

## Spring 2007 Blackboard Graduate Student Survey

Attempts 226 (Total of 264 attempts for this assessment)

### Question 1

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

Graduate student	68.142%
Online Graduate student	31.416%
Unanswered	0.442%

### Question 2

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

As a faculty member teaching a course.	0.442%
As a student in a Blackboard class site.	93.805%
As a teaching assistant of a Blackboard class site.	3.097%
As a member of a Blackboard organization or community site.	0.885%
As a manager of a Blackboard organization or community site.	0%
Unanswered	1.77%

### Question 3

How do you normally log into Blackboard? (B)

Through myUMBC?	81.858%
Directly at <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/blackboard">http://www.umbc.edu/blackboard</a> or <a href="http://blackboard.umbc.edu">http://blackboard.umbc.edu</a> .	16.814%
Unanswered	1.327%

### Question 4

Which browser do you use most often? (B)

Internet Explorer	67.257%
Mozilla Firefox	25.664%
Safari	5.31%
Opera	0%
Unanswered	1.77%

### Question 5

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

As a supplement to a face-to-face course	44.69%
For an online course	41.15%
For a hybrid (part online, part face-to-face) course	9.292%

Community/Organization for research or other	3.097%
Unanswered	1.77%

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, sound/video files, etc.)	89.381%
Announcements	68.142%
Email	52.212%
Discussion Boards	66.372%
Chat	9.292%
Groups	19.027%
Assignment Upload for papers/projects	53.982%
Turnitin Assignment Upload	16.814%
Wikis	3.54%
Blogs	4.867%
Wimba Voice Tools	0.885%
Pronto	0%
Blackboard Backpack	0.442%

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
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Communicating directly with other students in your class.

17.6%	10.1%	7.08%	10.1%	16.37	11.947%	22.566%
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24/7 access to course content.

2.655%	0.442%	0.442%	2.212%	5.752%	11.504%	74.336%
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Increased student engagement in the course.

14.602%	6.195%	9.735%	22.566%	21.681%	9.735%	11.947%
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Reinforcement of learning through practice quizzes.

27.876%	1.504%	13.274%	10.177%	10.177%	8.407%	8.407%
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Secure place to post grades.

11.947%	4.425%	5.31%	11.062%	14.159%	14.602%	34.071%
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Convenient place to collect research materials and communicate with colleagues

17.699%	4.867%	7.522%	15.929%	12.832%	12.832%	21.239%
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Other (Please describe in the last question)

13.274%	1.327%	0.442%	1.327%	2.655%	1.77%	4.425%
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Question 8

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

Reliance on technology	43.805%
Learning curve to becoming proficient in the use of it	15.487%
Learning environment too impersonal	18.142%
It's too time consuming	14.602%
Other (Please describe in the last question)	15.044%

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)	66.814%

Communications & Interactivity

* Announcement	
* Email, messages	
* Discussion & Chat	84.513%

Assessment & Grades

* Electronic assignment delivery & collection	
* Quizzing, Surveys	
* Grade book	73.009%

Question 10

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

Outstanding	31.858%
Good	53.982%
Fair	12.832%
Poor	0.442%
Unanswered	0.885%

Question 11

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

Login	4.867%
Enrollment into Blackboard course and community sites	3.54%
Server reliability	29.646%
Student training and support	11.947%
Faculty training and support	7.08%

Performance (e.g., "slowness, error messages, looping")	23.894%
Other (Please describe in the last question)	9.735%
Unanswered	9.292%

#### Question 12

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

Very good	50.885%
It's okay	44.69%
Not very effective	3.097%
Unanswered	1.327%

#### Question 13

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

Dr. Zane Berge because he really focuses on the discussion group participation. He reads the discussions, posts when appropriate (but not to everyone), and I have personally learned a lot in his courses. He also posts his grades in a timely manner.

Dr. Lisa Kelly - Chemistry Dept

She constantly posts supplemental materials, homeworks, answers to exams and homeworks and basically everything we would need to do well in the course without using too much paper - she allows the students to print them out on their own time.

Jerri Frick - very timely with announcements and updates.

Greg Williams. His class is the only BlackBoard class I've taken that incorporates audio and video--and he's working on adding a Wiki & Blog element to it for the next semester. Most professors only use the bare-bones features.

Dr. Adler

Keith Curran - Class material is always available at the beginning class, and expectations are very clear. He asks you to get comfortable with the Bb manual the first week of class. He is usually very good with posting grades and giving FREQUENT feedback. Most other instructors are not as good with feedback.

Dr. Greg Williams. He used it not just for posting the syllabus and assignments, but actively engaged us in group discussions. We were required to log on and post at least 3 times a week. That helped me feel like an active class participant and bond with my other classmates.

Steve Pitts because he correctly and efficiently organizes documents on the site.  
Dr. Canfield, because he quickly responds to student questions, and initiates further discussion with his responses.

I believe Dr. Koru uses blackboard really well because he is good at organizing the

course material throughout

Nancy Berge. Posts class notes for student learning; keeps the number of posts and "replies" to other posts to a minimum.

Chuck Hodell

Professor Mandell

Georgy chinnery. He is really professional at technology.

Professor Joan Shin uses Blackboard very well by incorporating class discussion, prompt questions, and direct information into a user-friendly environment in which we can spend less time away from our work/home/families and more time working smarter, not harder, or longer hours. It's helpful to be able to have class, given deadlines, but interacting with classmates on our own time, not necessarily on the clock of someone else. We're still learning, but we have the ability to learn when and where is most profitable to us, the learner.

Dr. Hosmane, very up to date, and knows the programming well.

The TA and the professor from my MIS class, used the blackboard very effectively and communicate with the students.

Probably Dr. Finin... uses bulletin board and for grades.

Dr. Rada teaches Health Informatics in the Department of Information Systems at UMBC. I have taken two online courses with Dr. Rada. He has done an outstanding job in conducting the courses through online. Dr. Rada has designed the courses in a methodical manner such that when a student follows the format, learns effectively from the course material posted online. The questions on the quizzes and exercises reflect clearly what needs to be learned and the method involved to attain that knowledge. Chen, he has used blackboard more than any other teacher I've had. He made individual groups for each time to give us one personal space where we all could share files.

Dr. Aryya Gangopadhyay makes good use of Blackboard for his class IS733 - Data Mining and Datawarehousing. He posts announcements regularly and has all the assignments setup in Blackboard so you have instant access to all your grades.

I'd like to think I don't too shabby of job using Blackboard either for my course, IS147 - Intro to Programming.

Dr. Adriana Medina-López-Portillo from MLL 625. She puts everything on Blackboard that is necessary for our class and also puts information from students that is essential for our learning.

Dr Canfield - instructions are clear and to the point with relevant links.

Dr. Joyce Murphy

Dave Marcotte, only because he posted homework assignments and data sets there,

which made it easier to complete homework assignments. The professors who do this make it much easier and convenient for their students to complete tasks.

The professor would be Joan Shin- she not only knows the Blackboard system to its fullest extent, she was very patient and able to teach several of us how to properly use it. It has been a wonderful tool in my ESOL graduate cohort. Many people were skeptical at first, but Joan made us feel confident and successful in its use!

All of my professors do a good job using Blackboard, but Dr. Kip Canfield I believe makes the best use of the tool. All of his documents are in html, there is no need to download the document and open it in word or excel.

n/a

N/A -- I've only had two instructors (BTW -- your question takes the assumption all who teach are profs and my current instructor is not a prof but an instructor) and neither's use was either exceptional or less than satisfactory.

My professor, Dr. Mandell, does a good job with it.

I can't really identify one professor in particular. Each of my professors has utilized Blackboard well for similar and different purposes. It is an excellent resource for the professors to communicate with the online students.

I think Dr. Jodi Crandall uses blackboard effectively.

N/A - I do not have enough info or experience to answer this question.

I have only had 2 different professors. I would say they both use them efficiently however i wouldnt say they use them any differently than another professor.

Dr. Sarah Shin. She demonstrated how to get into and post on Blackboard the first class. So, she made it easy to use.

Dr. Greg Williams

I think of all the professors that I've had, Professor Canfield has been the most efficient and effective user of the Blackboard.

Zilling Guo. She has been using it effectively.

Professor Marina Adler, because she posts all relevant assignments and grades on time, and makes BB very easy to use.

none

This is my first graduate school class at UMBC. Our professor is Richard Taylor (ENEE 661) and he uses Blackboard well. However, he does not really utilize most of the other features.

Steve Pitts - he keeps his site very organized and always posts things that are necessary or useful to the students in the class. He also uses multiple aspects of

Blackboard.

Definitely - George Chinnery!!!

N/A

the course I am in 634 with Prof Nolker and Prof Seaman is pretty good - - I guess they would qualify. HOWEVER I have had classes where there seemed to be alot of ambiguity about how the course was being run on blackboard and where I was unimpressed with the Professors ability to communicate accurately and politely with students that were confused. Thankfully it was not me that was the student.

Kriste Lindenmeyer. She knows the ins and outs and how to take care of snafus.

Greg Walsh content presentation methods are outstanding! (However, feedback not very good)

George Chinnery

He is my first professor at the college, however, he has done an excellent job supporting my first time use of the blackboard and providing endless resources for his students. He has been very supportive.

Not sure how to answer this question since this is my first semester using it.

Berge and Curran both do a great job. I have had the most exposure to them.

Dr. Gary Carter. He has learned how to update assignments and lectures on the website. When he need to upload homeworks, they are always there when promised. His use of blackboard is great and it works really well with the class. He has made blackboard a key element for the course.

Who: Dr. Greg Williams.

Why: He does an excellent job encouraging/developing student online involvement.

George Chinnery

George Chinnery -- He has amazing resources and disseminates them excellently.

Dr. Peter Hoch makes use of it in two directions; uploading assignments, and grades and course documents the other way.

Dr. Shin

Documents are made available on time

I would choose Greg Williams as he uses it for most of the courses in the ISD program in a very effective manner. He directs his graduate students in using the tutorial when begining Blackboard and teaches us how to use this tool as effeciently as possible. He also encourages us to learn updated techniques in the uses and tools within Blackboard

itself.

They've all been about the same in their intent and level of use. Some have been a little better about having links work properly but that probably has nothing to do with blackboard function.

Dr. Joyce Murphy utilizes Blackboard well. I don't really like posting my every thought and experience, but the it was a requirement and I learned a new skill...what can I say

Dr. Lindenmeyer; she's adept at using the program, updates it regularly, and integrates it into her classroom instruction.

I have only had one class so far, and blackboard is only used to access class resources George Chinnery,

He links the blackboard technology with many new e-learning innovations and concepts I have only used it with Joan Shin, and I find it convenient, easy to use, and useful for many different types of projects.

Kamilah Walker

Dr. Kriste Lindenmeyer of the UMBC History Dept. uses most or all aspects of Blackboard. Her use of the group pages for discussion questions is a great way to share different viewpoints on a topic. By requiring the posting of discussion board assignments, she creates a peer-to-peer learning environment that augments classroom discussion, ensuring a more thorough understanding of a given topic.

Professor Nolker,

He is always on the Blackboard posting and responding to messages actively.

N/A

I think all the professors use Blackboard really well. My only comment would be that professors should be required to spell check. As a student, it would be completely unacceptable for me to turn in a paper that wasn't spell checked; yet, I am required to take quizzes, tests, read articles or course documents that aren't spell checked and ultimately leads to confusion.

I dont have anything to compare it to

Fred Pinus. He's the only professor here at UMBC who I have seen use Blackboard almost as well as a distance learning professor. In fact, I have taken many distance learning classes as an undergrad (7+) and found that while a few do an outstanding job of using Blackboard, most don't.

Dr. Richard Bissell utilizes the BB extremely well. All of his assignments are posted in a user friendly manner, and he responds and corresponds with the class efficiently and effectively.

n/a

Our instructors Rob Nolker and Carolyn Seaman use Black board very well. They have organized the our discussion boards, Lectures, Assignment folders, group folders in a more clear way that is easy even for first time users.

Kip Canfield

Assistant Prof. Dr. Mohamed Younis in CS department would be him because he uses as for the grading and opens discussions about what to do in the class.

Dr. Banks

Dr. Zane Berge

Nancy Berge

She addresses topics in forums and the immediate interchange of the information has been really woderful. Everyweek a new topic and find some questions can be answered quickly to achieve so much more in a course.

Dr. Hodell. At time, some professors are not able to answer all students' questions regarding Blackboard. They are willing to help by finding out the answer. Dr. Hodell was always available to answer questions and provide feedback when needed.

All ISD instructors. My classes have been great.

Steve Pitts...He posts everything we need for class in advance, and utilizes different aspects of Blackboard to increase the convenience of accessing materials outside of class.

Dr. Greg Williams

It's a life online experience that employees many devices and communicative tools.

All my professors have used blackboard approximately equally well.

I have to pick two: Dr. Zane Berge & Dr. Marie Collins. They both know how to use the logistics/content mgt. pieces of Blackboard (taken the time to learn it well).

All of the instructors that I have interacted with have used Blackboard effectively.

Joyce Murphy because she keeps her grades and requirements posted frequently. I am able to know what I need to have ready for the next class meeting. She uses the announcemnts tool very effectively

Dr. Pincus used Blackboard effectively to supplement his classes with online articles, student chats and discussions and TurnItIn.

Berge - he walks the talk with this learning modality.

On-line professors use blackboard effectively

not sure

Dr. Marc Zupan, Well organized

All My Professors use BB really well.

Zhiling Guo, so far this is my first class at UMBC and she has used it very effectively

Dr. Canfield. He checked and responded to posts on a daily basis. He was the only professor to utilize multimedia (video/animation) to explain challenging concepts. He emphasized quality discussions and often stimulated dialogue. He took advantage of the instant grading of the online quizzes and tests.

Goerge Chinnery

Kipp Canfield he is the most informative professor so far. I really like the timely comments and feedback.

Zane Berge, Education Dept. He uses the communication tools and capabilities to build meaningful student interaction that facilitates learning. He uses effective strategies from the very beginning of the course, and takes the time, to build an interactive community of learners. By the end of his online classes, I have learned more from interacting with others in the class than I have ever come close to learning from such interaction in a face-to-face class.

Dr Canfield. He really knows Web content, so his assignments are well presented and organized. He is also well aware of the limitations and adapts quickly to problems.

Probably Canfield

Dr. Bissell

Deb Petska...she uses a lot of the tools...more than any of the other 3 instructors I've had so far...including the grading tool...very important to me.

Carole Seaman. She was really well organized.

Jerri Frick, She is the only teacher who has used Blackboard to its fullest potential out of all of my graduate classes.

Paul Martin. Not perfect, but better than all of the other professors

11. I don't know if it is a blackboard issue per se, but I would like tools that are much better at helping me find resource documents for papers. This has been a problem in 2/3 courses I have taken on line.

Dr. Colin Garvie.

Fully use of Blackboard.

Question 14

Thank you for participating and please include any other additional

comments/suggestions you may have about the use of Blackboard at UMBC.

It seems very cluttered and I only use 5% of anything on the screens and don't have the time or interest to learn the rest.

Especially the spring upgrade.

But reliability, etc. is very good.

Occasional problems with the server being down, but mostly reliable.

Question 8 response: In our current setup, I cannot see which specific entries in a discussion list I have read or not read by the interface (e.g., bold vs regular text, for instance). This was available last semester but the upgrade seems to have knocked that out. I also would like to see the "mark all as read" option return.

Question 11 response: See question 8 response re the interface withing discussion groups. My current instructor relies upon the discussion groups and I prefer to keep up to date but need the SW interface to help.

A lot of my professors don't really use BB, or when they do, forget to post assignments or are really late in posting grades. I feel like maybe some of them aren't very proficient or comfortable using it? As a student, I really like it, but it helps if the faculty keeps it updated.

Keep up the good work and add more online graduate programs.

no comment

I do not particularly like the fact that you do not have a single sign-on, sign-off for myumbc and blackboard. I have to log in once but MUST log off both functions separately

I can't offer any negatives about Blackboard. I am taking my final course now and have utilized Blackboard over the past few years. It is reliable most of the time and when problems occur, they are quickly resolved. I have been pleased with all of the functions offered by Blackboard. I have utilized the chat sessions to collaborate with my classmates on group projects. The uploading and downloading occurs quickly and easily. It is very intuitive and doesn't take long to grasp how to use it. I enjoy the flexibility of moving to back and forth to the myUMBC site when needed.

Oveall, it is a great resource for all students, but especially for the online students. It makes us feel more connected to UMBC. Thanks for offering such a tremendous resource!

question 8: BB only increases the workload instead of helping "reinforce learning." Most of what I do on BB is "busy work" instead of real enhancement. I'm just told to read chapters out of our outrageously expensive books and then I write/converse with my classmates about it; what do I go to school for? I could stay home and make these online courses..

Teachers need to either post all of your grades or none at all. Almost all classes I have

taken have had inaccurate grades on blackboard

I like Blackboard but wish the teachers would attach the grades as soon as they finished all of the grading.

Question 11) There is no need for improvement.

I think that online courses should involve more interactivity between the instructor and students. It would probably help more if all instructors are fully trained on how to administer learning using Blackboard.

For those professors who choose to use Blackboard, I'd appreciate it if they would post grades as soon as possible. Sometimes there's a lag between the test and the posting, which can cause some anxiety. Of course, this only applies to those professors who proclaim to use Blackboard to post grades, but then do not do so in an expedited manor.

If you "use it," then use it! If you "don't," then don't!

It is down or inaccessible far too often. It's quite unreliable at times.

How about a quick and easy 5-10 minute tutorial that students can go through. The Help you have doesn't really address every day use of the Blackboard tool.

This semester was the first time I used the Groups area within a class, and we had some trouble with the chat.

Question 11 (single most needed improvement for BB):

Improve the formatting ability of the thread/posting feature.

It is next to impossible to format text using the tools and tags provided. Formatting assignments that I am to post as a thread has been a nightmare. BB's Help files provide no substantial guidance on formatting or troubleshooting.

Take a look at one of my more recent experiences (while posting a 28-page paper):

Formatting Days 1-2: Worked in BB for many hours trying to format the document. Periodically saved the post as "Draft" (as a safety precaution). Got within 2 pages of finishing. Saved a final time. Tried several times to reopen the draft and nothing happened. (It wouldn't open.) Tried rebooting my computer. (Didn't help.) Thought the entry might have size limitations. Called the Help Desk and asked for advice regarding how to proceed. They said that I needed to start over again.

Formatting Day 3: Started over. Recreated a less fussy version of Day 1 work. Again, saving as a "Draft" thread. Went to publish the thread and could find no button or drop down that would allow me to do so. Called Help Desk. They said to use the button at the bottom of the page. I said that there was none. They couldn't provide any advice/didn't have a clue.

Formatting Day 4: Started over. Did a copy/paste (from Word into the post field). Made a small handful of edits and published immediately. (Formatting of final product is

not what I would turn in.)

I do have trouble returning to my general E-mail box if I have proceeded anywhere else withing BB. I usually have to back out to UMBC and then go back in.

I have yet to be in a class which has fully utilized BB's many features so I can't say much about its potential. It is a little tough to understand at times but certainly no worse than any other digital format I've accessed. Nice system overall.

n/a

new this semester: copy and paste into a rich-text field no longer works. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. previous emails to the blackboard helpdesk have gone unanswered. this is a 'wonderful' customer service technique.

also new this semester: these new high-speed, fancy rich-text fields. they add features and functions, but are they really worth it? they take too long to load, the cursor does not advance by itself and they lose information on a regular basis. THESE FANCY TEXT FIELDS NEED TO GO.

re-occurring gripes: the endless error loops, and regular server outages.

none

Server reliability is a most. Last semester I used online exams but had to discontinue due to the server being down too much. For the second exam last semester, Blackboard went down in the middle of my exam. Since that time I have been doing paper exams. If the server should become more reliable I will consider using online exams.

I have had issues with copying my assignments directly into a BB post from MS Word. When I copy/paste, it tends to reformat my text and I have to spend a lot of time reformatting directly in the post. Sometimes, when I "send" my message, I lose the formatting that I spent time fixing when it's uploaded to the system. It's a little frustrating, but has not been a major problem.

There needs to be a notification service. I want to receive emails, sms, etc when a page or section that I am watching changes.

I hate having to constantly remember to login and check different areas for new content. I think black board is like most technology solutions, it has the potential, if used to its full extent.

Nothing further

Some of the online documentation needs to be updating for the current course. Dr. Canfields courses always seem to have old documentation and he has to inform the class of the mistakes with the online documentation.

I love blackboard

I would like to see the discussion format changed back to the previous format. For busy people who appreciate being able locate new posts to discussion threads quickly, the

old format was much more effective. The new format requires scrolling and searching to locate the new post in any given thread. It's a frustrating time waster that doesn't facilitate communication.

You need to have a student training session on Blackboard...could be done at orientation, or as a separate session. When I started my grad. program, I was just told to use it and told when documents were available. Received no instruction whatsoever!!

Not good!

Overall, it is user friendly and just takes time to become proficient at using Blackboard. none.

Does blackboard include the email portion? The email is horribly unreliable. Blackboard course sections are not too bad. I wasn't sure what the scope of the question was in regards to the server reliability. I always log in through myumbc, and much or even most of the time, it displays information to me about my current ticket. I assume this is kerberos related? I'd rather not have to click through this extra informational display.

As a separate comment, I don't like having to click so many times through so many menus to get to my course content. The general navigational structure is cumbersome.

The frame structure is a poor practice and does not conform to generally accepted practice to accommodate the disabled, especially the visually impaired who use screen readers. I am not such a user, but my personal web design avoids frames like the plague because they are generally accepted to be bad practice. Also, link functionality does not perform as expected because linked content opens within the subframe. Please get rid of the frames.

What Blackboard needs is an immediate link to email (other than the 'send email' option which only allows you to send to people in your classes) on the left side column. Right now, if I am in BB and I want to send an email, I have to open up myUMBC and open webmail through there - this is just a couple extra steps but because I access them everyday, class info and email all need to be accessible from the same BB screen.

My only concern as an online student is when the servers are down and we have to submit our assignments.

At times, it is impossible to login to blackboard using Mozilla Firefox.

7. Advantage - project examples and templates can be shared. All the email addresses are available and useful on a group or individual level.

8. Disadvantage - there appears to be 1000 things on Blackboard. I use 2. I'd like to know what else can be done, but I don't have the time to spend searching around for cool features. If the teacher tells me what can be used, that would be great!!

12. I don't understand the question. As an information sharing tool, I think Blackboard is great. As a resource that I can use to communicate with my classmates, it is great. I don't think I understand your meaning of the term "learning tool".

Blackboard looks like a old program. It is not very user friendly and it is hard to figure

out what would be useful.

In general, I think that Blackboard has been used to create more work for students, without necessarily making courses better.

During peak times, sometimes I couldn't login, it was slow, the chat server was down, etc. I would say it was up the vast majority of the time, but 99.999999% is where it should be. No room for error because when students need it, it should be up. My #1 problem is the performance, and uptime.

The blackboard is limited too much to the professor. We had group projects that needed to be done for our class and the BB would have been perfect for sharing information within our group but the professor wasn't comfortable enough with BB to setup shared sites for our group. It would have been nice to have some predefined student locations in the course site that could be shared with selected other students so the BB would still be usable even if the professor isn't comfortable with it.

The only comment I have is there is not consistency from instructor to instructor on how the class Blackboard is set up. It takes me a while to figure out where each instructor puts things.

I'd like to see a real time document collaboration tool for group work and version control!

An effective education tool – supports on-line course work (which saves time, eliminates commuting to lecture).

"What do you think is the single most needed improvement about the administration of Blackboard?"

Its functionality is satisfactory

I'd like a way to get to my online courses quicker after I login into my UMBC. Instead of seeing my main page, why cannot I set a preference to go directly to my main course page. Of course, I realize as I write this that such a preference may already exist. I'll go & look. If that's the case, please ignore this comment!

n/a

Plugins wouldn't run. There were always issues with Blackboard especially with this new version, which made it really annoying to take the class online.

None

I have no additional comments.

The gradebook stinks. It's hard to enter grades. The space for entering grades is far away from the name and tabbing through is difficult, so the process is slow. I've tried using spreadsheets instead, but uploading the spreadsheet data requires a time consuming process of creating a csv file (which is not well explained unless you are uploading test results), entering data in another spreadsheet, and copying it into the csv file that you can really only use for uploading grades.

I don't like the changes to the email feature. It's much easier to click on names than move them back and forth between windows.

It's slow and it breaks a lot.

Blackboard at umbc looks good. good portal feel, and tie in with relevant information. I have had login issues with safari web browser. Site must be cross platform compatible.

Question 8 Other - The new version does not allow the ability to gather all posts and mark as read as easily as the old version does.

(related to professor training) Blackboard allows the instructor to set some of the posting areas on Discussion Board with the ability to change our own post, but does not make it consistent. I find that if the professors do not always allow this to happen on each post, giving the impression that the default is NOT allowing the students to change their own posts. When questioning the professors about making this change, some thought they already had chosen that option for all the posting areas. I would rather have it set so that by default the students can change their own posts, forcing the professors to change it to NOT allowing the students to change their posts if the professor chooses.

the only reason I use internet explorer is because the sites doesnt work well with mozilla. please fix that if possible!

OK