She's my only professor at this time. She is a proficient user.

I think Dr. Zhang and his TA, Kelley Engle, for IS 631 (section 0101) are using Blackboard really well. They check the discussion boards very often and usually give us feedback on questions we have very soon after. Also, the course content is very clear and easy to find. Zhiling Guo Very organized, prompt, data is easily accessible, content is good Dr. Draganescu; he puts important documents on Blackboard, but doesn't make us do stuff on Blackboard like have discussions, just for the sake of using Blackboard. Really, I've seen what Blackboard can do, and I'd be happier if professors just sent announcements by regular email, because I already check that frequently, and if professors posted course documents on their webpages, so I don't have to type in a password to download a homework assignment.

Both professors for MIS and DBMS use it well.

Dr. Williams

Dr. Greg Williams,

His class is engaging and entertaining while also informative and educational.

All of the ISD professors because they seem to have an excellent command of the technology and the courses have been well organized. George Chinnery.

Dr. Gregory Williams – uses interactive videos and facilitates weekly discussions well. Dr. Timothy Wood in BTEC 650...uses it every week. Posts announcements and supplemental material when needed. Tracy Serpi has done a great job with Blackboard this semester, especially since its her first.

All assignments could be turned in through Blackboard and all course documents were available too.

Dr. Greg Williams– very personable and inclusive in his approach That would be Dr. Wu. I had troubles with accessing documents and especially with accessing my quizzes intermittently while taking the quiz. She recognized the problems and had the them resolved in no time. They all could use improvement. I would pick Gregory Williams. He is not afraid to experiment and try new techniques and methods to deliver learning to his students. I have taken 2 online ISD courses and both instructors were very adept with using BB; Dr. Zane and Dr. Williams. They focused on student interactions and were also available for questions and feedback. Zane Berge (Education). Is very clear and organized--has planned out his use of Blackboard well. Excellent use of the online gradebook.

I only have one professor so this is an irrelevant question. But his name is G. Kunes. He does a good job. But I do like professors who post lots of information for us, and keeps up to date with posting assignments and grades. Especially grades.

Dr. Dongsong Zhang –

Organized the course very well. Very prompt in responses and clarification. Used the Blackboard very well.

Dr. Flow she posts all her lecture notes on there after the classess which helps me since I am a deaf student, and I do miss some of the lecture with watching the interpreter, Professor Mary Tabaa because she always uses Blackboard in a timely manor for grading, posting assignments, and commenting on our classwork. Laura Stapleton because she uses it consistently throughout the semester.

Rorrie Fournier– computer expert and expert teacher. Dr. Cranfield Eunju Chung does an excellent job with Blackboard, as she works very hard to have information posted clearly and early for students, works on a regular weekly calendar of assignments and due–dates, and is understanding about flaws in the system that create problems for students at times. She also knows when to just use email to communicate with everyone, which I appreciate as a much more effective way to distribute important announcements. She is also very good at providing personalized feedback and interaction, which helps to alleviate some of the "impersonal learning environment" issues.

Question 12

What do you think is the single most needed improvement about the administration of Blackboard? (B)

Login	4.819%
Enrollment into Blackboard course and community sites	2.811%
Server reliability (Is it up and available?)	19.679%
Server Performance (e.g., "slowness, error messages, looping")	26.908%
Functionality of the Bb application (Does it do what I want?)	14.458%
Student training and support	9.639%

Faculty training and support	5.221%
Other (Please describe in the last question)	4.819%
Unanswered	11.647%

Question 13

How do you get help when using Blackboard?

Send an email to blackboard@umbc.edu	11.245%
Fellow student	30.924%
Blackboard Help tab	14.859%
Course/community manual	4.819%
OIT staff directly	3.213%
OIT Help Desk	18.876%
Unanswered	16.064%

Question 14

Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of Blackboard as a learning tool? (B)

Very good	50.602%
It's okay	41.767%
Not very effective	6.426%
Unanswered	1.205%

Question 15

"How would you rank OIT's effectiveness in providing computing labs for the following purposes (1 = most effective, 7 = least effective). If you do not use a computing lab, you may skip this question?"

Answers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Access to personal drives or network space	4.016%	4.016%			
2.008%	6.024%	2.41%	4.016%	4.418%	
Access to specialized software (e.g., SPSS, Matlab, etc.)	3.614%	2.41%			
3.614%	5.221%	2.41%	4.819%	2.41%	2.41%
Audio/Visual file editing					
2.811%	1.205%	6.024%	5.622%	2.41%	
2.008%	1.606%				
Availability of a high speed Internet connection					
3.614%	1.606%	3.213%	4.418%	2.008%	
4.016%	6.426%				
Instructional use during a class (e.g., demonstrations, shared use of software or files)					
3.614%	2.008%	4.819%	4.418%	3.614%	
1.205%	4.418%				
Pay for Print					
4.016%	1.606%	4.016%	5.221%	4.016%	
2.008%	1.606%				
Other? (please specify at the end of this survey)					
2.41%	0.803%	0.402%	2.008%	0.803%	0%
2.008%					

Question 16

Thank you for participating and please include any other additional comments/suggestions you may have about the use of Blackboard at UMBC. (Remember to click "Submit" when you have finished.) (B)

I would like to have a visual lecture time maybe once a month so that students can connect and help each other. Also, it would help to hear what the professor has to say for auditory learners. If this was conducted with a chatroom for students to ask questions and discuss the text, it would be a big help.

Make sure blackboard is accessible multi platforms. Training for instructors in advanced features.

I find blackboard frustrating to use in that it is inconsistent. Some visits I can view users posts to discussion boards other visits I can not.

Some teachers overuse Bb as a posting site and then take FOREVER to grade things. I have assignments that I completed in September that have not been graded. Not Bb's fault, but I think maybe professors think "Oh, it's all there...I'll get to it someday."

My first comment is about encountering BB for the first time. Instructors assumed that you just knew how to use this site which as a new student was a very wrong assumption. I think the university is at fault for not providing a free training class in BB usage to every new student if they want one. To expect people to just somehow pick up using the site, is very bad customer relations in my view. Students are customers after all and should be so treated.

How important are the following advantages to using Blackboard. (1 = Not important, 7 = Most Important) (B)

Question 7 answers

Secure place to post grades. ----- I don't consider BB secure. I see it as any public site that may be broken into with a little effort. Anything posted should be considered public not private in my view.

What do you think is the next most needed improvement about the administration of Blackboard? (B)

Server Performance (e.g., "slowness, error messages, looping")

The interface from myumbc to blackboard does not work well. Some times the redirecting message just keeps popping up and hanging up. I have to log out of myumbc and start over because of this all too often.

Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of Blackboard as a learning tool? (B)

I never thought it was a learning tool after three years of usage. Every instructor I have had only posts assignments, lecture notes, and messages. I have looked at blackboard like a file exchange location and nothing more based on my experience. I had no idea courses might be taught via BB. I would not like the later because of problems I have had with BB hanging up at times. I consider the interface unreliable.

A disadvantage is that you get your grades but there is no personal feedback on your work

Multiple tab layers can sometimes be frustrating.

Would rather have one page that includes all documents for a class rather than clicking through several tabs and going back again to see how it relates to the previous screen(s).

The Blackboard at UMBC is a very helpful tool specially for online students as it provides a kind of real time collaboration between students and professors.

I was unable to view my webmail. I had difficulty contacting the help desk by email because they do not accept off-campus email. I did get a good response from the help desk (they took my information) but the problem has still not been fixed.

The grade entering functions really stink. To enter grades, you have to tab multiple times to move between students, and the students' grades are extremely far away from their names. Also, when a grade is hand-entered, later grade uploads don't override the hand-entered grade, which is an incredible pain - from that point forward you have to constantly upload grades.

The scantron conversion tool doesn't show up when you search for it. I called OIT the other day, and they had no idea what I was talking about. The logical place for the link is NOT in the help file under assignments/other.

When you are looking at a list of grades and click on a specific grade to review the grade history, etc., if you make any changes, Blackboard kicks you all the way back out to the main gradebook page. When you have lots of grades to look at, this is a real hassle.

Why can't you see someone's total points when you look at their list of grades?

For question 7, being able to take quizzes online at your convenience.

Posting comments in discussion board is awkward. I cannot go back to check a reference elsewhere in blackboard. If I do that, I often lose my posting. Can't figure out Save vs. Submit. When I save, I cannot find it later. I would like to use the Back button to check something and then use the forward button to get back to what I am posting. I cannot do this. I lose everything written when I try.

8. I don't know of any disadvantages.

I feel like I'm held less accountable for my online course. My classmates and my professor don't know me and therefore I am less embarrassed to turn in sub par work because I am just an anonymous author. I don't

plant to take anymore online courses because I am not satisfied with my learning and personal performance.

BB and Mozilla don't always seem compatible – BB begins to loop...hang and all sorts of annoying things.

While taking quizzes I seem to have to save my quiz a multiple number of times before BB tells me it can 'Confirm Assessment Submission', or else it continues to say 'Questions so an so' are incomplete. That can get a bit scary and annoying too.

Also – it would be great if the gradebook could have a column for Mode, in addition to Mean so that students could know what the most frequent grade in class is. The mean is influenced way too much by extreme scores for students to always get a realistic idea about their performance.

I have only taken one on-line course, and have been impressed with the framework provided by Blackboard. However, I feel that more faculty training and support is needed for the on-line courses to function smoothly. An experienced member of the faculty should provide oversight and mentoring to new members who do not have experience teaching an on-line course.

I think professors consistently underestimate how time-consuming the discussion boards are. The use of these should be moderated to limit the drain on student time.

Blackboard is hard to use, especially when the professor doesn't explain what it is!!! During each semester, I find out something new about Blackboard because I have additional time to play around. It would be much more efficient if the professor's knew how to explain Blackboard to the students. However, BBoard is a very comprehensive system. Perhaps an overview by the IT group might be in order. That way, when the professor talks about a single function, I would be able to know where that function resided in the large scheme of Blackboard.

I use the course document section of blackboard to view my syllabus whenever there's a projet due. This feature is great.

I got help from the instructor but it took so long I figured it out myself before she got back to me. It is the front end when you have never taken a computer/blackboard course before where "you will be contacted" doesn't do it for orientation to the UMBC Email system & Blackboard. As soon as you register you should be told how to sign on to get you Email and get going with Blackboard plus have a "using Blackboard" online orientation course available immediately.

Blackboard is my only means of a classroom since I am in the Online MIS program. however, it seems that this semester (my 3rd) has been the worst experience with Blackboard. Not sure if it is related to the professors or not, but with my IS631 class I have experienced more issues connecting to Blackboard and being able to post into Blackboard when I need to than my previous two semesters. With that said, I think it is a great learning tool and an excellent virtual classroom, just the availability needs to be higher.

Thanks

Although Blackboard prides it's self on standardization and uniformity I often felt that each class often appeared to be generic. Of course the differentiation occurs once the student becomes engaged in the content of the course. Since we however operate more in a visual world I believe it would be nice to have some elements of design added to the courses which in turn help set the tone to prepare the student for the type of class they he or she is about to participate in. For uniformity I think that the navigation buttons, tools available, and functionality should remain the same but I would seriously consider varying the look. One possibility may be to just start out with varying the design per discipline. For example an online course offer via the math department should look a little different than an online history course but both could have the same navigation buttons and learning tools available to the student.

Some professors wouldn't be caught dead using Blackboard and for grad students, it really is a helpful tool, especially for late nights, off campus, busy schedules. It's nice to be able to access information whenever we need it. Maybe provide incentives and/or training for faculty.

If you log in and forget to log out, the next time you go to blackboard.umbc.edu, it just cycles uselessly until you tell it to stop, and to fix it you need to clear all cookies. That's really inconvenient and no other websites do it; could blackboard stop doing it?

I appreciate the ability to login regardless of whether I'm in Linux or Windows. Occasionally I have to completely close out of my browser because I can't properly close out my session with blackboard and it gets into a really funky loop.

Don't like how sometimes down on weekend mornings, very unfair to graduate students who only have weekends to do assignments. Don't like instructors ability to CONTINUALLY change and update assignments. Poor teaching style and disrespect for students.

Question 12: I don't think any improvements are necessary.

I think BlackBoard works great, I just don't think it's always the best tool for learning in a graduate course. It requires students to teach a lot of the material to themselves, when I think a face-to-face lecture or discussion may be better in some situations.

#8 Neither of my professors use the grading option. It would be nice if they did.

Blackboard is a great tool for communicating with classmates and instructors. It is good to read the questions that may arise from the course material, and read what others have to say about a subject matter. I think it is an excellent learning tool.

I had issues with the network server being down while taking quizzes. Performance need to be improved. Sometimes it is too slow.

Blackboard is a wonderful way for students to become more independent and efficient when it comes to their work and learning abilities. This tool is a joy to use and makes the learning process fun and exciting. I look forward to using this tool more and enjoying the service that UMBC has provided for me and my fellow students!

It would be nice to have a way to get directly from Blackboard to e-mail and vice versa without clicking the "My UMBC" tab. If there is one, I haven't found it. Otherwise, Blackboard is great.

Reliability and performance has been a major issue this semester – similar to Fall 2006. Last spring, Blackboard was much more reliable but this semester has been somewhat painful for the faculty and students. As you can imagine, for an online class, having 24/7 access is critical especially considering we have students from different parts in the world in very different time zones.

nothing to add. I love Blackboard. It's great when I don't have to drive far to a class after work.

It would be useful if you can get alerts whenever there is an announcement or if there are updates to any discussion board.

Q. 12 Make the modify key a permanent key so that the students does not have to ask for the button when we realize that we have posted to the wrong discussion are need to make a correction.

The layout of the initial screen is really odd. I don't like it. Can we change the configuration?

I have trouble logging in if I left the previous Opera session logged in. I have to go through a very tedious procedure to "re-log in" to blackboard. I wish blackboard used a different system to authenticate users.

I like Blackboard – I wish more of my professors used it.

I am currently having trouble accessing my course in order to post an assignment. I am hoping that completing this quiz will allow me to do so.

I have had minor problems with some of my Blackboard posts – there were font differences in some of my posts. Once I had problems submitting an assignment.

As previously stated this resource had a tremendous impact on my ability to successfully complete the course. I did not spend hours in the library looking up on-line journals or sorting through aisles of journals. I appreciated the professor's time and attention to posting course materials.

Some of the issues I have with Bb is that it does have some very simple bugs that other students I have met know about and those bugs dont seem to get fixed.

And the GUI in the classroom discussion area is very cluggy. It is not an easy to use and intuitive experience. It is quite mechanical.

Also, some of the question in this survey dont allow the participant to answer accurately. For example the last question#15 does not have any relevance to me because I don't knowinly use any of those options.

The site is down too often. 8. In one of my classes, we experimented with the Live Classroom. That was a experience I hope never to have to repeat. I miss the live interaction of classroom learning. But the virtual classroom experience was a very poor substitute. Would be great if we could use backpack. Il tried the trail version but I was unable to use backpack because of the way the class was put up on black board.

The most useful features on blackboard are the grade posting and the discussion boards. The grade posting is pretty good -- no real complaints. The Discussion board is obnoxious. The Java that it uses becomes slow and unusable on many computers. It takes over standard browser functions, which many browsers won't actually let it do (e.g. ctrl+v will cause an error to popup saying java doesn't have access to do this when writing a discussion board post).

There's also the cookies bug, where you must restart your browser or clear your cookies to successfully log into blackboard after you lose your credentials the first time.

These two problems are the most annoying things about Blackboard. I also suspect it has several security flaws, and I have seen no evidence that this isn't the case.

Nothing to say

Q: Do you assume everybody understands what "OIT" means (questions 13 and 15)? Or if one does not know what it is, it also an answer?

Comment: I am wondering how much training professors have before teaching an on-line course. Some professors seem to use very basic functions of the BB, past their tasks and attach documents.

Blackboard is pretty good overall. However, if there is a question on how to use a tool. The site is intuitive and the answers to how to perform a function can be figured out quickly

Fix the fact that the Blackboard messes up formatting.

Explain what to do when an attachment doesn't "work" (or at least tell why it doesn't)

For question #13, when I need help, I usually contact the instructor.

This is a great questionnaire. I'm working on an orientation to Bb tutorial now for my ISD project. Good luck.

I hope that blackboard will enhance learning through other new features and options, especially for the working parents . The effectiveness of Blackboard is mainly up to how the professor decides to use it, and not necessarily so much the blackboard tools and format itself. The program is fine. The professor can use it simply as a way to post material and communicate to the class outside of class and depending on the class that may be sufficient. Some classes it might be better for the professor to open up discussion boards to help learn the material and for the professor to be involved with the discussion as well. The tools in Blackboard are sufficient, ie announcements, documents, communication, links tabs etc. Maybe it is more helpful in an online course. The functionality of Blackboard needs to be improved.

For example, cutting and pasting is a big problem.

Graphics is in need of an overhaul.

Please check UMUC's Web Tycho for ideas.

I keep having to remove cookies before I can log in again. Nuisance.

I don't like the paragraph spacing, or the way fonts change. I never could upload a jpg file, and after losing a few documents I tried to save without posting, I just gave up on that.

I think we could have a button to connect OIT. Q12: I think Blackboard would make me happier if it didn't require a login to access all course documents. Most of the course documents don't need to be securely locked down. (Some do, and a login is reasonable for them.) None

My instructors this semester were very poor, did not use blackboard to its highest possible effectiveness and essentially didn't teach a class. While it is nice to be able to access lectures whenever the time allows, it would be helpful if the instructors updated the lectures more frequently than once every five years. This has been pointed out to the instructors during discussion sections about the inaccuracies of the lecture due to the outdated material. Another problem this semester was with instructors not providing feedback of the participation I would expect out of a graduate level course. While I understand that situations do arise, a simple email would have been helpful before the three week absence. After all, I remember being told many times as a student that an email does not take long to send and if a situation arises we are expected to do so.

Overall I would have to comment that this has been a very dissapointing semester and I am hoping next semester is better.

Overall, my experience with Blackboard has been positive and useful in my classes. I cannot think of any other thing to improve Blackboard at this time. I am impressed with the technology that has been developed between the last time I went to graduate school eight years ago and now. I find that tools like Blackboard are enhancing my educational experience. The Group Collaboration chat tool is down way to frequently. I think that there are better programs that you could use for this purpose. Angel, for example.

Also, the computers in the engineering building lab are horrible. They take 20 minutes to start and then another 10 to log you on- if they manage to do that before they freeze.

Bb sometimes does not open in Firefox and that is a big inconvenience. Hope you can remedy that. Thanks! N/A