



Spring 2013 Educational Technology Newsletter



February 27, 2013 ~ Spring 2013 Edition 1

Blackboard In-House Transition

Since Winter 2012, all courses have been offered on an In-House server managed by BOR IT staff. The system has been reliable without a major downtime despite of a few system glitches. If faculty or students experience problems in Blackboard, contact Distance Learning.

The regular maintenance window of Blackboard is Sundays from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. In addition, from 2:00 am to 6:00 am daily, there might be system performance testing. Although Blackboard system might be accessible during maintenance or system testing, faculty and students are recommended not to submit any work in Blackboard in the aforementioned time frames.

Starting January 1, 2013, the Toll Free 24x7 Help Desk has been terminated. Faculty should delete previous help desk information in Blackboard. A Student Support Center is established to help students with Blackboard issues, and the support information is posted at http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/Technical_Help.asp

Since many faculty copied their previous courses into new courses in Blackboard, there might be redundant links in new courses. To minimize confusion in course navigation, faculty are advised to delete duplicate links in Blackboard.

Online Learning

In Winter 2012, three online courses were offered with 66 seats. The overall course completion rate is 85%, which is higher than the rate (75%) in other semesters. Two campus orientations were offered to winter online students.

In Spring 2013, 37 online courses were offered with 1064 seats. With the same number of courses offered as in Spring 2012, the enrollment is slightly higher even when enrollment cap for an online course is reduced by 5 seats. Seven orientations were provided to five fully online courses and two hybrid courses.

Distance Learning staff have worked extensively with online/hybrid professors in migrating and developing online/hybrid courses.

Spring 2013 Courses

The Technology Clinics sessions were well received during New Student Orientation sessions. New video clips were developed to show students how to access technology resources. The video clips are accessible at <http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/STechResources.asp>

Two video clips were developed to show faculty how to add a syllabus to Blackboard, and they can be accessed at <http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/fdoc.asp>

In collaboration with Information Resources Management committee, an Educational Technology Survey will be distributed to identify college wide needs in better using technology and providing training.

We are working with the college library staff in a few joint projects: Technology Time Drop-in session, an Apple Apps seminar to MILE program, a Mobile Technology Buddy Group, and a Technology Showcase.

We are working with Professor Terry McNulty in ENG101, English Composition to explore the use of Google Sites for students to build academic E-Portfolios.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman 632/633

mxccdistance@mxcc.comnet.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
Naddu Adjoka-Nartey, Distance Learning Assistant

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All sessions will be held in Chapman 629 (Middletown campus) unless otherwise specified. Registration for training is required. Complete schedule available at:

http://www.mxcc.edu/Content/Educational_Technology_Training.asp

Register by emailing mxccdistancc@mxc.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.

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.

Thursday, 2/28/13	9:30 am - 12:00 pm in MERIDEN Center
Friday, 3/1/2013	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Tuesday, 3/5/13	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm in MERIDEN Center
Friday, 3/8/2013	9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Blackboard Learn - Syllabus Boot camp

Prerequisite: No prior experience with any version of Blackboard

Learn how to upload a digital version of your syllabus into your Blackboard Learn course. Faculty must bring a completed syllabus in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx saved on a USB drive to this training session.

Friday, 3/1/2013	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Friday, 3/8/2013	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Blackboard Learn - Master the Grade Center

Pre-requisites: Blackboard Learn: Getting Started This session will focus on strategies that will help instructors effectively manage student grades. Topics will include: Managing and organizing Grade Center, creating various types of columns, grading manually created columns, etc.

Friday, 3/15/13	9:30 am - 12:00 pm OR
Friday, 3/15/13	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Web 2.0: Get iSmart with your iDevice for Student Support and Teaching

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

Friday, 4/19/13	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Tuesday, 4/23/13	2:00 pm - 4:00 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.

Thursday, 4/25/13	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Friday, 4/26/13	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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