

Blackboard to Canvas Quick Reference

A Comparison of Tools

Blackboard and Canvas are both powerful learning management systems with many tools and features. This document provides a comparison between the tools, the options available in Blackboard and those available in Canvas.

Blackboard	Canvas Features (and differences)
Announcements	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Announcements are forwarded to students ONID e-mail by default, but students can opt out or add additional notification methods.
Assignments	Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments can be submitted unlimited times unless an Available Until date is set Can specify the format or file type to be submitted Can have graded or ungraded assignments Due date does not lock an assignment Available From and Available Until dates lock the assignment but do not hide an assignment
Blackboard Collaboration	Conferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences can be recorded and stored for 2 weeks. Utilizes Flash technology.
Blogs	No equivalent in Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can utilize unthreaded Discussions as an alternative to class Blogs. Individual Blogs could become a Wiki, Collaboration, or Assignment.
Calendar	Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments link to the Calendar or individual events can be added to the Calendar
No equivalent in Blackboard	Collaborations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors can create and share Google Documents for student collaboration, share a text-based whiteboard, and more
Content Collection	Files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Files can be viewable to students when the tool is enabled.

Blackboard	Canvas Features (and differences)
Discussion Board	Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Needs Grading” status is set after 1 post. • There is no Anonymous, Force Moderation or Rating option. • Threads are viewable on one screen. • Discussions can be threaded or unthreaded. • Do not have subject line
E-mail students	Inbox (internal messaging within Canvas - Conversations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Default is that students will receive an internal Canvas message and messages will be forwarded to ONID e-mail but students can opt out or add additional notification methods.
Folders	Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules contain links to content and activities similar to folders but appear as a table of contents that can be navigated similar to Blackboard Learning Modules.
Glossary	No equivalent in Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can create a Page as an alternative.
Grade Center	Grades, SpeedGrader, and Gradebook are all areas that have functions similar to the Blackboard Grade Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted and point based grades are supported; custom gradebook calculations are not available. • Weighted categories are proportional to the points assigned. • Drop lowest “...” scores is supported. • Final percentage or Final points can be displayed to students. • Inline grading, rubrics, and comments (text, audio, video) are supported.
Groups	Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussions can be gradable in Canvas with a single gradebook column. • Announcements, Files, Collaborations, Conferences, and Discussions are enabled in each group. • Discussions can be assigned to all groups at one time
Items	Pages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages contain versioning and can be ‘rolled back’ to a previous version.
Journals	No equivalent in Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can utilize Assignments as an alternative to private journals.

Blackboard	Canvas Features (and differences)
Learning Modules	Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules contain links to content and activities similar to folders but appear as a table of contents that can be navigated through similar to Blackboard Learning Modules.
Portfolios (legacy Bb)	ePortfolios
Rubrics	Rubrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubrics are based on Points or Point ranges (Free Form). • Rubrics can be used in grading or not. • Free form (range) rubrics will allow instructors to reuse their comments. • Rubrics cannot be attached to individual quiz questions.
Self Assessment / Peer Assessment	Peer Review Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas can automatically assign peer reviews and provide instructors with combined peer review feedback on written work.
SafeAssign	Assignment with TurnItIn enabled
Tasks	No equivalent in Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Page or Calendar events.
Test Student login	Student View <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student View allows instructors a full student experience as a “Test Student” • Instructors can upload materials, take quizzes, and navigate the course • The Test Student also appears in the Gradebook for assessment after instructors leave Student View. • Can toggle into Student View without logging out.
Tests and Surveys	Quizzes (Inclusive of Surveys) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional question types include Text, Multiple Dropdowns. • Unsupported types include Hot Spot and Quiz Bowl. • Quizzes Auto-Submit if a Time Limit is set. • Graded Surveys give points to students that complete a survey. • Answers in quizzes do not contain a,b,c,d,e indicators.
Wikis	Pages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiki pages in Canvas are single paged wikis by default. Collaborations are another option that can be used instead of wikis.