

Blackboard Suggestion Group

Each institution is allowed one representative to participate in this group that makes suggestions for improving Blackboard 9.1. Following is a list of suggestions currently under review.

Groups	
Sort Group roster by last name	Group rosters are currently listed and sorted by first name. They should sort by last name and display usernames to allow distinction among students with the same name.
Grading and Grade Center	
Individual grades from performance Dashboard	In the Performance Dashboard the Grade Center icon for each student should only lead to that individual's grades, not the entire course's.
Display student name on MyGrades page	Student names are not displayed on the MyGrades page. Including the names would allow student to easily prove that the printed grades are their own.
Allow non-numerical values in Grade Center	The Grade Center does not accept non-numerical values for grades. This request is to allow letters to be entered in the Grade Center.
Grade Reports	Instructors and students need a way to view their current grade and submission performance (scores, missing assignments, submissions, etc.) in varying levels of detail in order to effectively manage their progress.
Grading Enhancements	Institutions need finer control over roles and grading permissions and privileges at the course level. They also need a way to make grading less time consuming.
Assignment grading update	Instructors want a much more efficient way of grading student assignment submissions. They want to Open, Review, Edit, and Save the student submission without having to download, open, save, edit, re-save, and upload.
Messages and Course Communication	
Notifications for messages	Users must manually check the messages inbox in each course/organization they are enrolled in for notifications. There should be a notification for these without requiring the user to check each course.
Mail/Messaging System	Instructors need to communicate with students, groups of students, or their entire class from multiple interaction points; within a report, from the gradebook, during grading workflow, etc. They also want all course communications consolidated.
Calendar	
Easier creation of assignments on calendar	Instructors must manually create events on the Calendar for Assignment due dates. Include a button during the assignment creation to add the assignment to the calendar.
Additional Calendar event types	The calendar should allow day-long, multi-day, recurring, and zero-time events
Calendar Updates	Instructors and students alike have asked for a more robust calendar that shows all of the assignments,

	due dates, and other class-related information in a single calendar view.
Assessments	
Enforce Assessment time limit	Students are able to make submissions to Assessments after the timer expires. Instructors should have an option to not allow submissions after time has expired. It should also be easy to distinguish a late submission from one that was submitted on time.
Time spent per question	Instructors are not able to view how much time a student spent on each question of an assessment. This could also include a total time per submission value.
Item Analysis	Instructors and institutions need to ensure that their assessment questions are true indicators of student learning.
Assessment Updates	This enhancement would address the need to better handle story problems, poor fin in the blank and calculated question types, and a need for more effective answer “save” options. It would also include making the process of creating tests and questions less time intensive.
Discussions	
Display usernames in Discussion posts	Users need to be able to distinguish among students with the same name in Discussions. Displaying the username after last name, first name would resolve this.
Disable Discussion creating in Groups	Add the ability to restrict students from creating Discussions in Groups.
General	
Preview as a student	Instructors do not have the ability to preview a course as a student. There should be a true Student View.
Cleaner Printing	Printing in general needs to be made simpler and cleaner for discussion boards, grades, blogs, journals, and assessments.
Warning for no attachment	Students are able to make submissions with no attachments. There should be a warning shown if a student attempts to make a submission without an attachment where one is required.
Disable the ability to hide the course menu	Users are accidentally hiding their course menus and don’t know how to make them visible again. There should be an option to disable the button that hides the course menu.
Update all dates on one screen	There should be one screen within a course where the Instructor can edit all content item access dates and Assignment due dates.
Naming convention for submitted files	The current naming convention for downloading students’ submitted files is confusing. The files should display and sort on student name or the title of the file first.
New content default to top	New content items default to the bottom of the list of content items. In addition to making new content default to the top, a possible addition would be a “Move to Top” button on content items.
Attach more than one file at a time	Add the ability to attach more than one file at a time.
Progress bar for uploads/downloads	Add a progress bar for file uploads and downloads

Additional Review Settings	Instructors should be able to set submission review availability relative to specific start and end dates as well as relative to all attempts being graded and/or submitted.
Activity Reporting	Instructors and institutions need detailed information on how instructors and students are utilizing Blackboard. Aggregate activity views are required to compare usage.
Differentiated Instruction	Customers need a scalable way to design and deliver courses that automatically react to students based upon a wider array of evaluation criteria and resulting actions than is currently available.
Flexible enrollment	Many schools have student starting courses on an “on-demand” basis, or courses that are ongoing with new students enrolling all the time.
SafeAssign Performance	Institutions need SafeAssign to perform well during heavy usage peak season.