



Fall 2013

Educational Technology Newsletter



9/23/2013 ~ Fall 2013 Edition 1

Blackboard Implementation

New service packs were installed on August 18th. As a result, there are minor differences in the Blackboard interface.

One new feature is “Inline Assignment Grading”. Faculty members do not need to download a student file to add comments and upload the files back in an Assignment drop box. Instead, they will open a student file in the Submission Page in Blackboard and directly provide their comment to students. You may watch a video about Inline Assignment Grading at <http://youtu.be/3X9Rerz0VX0>.

Another feature is Retention Center where at-risk students will be marked down to alert faculty to take a further action. This video gives more information on Retention Center: <http://youtu.be/bnSHI3gLik>

Instructional manuals of Blackboard can be found in “Blackboard Learn Faculty Orientation Course”, which can be accessed via “My Institution” page in Blackboard.

Starting Fall 2013, 12 community colleges and 4 state universities share the same license in Blackboard system. Due to a heavy traffic from 16 institutions, Blackboard systems had quite a few downtimes since the first day of class. Two application servers have been added to address the slowness issue, and more application servers will be added to accommodate the high demand in using Blackboard.

Online Learning

Summer 2013

Thirty online courses were offered with 790 seats in the two terms of summer semester. Eleven sessions of orientations were provided to help online students get started with course navigation, Blackboard basic tools, and success tips.

Fall 2013

Fifty online courses are scheduled with over 1200 registered seats, which reflects an 8% increase over Fall 2012. Four sessions of orientation were provided to online students.

To help potential online students make a wise decision, a video was developed using Camtasia to show what an online course looks like and explain what online learning entails. The video can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nrcwwyp>

Educational Technology

In summer, two sessions of Social Media and Smart Devices as well as six sessions of Blackboard were provided to faculty and staff.

Technology Clinic sessions were presented to students during Fall New Student Orientation

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman 632/633

mxccdistancc@mxc.commmnet.edu ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning/Ed Tech
Sandra Couture, Educational Technology Specialist

Josh Robbins, Distance Learning Assistant
Tonya Salyerds, Distance Learning Assistant
Naadu Adjoka-Nartey, Distance Learning Assistant

Fall 2013 Technology Training Schedule

Registration for training is required. Location for training will be given upon registration.

Complete schedule available at: http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/Educational_Technology_Training.asp

Register by emailing mxccdistanace@mxcc.edu with your name, phone number, date, time and title of the training session you would like to attend.

Blackboard Learn: Getting Started with Bb Learn

Prerequisite: No prior experience with any version of Blackboard

Prerequisite 2: Faculty must be able to log into MyCommNet with their NetID and Password.

Prerequisite 3: Faculty may bring a completed syllabus and course files in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx saved on a USB drive to this training session.

An introduction to the Blackboard Learn learning management system, which provides a standardized interface and a set of online educational tools that help facilitate learning, communication and collaboration in on-ground, hybrid, and fully-online classes.

Tuesday, 9/24/13, 1:30 pm—4:00 pm, Meriden Center Room 404

Blackboard Learn Advanced Features

Prerequisite: Faculty have attended Getting Started with Blackboard Learn.

This session will cover the following topics: Grade Center, Online Tests, Retention Center, etc.

Friday, 9/27/13, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, 9/30/13, 1:30 pm—4:00 pm, Meriden Center Room 404

Friday, 10/4/13, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Social Media Smarts

Learn the Do's and Don'ts of Social Media. Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other social media platforms will be covered. Become more aware of the strengths and hazards of being a digital citizen of today.

Friday, 9/27/13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, 10/17/13 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Get iSmart with your iDevice for Student Support and Teaching

Prerequisite: Faculty and staff must bring either an iPod, iPhone or iPad with touch screen to the training session.

We will demonstrate a few useful apps with time to answer specific questions geared towards using and customizing your iDevice (iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad) for use in Student Support and Teaching.

Friday, 9/27/13 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Wednesday, 10/2/13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Get iSmart with your Android Device for Student Support and Teaching

Prerequisite: Faculty and staff must bring an Android device (tablet or smartphone; NO eReaders such as Kindle or Nook).

Learn about the various ways an Android device can enhance your role as an MxCC instructor. We will discuss how to use your device both inside and outside the classroom, and demonstrate apps for teaching, organizing, and increasing student engagement.

Wednesday, 11/6/13, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Web 3.0: Horizon Report 2013

Discover what new technologies are on the horizon for the higher education field in the 1 year, 2-3 year, and 4-5 year adoption windows.

Friday, 10/4/13, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Mobile Device Usage across Higher Education

Based on Educause and Purdue University and similar mobile device usage studies and statistics at various universities and colleges, we will present and discuss the successful adoption of mobile device across campus and in the individual classroom.

Friday, 11/1/13, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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