Blackboard to Canvas: Terminology Comparison and Processes

The following chart outlines differences in nomenclature and corresponding function between Blackboard and Canvas. Though some terminology used in each LMS is the same, the tool may not function as expected. For definitions of Canvas terminology, visit the [Canvas Community help site](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10704-67952720334).

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| PERSONAL AND COURSE SETTINGS |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |
| Profile | [Profile](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1865) | * Can create links to social media accounts.
* Users can reply to Inbox communications from any email address self-added to the Profile section. By default, the only listed email address is the user’s moody.edu email address.
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| Notifications | [Notifications](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2281) | * Options for immediate, daily, or weekly notifications.
* Changes to settings apply to all courses in which the user is enrolled.
* Mobile device notification options available.
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| Student Preview  | [Student View](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/61152-what-is-student-view) | * The *Student View* allows instructors the full student experience. In the “Test Student” role, instructors can upload materials, take quizzes, and navigate the course.
* Each course has a separate Test Student account.
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| Help | [Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1524) | * Search the Canvas Guides for answers to common questions.
* Use the Help interface to report a problem with Canvas.
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| COURSE AND CONTENT AVAILABILITY |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |
| Make Course Available | [Publish Course](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2707) | * Canvas courses exist in [three states](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2699): unpublished, published and concluded. Once “[concluded](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2709),” the course becomes read-only (e.g., grades cannot be changed).
* To allow a student to complete missing work the instructor must [extend the course end date](http://canvaskb.cirtunf.org/knowledge-base/how-to-restrict-visibility-of-course-end-of-semester/).
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| Adaptive Release RulesContent Rules  | Same functionality found in: * Restricted Access
* Availability Dates
* [Prerequisites](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2861)
 | * [Restricted Access](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2770) is available for course files.
* Quizzes and Discussions can include [availability dates](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2628).
* Prerequisites can be set on the module level ([unlocking an entire module based on certain conditions](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2853)) but not on the assignment level.
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|  Tool Availability | [App Center](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/l/121959-what-is-the-app-center) | * The App Center lists external apps (that have been vetted by ITS) that can be added to a course.
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| PEOPLE |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |
| UsersPerformance Dashboard | [People](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2877) | * See interactions between student and instructor.
* See last time student accessed the course and total time spent in the course.
* Includes access to: student analytics, grades, access report, outcomes.
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| Course Reports | [View Student Progress for Modules](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2859) | * Instructors can view student progress for required content within modules.
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| CONTENT |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |

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| Content Area | [Modules](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2808) | * Modules control the entire flow of a course and its content.
* Each module can contain files, discussions, assignments, quizzes, and other learning materials.
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| None | [Syllabus](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1860) | * The Syllabus syncs with the Calendar and creates assignment due dates.
* The Syllabus can be set as the Course Home Page.
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| Item | [Pages](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1916) | * Think of Pages as a tool for creating content including text, graphics, and video.
* A Page can be created and used as a course’s homepage.
* Pages can be used to create places for student collaboration.
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| Course Files | [Files](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2716) | * Files include personal files (associated with a user account), course files (associated with a specific course), and group files (associated with a specific group).
* Access all personal and course files by clicking “Account” in the left-side menu.
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| Course Copy | [Import Content into this Course](http://canvaskb.cirtunf.org/knowledge-base/how-do-i-copy-a-course-in-canvas/) | * Content can be imported from courses based in another LMS (e.g., Blackboard, D2L, or Moodle).
* Content can be imported from another Canvas course.
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| COLLABORATION TOOLS |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |

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| Discussion Board | [Discussions](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-3188) | * Discussions allow for interactive communication between two or more people including an entire class or group.
* Discussions can be graded or ungraded.
* Discussion topics can be either focused or threaded: focused discussions are for a shorter period of time, such as a weekly discussion topic; threaded discussions tend to be for a longer period of time. Focused discussions allow for only two levels of nesting—the original post and replies to it. Threaded discussions allow for infinite levels of nesting.
* By default, students can’t create topics; however, the instructor can change permissions to allow for it.
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| Journals | Use [Assignment](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/54251-can-a-student-resubmit-any-assignment) | * Assignments can be set to allow for multiple submission attempts. This can be used for a weekly reflection journal.
* A group can be created for each student in the course, the students can then post their journals in the group discussion board.
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| Blogs | Use [Discussions](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/40312-what-are-discussions-for-instructors) | * Using the course discussion board the instructor can create a thread for each student in which to post their blog.
* [http://canvaskb.cirtunf.org/knowledge- base/blogs-in-canvas/](http://canvaskb.cirtunf.org/knowledge-base/blogs-in-canvas/)
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| Wiki | Use [Pages](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1916) & [Collaborations](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/55281-what-are-collaborations) | * For instructor-created wiki pages, create pages in the course that students can edit.
* For student-created wikis, create student groups where students can create their own pages.
* Collaborations allows students to collaborate in either a synchronous or asynchronous fashion using Office 365.
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| Groups | [Groups](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2793) | * The option for creating Groups is in the People section.
* Functionality includes the ability to drag / drop students into groups, allowing for self-assignment or randomized assignment.
* Can assign a group leader.
* A group workspace is created where students can create pages, announcements, collaborations, discussions, calendar events, and chat in real-time.
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| COURSE COMMUNICATIONS |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |

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| Send Email | [Conversations](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1293)[(Inbox)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1293) | * Messaging tool.
* Receive notifications via social web services, text, etc.
* Send email to individuals or entire class from the Global Inbox. Users can reply to messages.
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| Announcements | [Announcements](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1801) | * Sending a course announcement will automatically send a notification to all students enrolled in the course. By default students’ notifications are set to send an email when new Announcements are created.
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| Calendar | [Calendar](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1292) | * Drag-and-drop to make changes.
* Assignment due date changes made in the calendar are automatically updated everywhere else in the course.
* Copy calendar feed link to view Canvas calendar in apps like Google Calendar, iCal, and Outlook.
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| Course Events | [Scheduler](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2640) | * Calendar tool that creates appointment groups within a course or group.
* Students can sign up for a time slot within the appointment group.
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| ASSESSMENTS |
| BLACKBOARD | CANVAS | KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN CANVAS |
| Assignments | [Assignments](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2614) | * Assignments can be submitted online through text entry, file uploads, media recordings, or URLs.
* Easily set up peer review assignments.
* Combine assignments to include percentage of total grade (e.g., Quizzes, Other, Assignments). Similar to “Categories” in Blackboard’s Grade Center.
* Includes all graded items (e.g., graded discussions, quizzes, and submitted items).
* Ungraded assignments create a deadline in the Calendar and Syllabus, but do not create a column in the Gradebook.
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| Test | [Quizzes](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2889) | * There are four quiz types: practice quiz, graded quiz, graded survey and ungraded survey.
* Quiz Statistics include student and item analysis.
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| Survey | [Quiz Type](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/68346-how-do-i-create-a-survey-in-my-course) | * Surveys are classified as a quiz type in Canvas.
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| Question Pools | [Question](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2947)[Banks](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2947) | * Question banks from other courses must be added to the current course in which the questions are to be used.
* If a question is changed in a question bank, it does not change in the quizzes where the question is being used. It must be updated everywhere.
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| Question Sets | [Question](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2900)[Groups](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2900) | * Can pick a certain number of questions from a Question Bank.
* Must use Question Groups to randomize the order of questions.
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| Rubrics | [Rubrics](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2867) | * Can be used for grading or just feedback.
* Simply click to add columns when editing a rubric.
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| Full Grade Center & Crocodoc | [Grades](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2785) | * Faculty can enter grades and comments directly in Grades, but the use of Speedgrader is strongly encouraged.
* Gradebook is automatically populated from the items in the Assignments list.
* Students can figure hypothetical “what-if” grades.
* Can sort columns in one click by due date or assignment category.
* Student submissions are highlighted in red if the submission was turned in late.
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| [Speedgrader](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2583) | * Displays submitted assignment, grading rubric, and media comment options all on one page.
* Add comments directly to student’s assignments (Word, PDF, Excel, and PowerPoint) within Canvas.
* Add audio or video comments directly to assignments from within Canvas by using a microphone or webcam.
* The [Speedgrader app](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9492) is available for iPad and Android devices.
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| SafeAssign | TBD | * Since SafeAssign is a product of Blackboard, we are assessing which plagiarism-detection tool would work best with Canvas.
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