

Blackboard Update – New Features

Moving from: Blackboard 9.1, Service Pack 11 → Blackboard 9.1, April 2014 Release

When: Thursday, May 21st – Friday, May 22nd, 2015. *Blackboard will be unavailable these days.*

Test Availability Exceptions

Instructors will be able to provide availability “exceptions” to tests. Instructors may now select different availability rules for different users, or groups of users - for example, certain students with disabilities who might need more time to complete a test.

Test availability exceptions is a set of new settings on the Test Options page, available only after the test is added to a content area. Select one or more groups of students and make a number of exceptions to the already established availability settings. Exceptions can be used to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences. Exceptions can be created for:

- Number of attempts
- Timer
- Availability
- Force completion

Content Editor Math Formulas

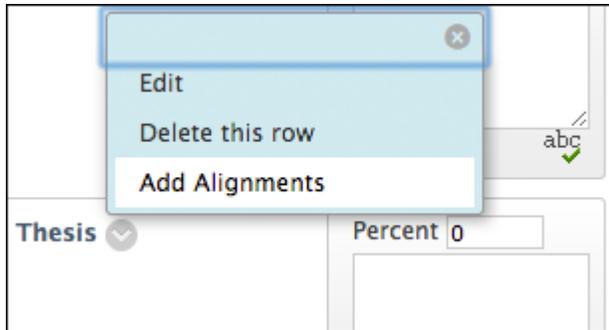
Blackboard brings a new WIRIS editor that is based on JavaScript. This removes dependence on Java and as a result enables full math-editing capabilities on platforms that cannot run Java in browsers such as iOS. This extends the functionality of the WIRIS math editor to all platforms capable of running a JavaScript enabled browser.

The move from the non-accessible applet-based editor to a JavaScript-based editor improves accessibility.

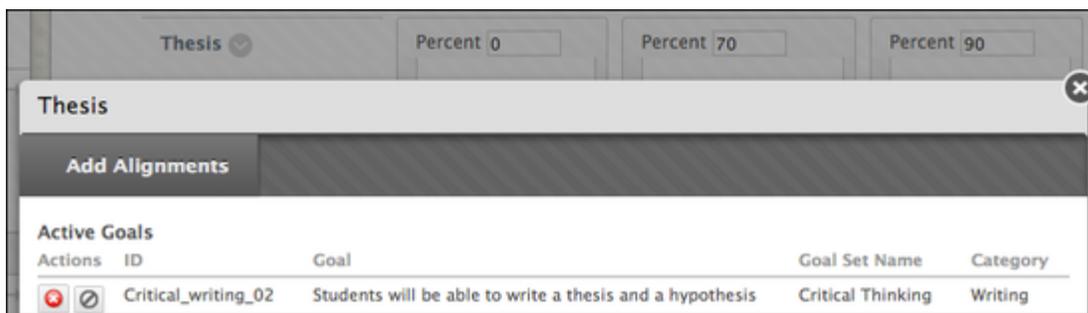
Align Rubric Row Criteria to Goals

Instructors can now align individual criteria listed in the row of a rubric to course goals, providing a more granular level of aligning a specific criterion to course goals using a rubric.

1. From any row in a rubric, select **Add Alignments** from the contextual menu.



2. Click **Add Alignment** to search for course goals.
3. Select goals and **Submit**.



Exporting Test Questions

All questions are now retained in exported and imported tests, including questions that originate outside the exported test, such as Question Sets, Random Blocks, and Question Links. When the user exports a test and imports it back into a different course, all questions are now imported irrespective of their origin.

Questions that are linked in question sets and random blocks in the originating test are imported into the new test in question pools. Single questions that were linked in the originating test are imported as “native” (non-linked) questions.

Discussions

The Discussions building block changes the discussion board user interface in two primary ways:

- The thread detail page has been thoroughly redesigned while maintaining all of its current functionality.
- Instructors now can require students to first post to a forum before they can see other students' posts.
- Discussion updates include:
- All posts on one page: All of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page.

- Instructor highlighting: Posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user's course role and forum role.
- Inline replies: When replying to a post, the content editor used to write a response appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.
- "Post First" Discussions: When creating a forum, instructors can use the Participants must create a thread in order to view other threads in this forum setting, which will require students to post to a discussion before seeing other students' posts.

New Student Preview Tool

<http://youtu.be/JCrAQewg7Is>

Inline Grading Tool

New full-screen preview of students' work.

Grade Center Improvements

My Grades ordering and design update: The page provides students with a new default option for the order grades are displayed in.

Define "Score Attempts Using" setting from the "Options" page: This is a workflow improvement to ensure you know about and can easily find this setting for tools that support multiple attempts.

Test total points adjustment: This enhancement address several related needs, all revolving around the total points possible for tests, and needing to adjust the total points possible.

Grading schemas greater than 100%: There is now an enhancement to allow for schema percentages to be greater than 100%.

My Grades Ordering and Design Update

My Grades			
<input type="button" value="All"/> <input type="button" value="Graded"/> <input type="button" value="Upcoming"/> <input type="button" value="Submitted"/>		Order by: <input type="button" value="Course Order"/>	
ITEM	GRADE	FEEDBACK	LAST ACTIVITY
Test DUE: JUL 31, 2013	10.00 /10		Jul 31, 2013 1:59 PM GRADED
Test 2 DUE: AUG 15, 2013	* /10		UPCOMING
Assignment 1 DUE: AUG 5, 2013	* /100		UPCOMING
Assignment 2 DUE: AUG 9, 2013	* /100		UPCOMING
Weighted Total	*		
Total	10.00 /10		

Several changes were made:

The Order by drop-down list allows students to change order by course, last activity, or due date. By default, items are ordered by course, which displays items in the order the instructor has arranged them in Grade Center.

Students can narrow the listed items by selecting All, Graded, Upcoming, and Submitted. For example, Graded only shows rows that have been graded by the instructor.

The text size and row spacing have been reduced, resulting in more information being displayed on the page at once. Feedback is included right in-line so that students don't need to click anything to view it—it just shows up on the page.

To learn more, see [My Grades](#).

New Score Attempts

A Score Attempts Using drop-down list has been added to the Test Options and Create Assignment pages.

TEST AVAILABILITY

Make the link available Yes No

Add a new announcement for this test Yes No

Multiple Attempts

- Allow Unlimited Attempts
- Number of Attempts

Score attempts using Last Graded Attempt ▼

- Last Graded Attempt
- Highest Grade
- Lowest Grade
- First Graded Attempt
- Average of Graded Attempts

Force Completion
Once started, this test must be completed

Test Total Points Adjustment

In an earlier release, a change was made to Grade Center columns that were automatically created to show test results. In this release, we have provided a way for you to adjust the total Points Possible for a test while maintaining the integrity of the previous change described above.

Points Possible

Manually override the calculated total

The total for this column is automatically calculated. If you wish to ignore the automatic total and specify a fixed value, check this checkbox and then change the points. While the override is in effect, any changes resulting in a new automatic total will not be reflected in the effective total for this column.

Grading Schemas Greater Than 100%

Instructors can now make the uppermost value in a grading schema greater than 100%. For example, if a student earns 100% or more, an instructor may choose to assign A+ to those scores. To learn more, see [About Grading Schemas](#).

Grades Scored Between	Will Equal	Grades Manually Entered as
100 % and 120 %	A+	A+
94 % and Less Than 100%	A	A
82 % and Less Than 94%	B	B
72 % and Less Than 82%	C	C
65 % and Less Than 72%	D	D
0 % and Less Than 65%	F	F