Blackboard Effects from Changes to Fall 2020 Schedule of Classes

OVERVIEW

To ensure the health and safety of faculty, staff, and students, the fall schedule of classes has been re-engineered to accommodate changes in course modality (e.g., in-person to online, in-person to hybrid), reductions in classroom capacity due to physical distancing requirements, and a reduced number of in-person classes. These changes have resulted in unavoidable impacts to Blackboard courses.

This document outlines the expected impacts, action required of instructors, a tentative timeline for activities, and plans for communication.

Phase 1 – Blackboard Course Creation – June 22, 2020

On June 22, 2020, to enable the faculty to begin preparing their courses for Fall 2020, ITS created Blackboard courses for all class sections listed on the schedule of classes as of that date. After the courses were created, Blackboard course and roster updates were paused because of the expected impact of changes to course modalities (e.g., in-person to online, in-person to hybrid), reductions in classroom capacity due to physical distancing requirements, and a reduced number of in-person classes.

Phase 2 – Course Development & Schedule of Classes Update - June 22 – July 31

The Registrar’s office makes changes to the schedule of classes (changes in modality, reductions in in-person classroom sizes, and reschedules classrooms according to physical distancing guidelines). Faculty engage in course planning, ITLAL and EdTech workshops to begin building their Blackboard courses. Blackboard courses are regularly backed periodically.

Phase 3 – Blackboard Content Migration – August 6 – August 17 (updated 7/31; subject to change)

Once the schedule changes are in place, ITS will update Blackboard courses to reflect the new schedule of classes. This will require some instructors to migrate their course content to a new Blackboard course. ITS is working to make the content migration as straightforward as possible, and detailed instructions will be provided.

How to Copy Your Blackboard Course

The following course content migration possibilities are expected:

A class section was cancelled and new one scheduled in its place.

The instructor of record may copy the course content from the June 22 course to the newly scheduled course.

A class section was combined with other new or existing class section(s).

The instructor of record may copy the course content from the June 22 child course into the newly created parent course.

A class section was un-combined from other class section(s).

The instructor of record may copy the course content from the June 22 parent course to the newly created stand-alone course.

A class section was cancelled and no new section was scheduled in its place.

The instructor of record may export the course content for use in a future semester.
Phase 4 – Resume Normal Blackboard Course & Roster Processing - August 17 (updated 7/31; subject to change)

ITS will automate course creation and roster synchronization as normal and continue regular course backups for the remainder of the term. At this time Blackboard courses for all cancelled class sections will become permanently inaccessible.

Communication Log

- August 6, 2020 - Action Needed for your Fall 2020 Blackboard Course
- August 3, 2020 - EdTech Notes: Next Phase in Fall 2020 Blackboard Course Processing
- July 27, 2020 - EdTech Notes: Blackboard Course Processing

Need more help? Contact the ITS Service Desk.