Blackboard 9 Coming Spring Semester 2010

The newest version of Blackboard (version 9) will be implemented for the upcoming spring semester at MCCC. Workshops will be held during the January Works Days to orient faculty to the new version. **If you are a Blackboard user please try and attend one of the following workshops scheduled for January 12 @ 2 PM in C8 and January 14 @ 10 AM in C8.** The workshops will last approximately 1.5 hours. If you would like to get an advanced look at Blackboard 9, check out these online tutorials: [http://www.blackboard.com/quicktutorials/quicktutorials.htm](http://www.blackboard.com/quicktutorials/quicktutorials.htm)

Speech Professor Records Student Presentations and Uploads Video to Blackboard

Mark Bergmooser began using the digital FlipShare video cameras available through the eLearning and Instructional Support department to record the students in his SPCH 151- Communication Fundamentals class while they delivered their informative, persuasive and demonstrative speeches. The presentations were then uploaded to his Blackboard site so that the students could view them. For the past 13 years, he recorded their speeches via VHS and placed the tapes in the library on reserve once the students were finished. **Usually, 1 or 2 students would visit the library and pick up the tape and watch it in one of the cubicles. Now, within a day, the students can view their speeches. He found that as many as 7-10 per class would view themselves.**

“This allows for immediate self-assessment,” Bergmooser said. “And they can view it wherever and whenever. Some students have watched on their laptops while waiting for another class and others have logged on at 2:00 a.m. in the privacy of their own homes.”

Bergmooser plans to continue this during the winter semester with his SPCH 151 classes and his SPCH 152-Public Speaking course.

If you are interested in learning more about utilizing video in this way, please contact Jeff Peters, Coordinator of eLearning and Instructional Support at [jdpeters@monroeccc.edu](mailto:jdpeters@monroeccc.edu)

How Do I Download My Blackboard Gradebook?

At the end of each semester many divisions require that their instructors download their Blackboard gradebooks and email them to the division secretary. **For step-by-step instructions in downloading your Blackboard gradebook click here:**

[http://www.monroeccc.edu/distancelearning/trainingMod/DownloadBlackboardGradeCenter.pdf](http://www.monroeccc.edu/distancelearning/trainingMod/DownloadBlackboardGradeCenter.pdf)
How Do I Add An Extra Credit Column To My Blackboard Gradebook?

The new Grade Center ignores any column worth 0 points possible and therefore, extra steps are needed to make the Grade Center include the grades from a column worth 0 points possible in the “Total” column.

To include a column worth 0 points possible:

1. Access your course Grade Center
2. Within the Total column, click the drop-down menu and choose Modify Column
3. Scroll down to Section 3: Select Columns and click the radio button next to Selected Grade Columns, Calculated Columns and Categories

   **Select Columns**
   
   To include all grade columns in the total, choose the all grade columns option. If Grades by choosing the all grade columns in Grading Period option and select the appropriate categories in the total, choose the selected grade columns, calculated columns and then to the Selected Column list.

   **Include in Total**
   
   - All Grade Columns
   - Selected Grade Columns, Calculated Columns and Categories

4. Under Columns to Select, select all columns you want included within your Total column, including your Extra Credit columns, and then click on the arrow icon to move the selected columns into the Selected Columns box or window.

5. For the option Calculate as running total select No
6. Scroll to the end of the page and click Submit

Please note: This method will not work if weighting is used with this or other gradebook items. If you require further assistance please contact Jeff Peters, Coordinator of eLearning and Instructional Support at jdpeters@monroeccc.edu.

Blackboard Known Issues

Uploading documents using Firefox 3.5 – RESOLVED!

There is no longer an issue with using Firefox 3.5 with the Blackboard Assignment tool. This issue has been resolved.
Grade Center Total Column Error

There exists an issue within the Total column – Column Information area in the Blackboard Grade Center. Instead of the total possible points displaying within the Total column – Column Information area, a message states that the possible points “varies per student”. We are currently working with Blackboard to resolve this issue.

The work-around for this issue is to select any cell within your Total column and view the total possible points within the Grade Information Bar at the bottom of the screen (see example below):

Taking Blackboard Test Using Internet Explorer 8

Internet Explorer 8 introduced a new tool called Compatibility View. When enabled the Compatibility View allows web pages to be displayed as they would in older versions of Internet Explorer. For more information about Compatibility View, please review the features section of Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 web page: [http://www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer/default.aspx).

If Compatibility View is not enabled BEFORE a test is started in Blackboard, the test timer box will expand through the right side of the test window preventing the student from being able to use any test navigation or submit the test. Instructions on how to enable Compatibility View can be found on the Distance Learning/eLearning Student web page: [http://www.monroeccc.edu/distancelearning/elearning_student.htm](http://www.monroeccc.edu/distancelearning/elearning_student.htm) or in the Student Resource Center in Blackboard.

Security Warning in Blackboard

When a student clicks on a link that takes them to a website outside of Blackboard, the student will receive a security warning asking if they wish to display content that is not displayed on a secure website (HTTPS).

This warning occurs because Blackboard is a secure website and when the student links to a website that is outside the secure network, Internet Explorer wants to confirm that you are aware you are leaving a secure website. If the student is confident that the website is not malicious, click No to view the content.