

What's New in Blackboard 2013

A detailed reference guide for **Instructors**

What's New in Blackboard 2013

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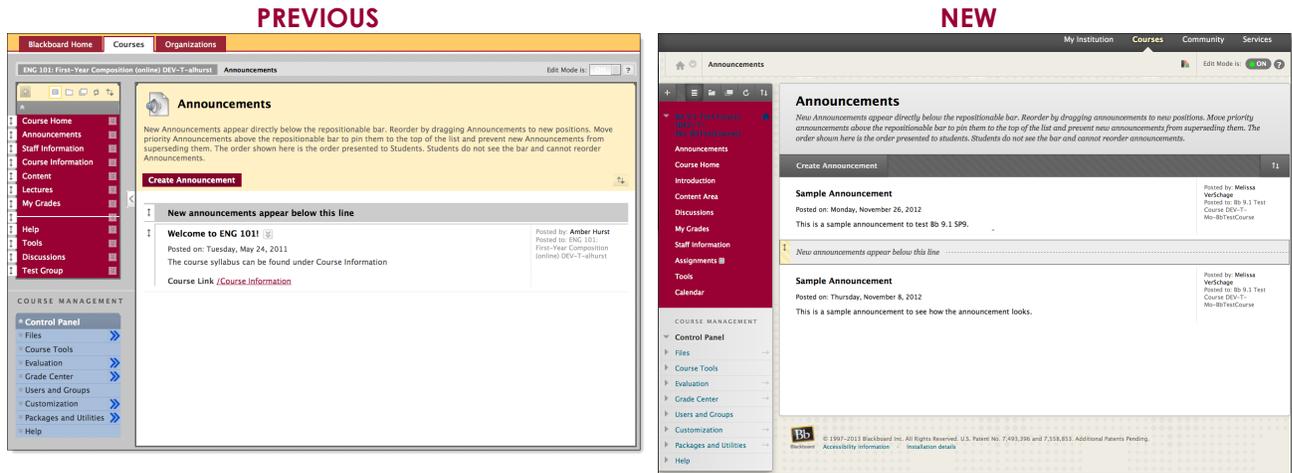
What's New in Blackboard 2013

Interface Change

The default theme in Blackboard Learn has been updated to enhance user experience, placing more emphasis on content, reducing on-screen clutter, and increasing usable screen space. With this approach, a couple of the standard tools appear different and new, exciting tools have been added as well.

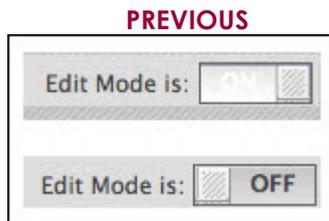
Overall Appearance

The environment looks the same in layout and organization.



Edit Mode

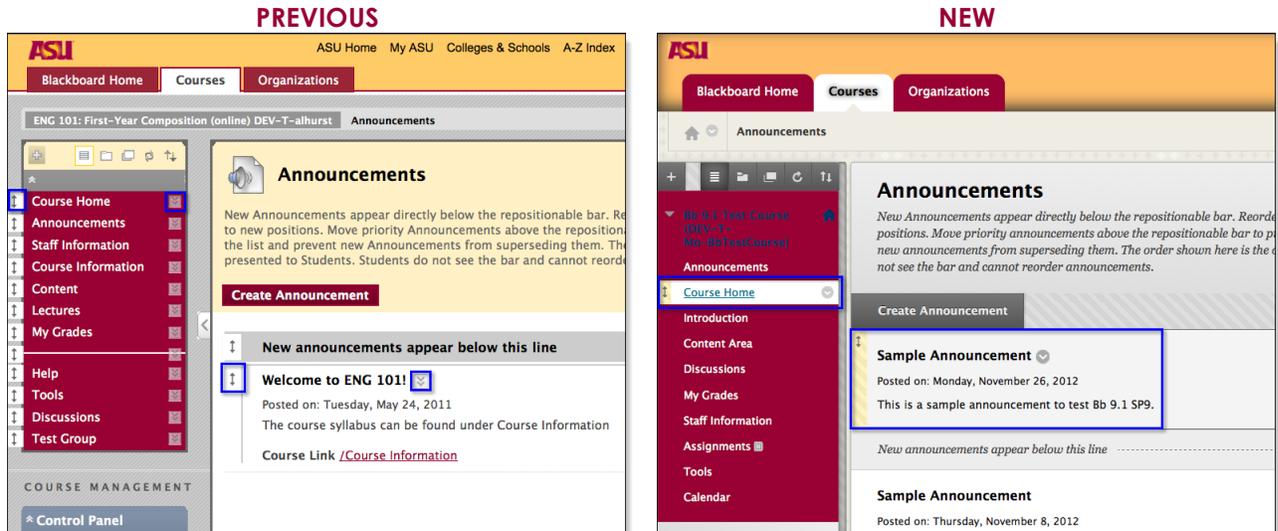
When Edit Mode is on, it now displays a green light. When you toggle it to the Edit Mode Off position, it is grayed out. The button still displays ON and OFF to indicate its status.



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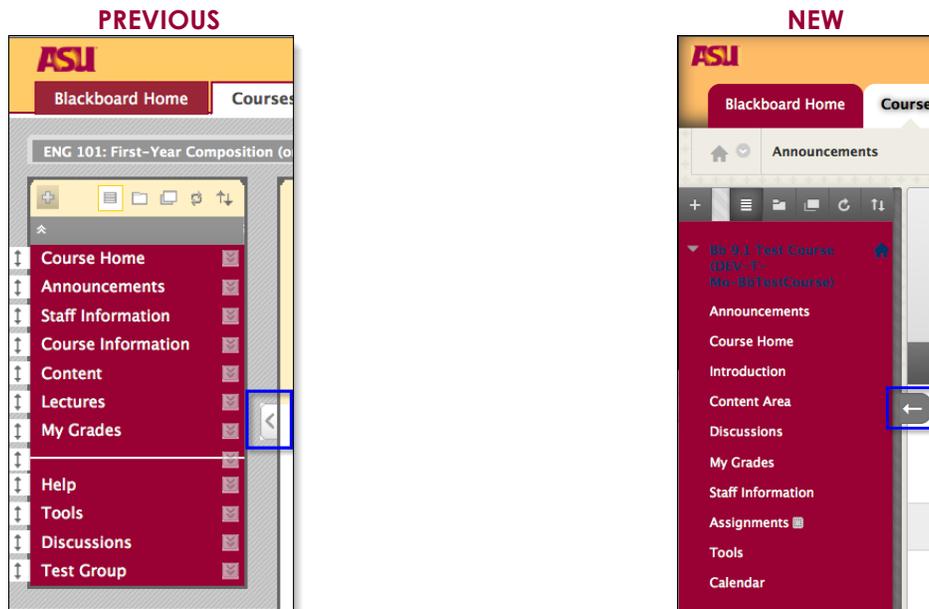
Editing Controls are hidden by default

You'll notice that editing menus and drag-n-drop handles are hidden in the new environment. This was done to help reduce clutter on the screen and create a cleaner look without having to toggle the Edit Mode off and on. You can see the editing tools by hovering over an item. *In our previous version, the editing tools were always visible with Edit Mode On.*



Collapse Course Menu Behavior

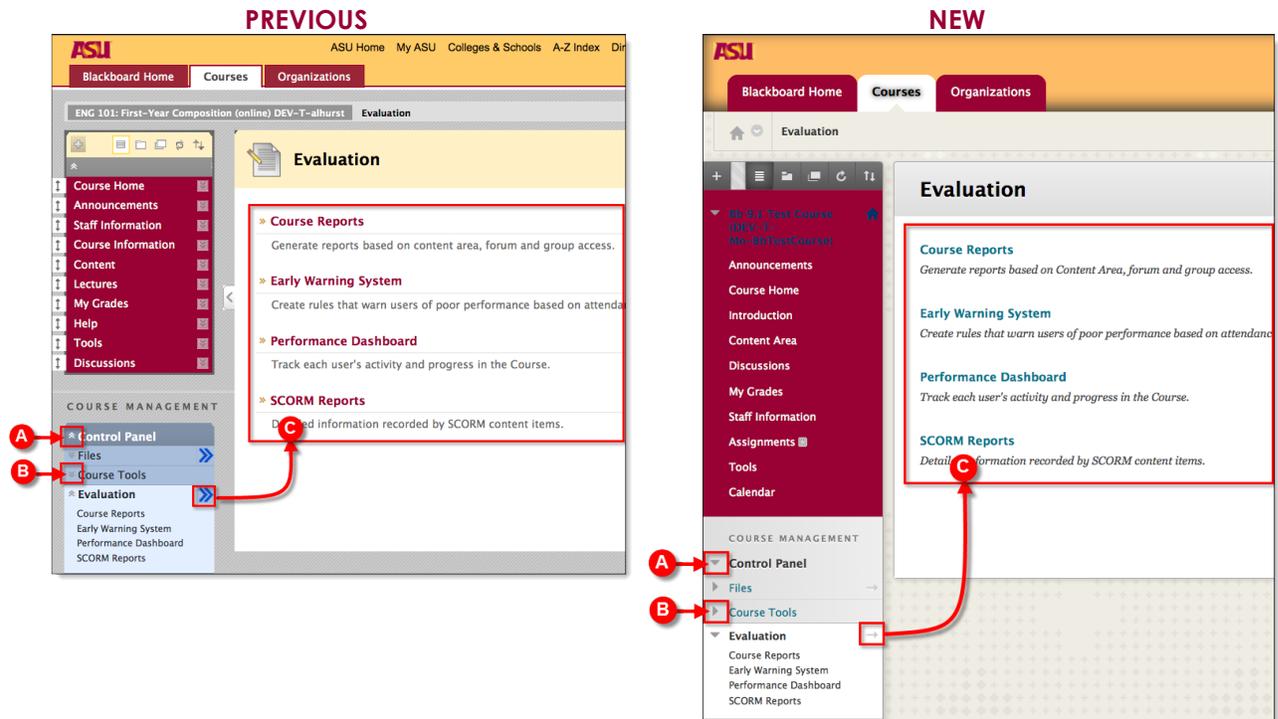
In response to user confusion around the collapsing course menu behavior, the course menu has been modified to only retain its collapsed state for the duration of the user session and on a per-course basis. In addition, collapse menu icon has been expanded to the height of the course menu. Previously, the menu would stay collapsed after users logged out and do so across multiple courses, causing confusion when logging back in to a collapsed menu.



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Control Panel Arrows

In the Control Panel, to access the main page of a section, you click the right-facing arrow. Previously this was a large, blue, double arrow, and is now a small, gray, single arrow. The functionality is the same.



- A** **Collapse:** collapse the control panel or tool within the control panel
- B** **Expand:** expand the control panel or tool within the control panel
- C** **Go to Overview Page:** displays the overview page for the tool in the main content area

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Course-to-Course Navigation NEW

Allows students and instructors to jump from course to course while retaining the context of the page or task from the original page of any recently accessed course. This helps save excessive navigation. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

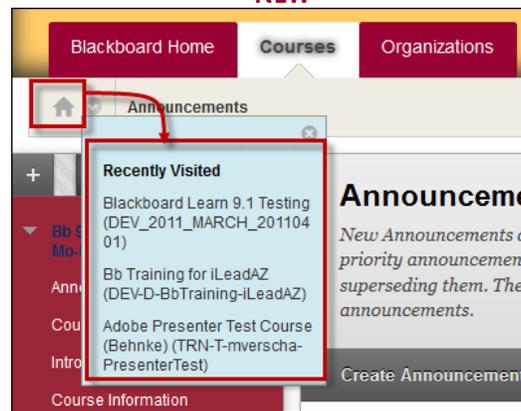
For example, if you are posting in a discussion forum in one course, you can quickly jump to the discussion area of another course using this feature.

Note: If the content area you are on in the current course is not named the same in the target course, you will be taken to the course entry point instead.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW

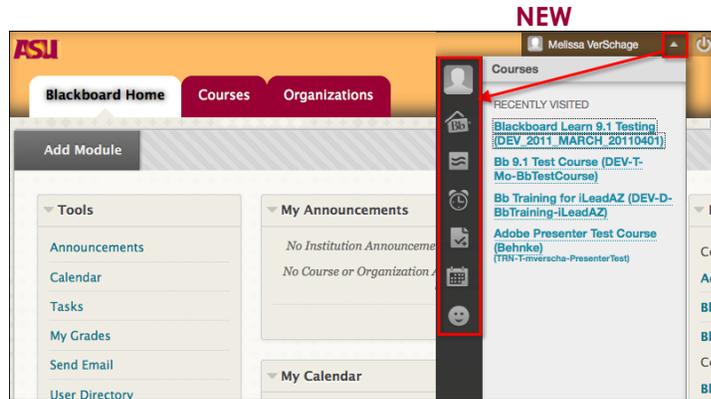


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Global Navigation

Global Navigation refers to the set of links that appears at the top right corner of the Blackboard Learn frame. This set of links is the entry point to My Blackboard, which aggregates information from across the Blackboard Learn system in one place to provide a consistent, quick, and easy way to find information.

PREVIOUS
N/A



My Blackboard Profile is where you can customize your profile image and general information available to other Blackboard users. You can connect your Blackboard profile to all of your Blackboard courses. This information is not tied to your ASURITE account information, and you can control what is made visible to others.



Bb Home serves as an overview for all of your courses. Information regarding deadlines, recently graded assignments and recent posts are streamed to this page.



Posts displays the latest posts in your courses' discussion boards, wikis, blogs and journals. You can reply to any of the posts directly from this window.



Updates lists all notifications for every course you are enrolled in. You can view all notifications at once, or view them by course by simply clicking on a course name. Access a notification options menu to discuss the notification or go directly to that item in the course. You can select the notification types you want to show by clicking the gray sprocket in the upper right corner of the screen.



My Grades, which is available for students only, shows the status of gradable items from all courses in one location. The page shows the most recently graded items and enables students to view their attempts. The page can be sorted by date or course. Students can view the individual items that are graded or waiting to be graded as well as upcoming tests and assignments.



Retention Center, formerly known as Early Warning System, provides an easy way for instructors to discover which students in their courses are at risk. Instructors can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement. Instructors can customize the criteria for the notifications.



My Calendar displays a combined calendar for all of your courses. You can hide courses to view individual deadlines. Instructors and students can add personal items to the calendar, which will display with all of the course deadlines. Note that course deadlines only populate the calendar if the instructor uses the Due Date field for gradable assignments.

What's New in Blackboard 2013



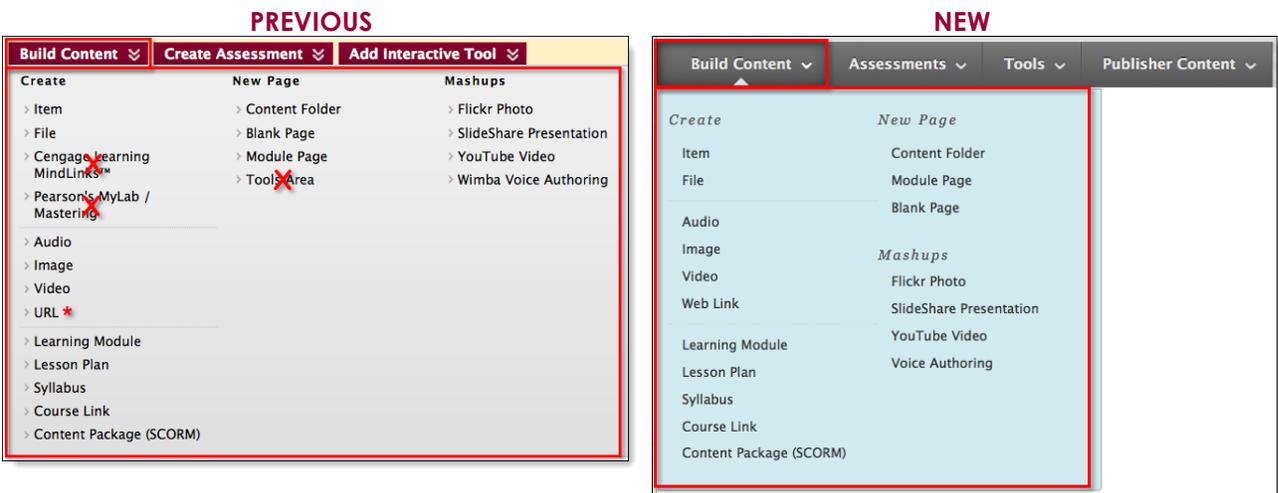
People displays all users enrolled in your courses. You can choose to display only the users in a single course by clicking the triangle next to Arizona State University, then clicking the course title.

Creating Content

Content areas have undergone a mild makeover in that some of the content categories and content types have been renamed. In addition, some content types were moved and added. Each content category is explained below:

Build Content

Most of the content types in this menu remain the same. **URL** was renamed Web Link. **Cengage Learning MindLinks** and **Pearson's MyLab/Mastering** were moved to a new menu item called Publisher Content. **Tools Area** was moved to the Tools menu.



Mobile Support for Mashups

Changes in how mashups are processed allow them to now play on mobile devices. Media-rich learning can happen anywhere students can access Blackboard Learn.

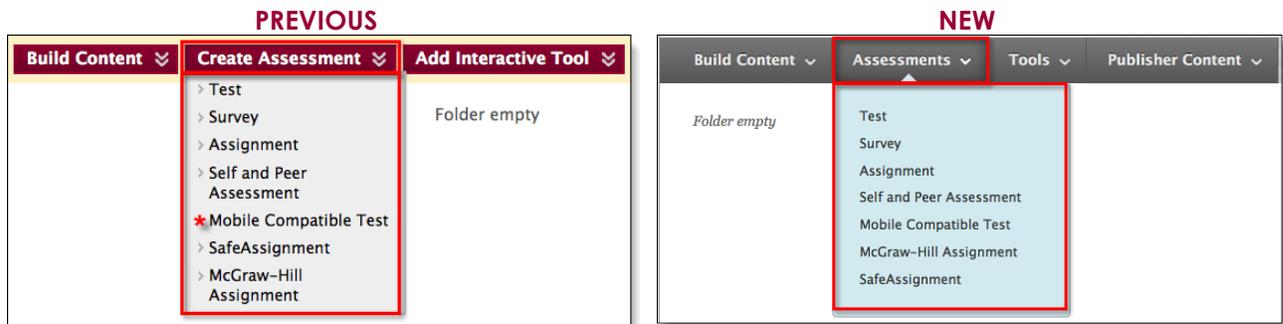
What's New in Blackboard 2013

Assessment

Formerly known as **Create Assessment**.

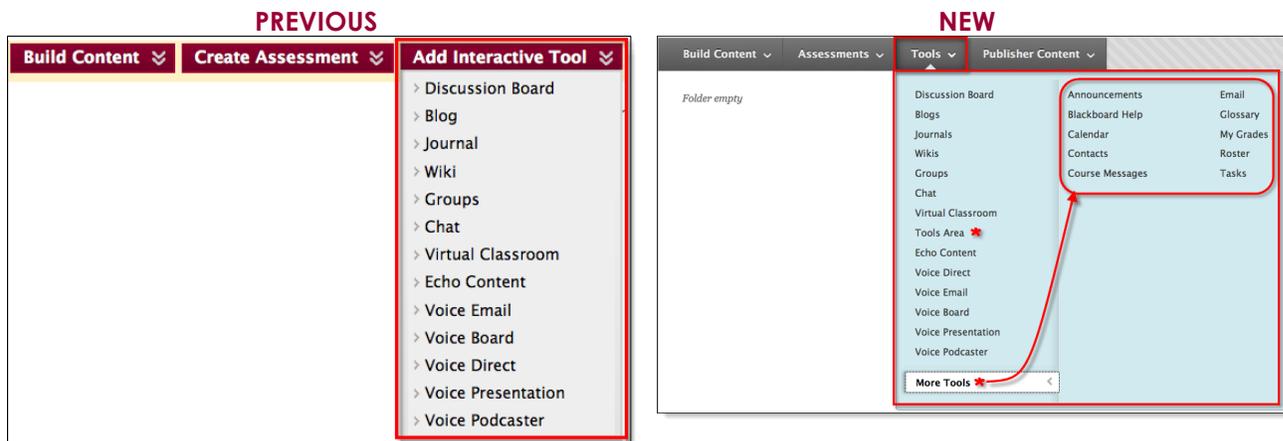
Mobile Compatible Test

This is a new tool that Instructors can now easily create mobile-compatible tests with a streamlined interface. Students have the option to take Mobile Tests either via the Blackboard Mobile Learn app on their iOS or Android mobile device, or on their desktop computer. Mobile tests cannot be created from a mobile device at this time. Timed tests are not available via mobile devices. Mobile tests are also not available via mobile web browsers such as Safari on the iPad. Students will need to upgrade their Blackboard Mobile Learn app on their mobile device to the latest version.



Tools

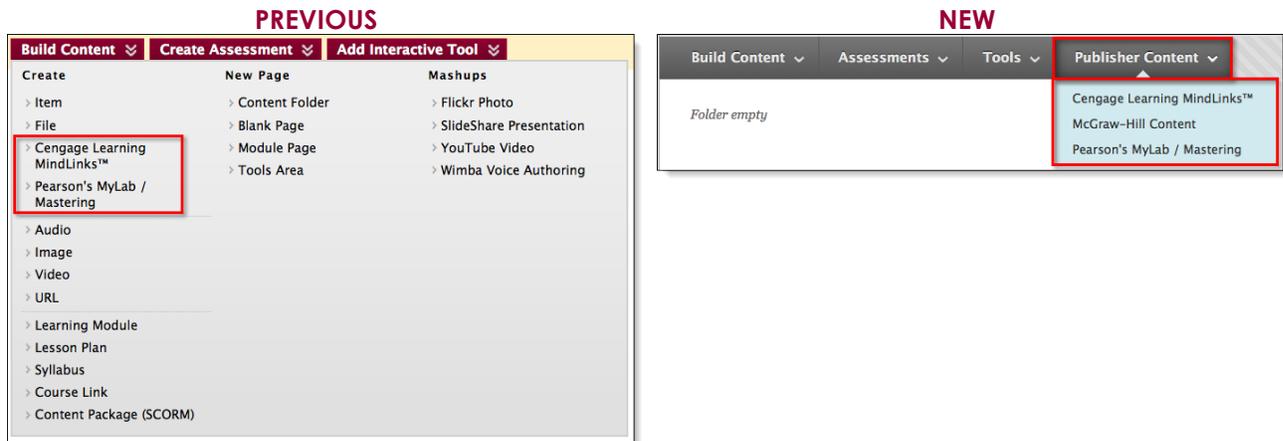
Formerly known as **Add Interactive Tool**, and has a variety of additional tools available under the **More Tools** submenu.



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Publisher Content

This a new menu that contains publisher content links moved from the other menus (Build Content, Create Assessment and Add Interactive Tool). This menu wasn't available in the previous version.

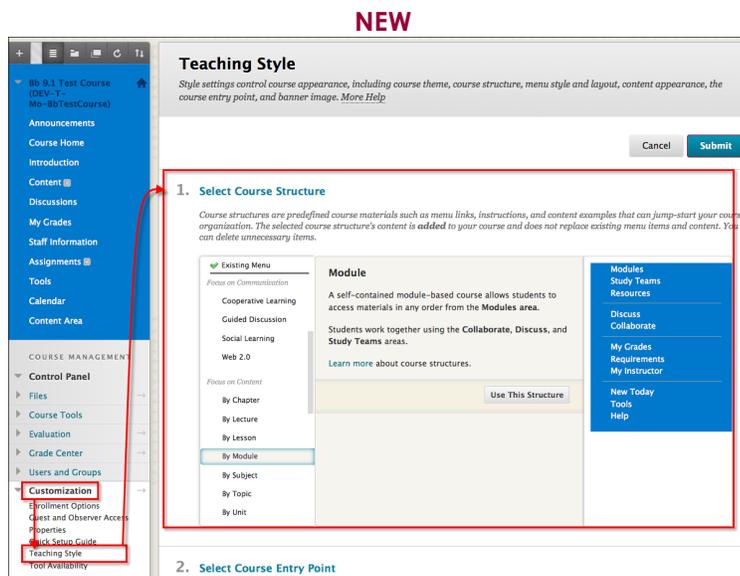


Course Design & Structure

Course Structures

Course structures are predefined course materials such as menu links, instructions, and content examples that can jump-start your course organization. Course Structures focus on specific aspects of a course including Activity, Communication, Content, Systems, and Time-based organization. The selected course structure includes sample content that is added to your course, and does not replace or remove existing content. The menu items use familiar tools and features, renaming them to fit the intended use. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS
N/A



What's New in Blackboard 2013

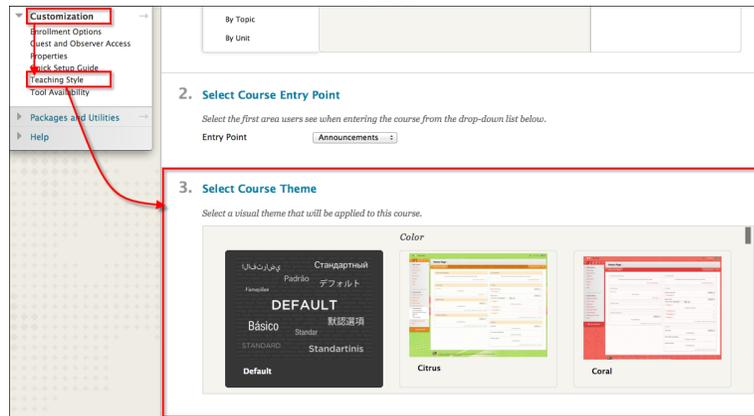
Course Themes

Course Themes are pre-built designs that Instructors can select to match their design preferences and teaching methods. Course Themes add a background image to the course display and change the color of the user interface. Course Themes do not affect content and can be changed at any time. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW



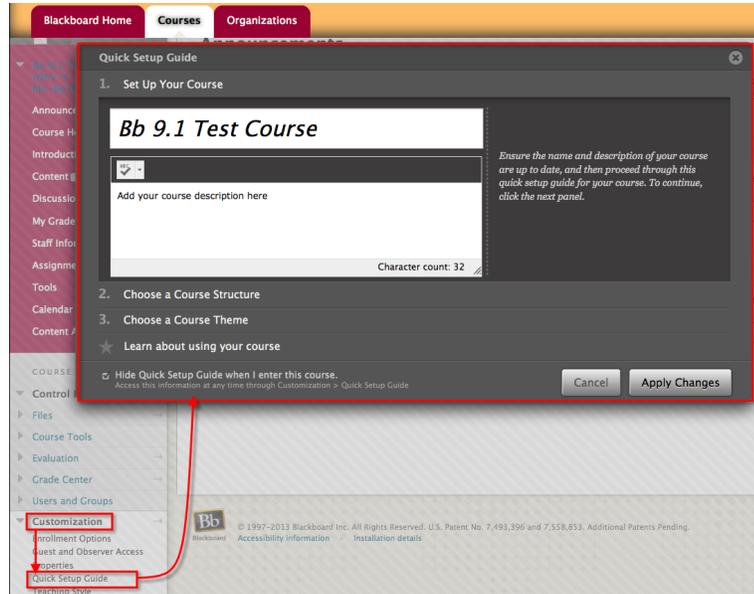
Quick Setup Guide

This screen helps you quickly customize your course title and description, course structure and course theme. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

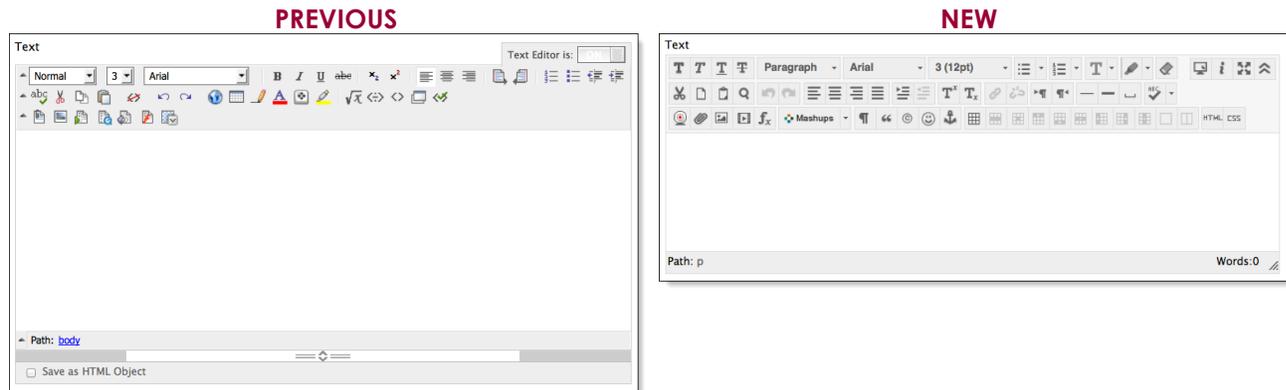
NEW



What's New in Blackboard 2013

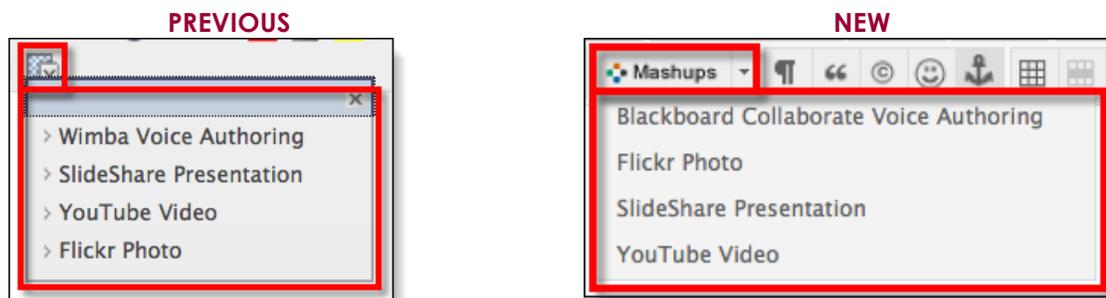
Content Editor

The Content Editor has been updated and expanded.



Mashups

The mashup tools available are the same, but the Wimba Voice Authoring has been renamed to Blackboard Collaborate Voice Authoring.

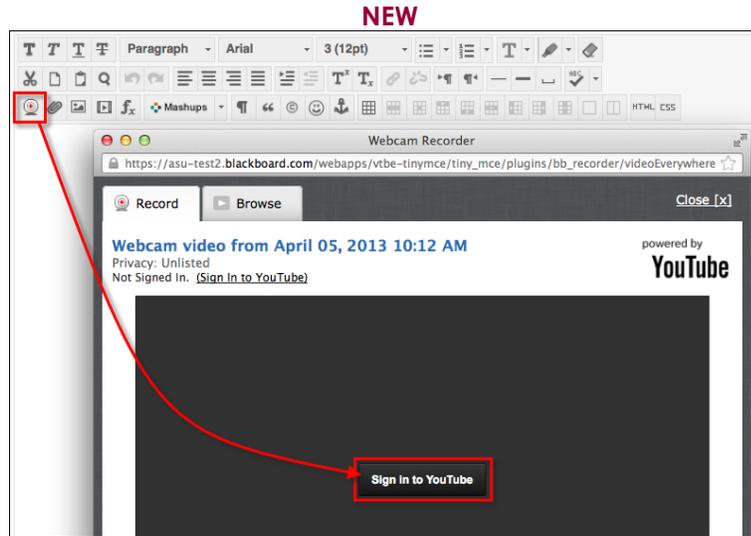


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Record from Webcam

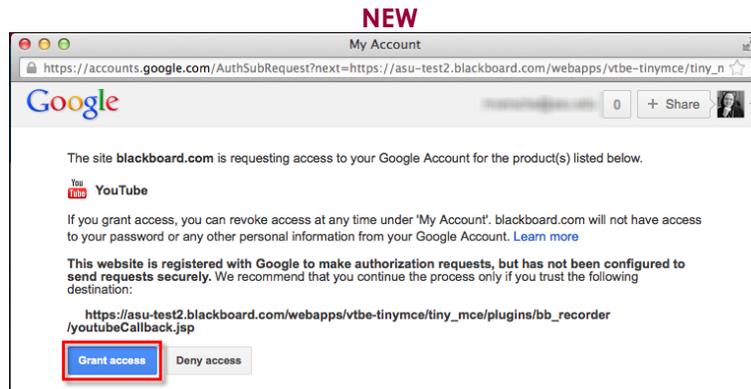
This is a new feature available on the **Content Editor** in every text box inside of the Blackboard environment, except for Safe Assignments. This tool uses your YouTube account to record and store your video, and embeds it into the text box inside of Blackboard. You are prompted to log into your YouTube account. If you wish to use your ASU YouTube account, it's best if you access **My Drive** or **My Sites** via My ASU before you access this tool to properly authenticate. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS
N/A



Click **Grant Access** to enable the camera. The video is stored in your account as **Unlisted** and embedded into the text box.

PREVIOUS
N/A



What's New in Blackboard 2013

Discussion

The discussions tool hasn't changed, but has been enhanced with the following features:

Students Must Post Before Seeing Threads

Instructors have the option of requiring students to post their initial thread to the forum before they are able to see other student threads. If this setting is engaged, they are not able to delete or edit own posts, and cannot post anonymously. This setting helps eliminate plagiarism of student work. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW

3. Forum Settings

If a Due Date is set, submissions are accepted after this date, but are marked late.

Viewing Threads/Replies Standard View

Participants must create a thread in order to view other threads in this forum.
If participants are required to create threads in order to view other threads in the forum, they cannot delete or edit their own posts, and cannot post anonymously. Those options will be set for you automatically.

Unavailable Forum Settings Display as Strikethrough

Settings that are unavailable for the forum based on other chosen settings are displayed as strikethrough, making it clear to the instructor how some settings enable or disable other settings. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW

3. Forum Settings

If a Due Date is set, submissions are accepted after this date, but are marked late.

Viewing Threads/Replies Standard View

Participants must create a thread in order to view other threads in this forum.
If participants are required to create threads in order to view other threads in the forum, they cannot delete or edit their own posts, and cannot post anonymously. Those options will be set for you automatically.

Grade No Grading in Forum

Grade Discussion Forum: Points possible:

~~Grade Threads~~

Subscribe Do not allow subscriptions

Allow members to subscribe to threads

Allow members to subscribe to forum

~~Include body of post in the email~~

Include link to post

Create and Edit Allow Anonymous Posts

Allow Author to Delete Own Posts

All posts

Only posts with no replies

~~Allow Author to Edit Own Published Posts~~

What's New in Blackboard 2013

Journals

User Profile Image

This tool hasn't changed in organization or functionality, but a minor enhancement was made. Journal pages now **display the user's profile image**, only if it was customized in My Blackboard Profile. If it was not customized, a standard silhouette image is displayed. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS
N/A

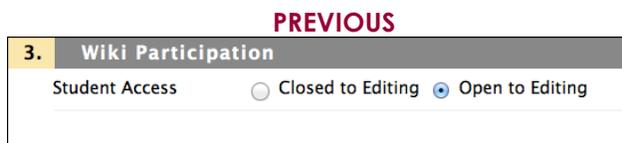


Wikis

This tool hasn't changed in organization or functionality, but a new feature has been added...**Student Comments**.

Student Comments

Instructors have the option to allow students to comment on wiki pages, which was not available in our previous version of Blackboard. Previously, instructors could only open or close the wiki to editing. Comments are controlled separately from wiki editing so students can be allowed to comment once the wiki is closed to editing.



What's New in Blackboard 2013

Tests

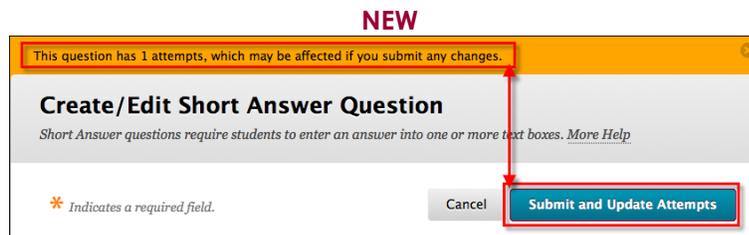
The Tests tool hasn't changed, but a few enhancements were made with the addition of the following:

Automated Regrading

Instructors can now fix problematic questions by simply editing the invalid question directly and having all necessary updates flow automatically to the Grade Center. After the question has been updated, Blackboard Learn recalculates the score of all submitted assessments that included the updated question(s). When editing a test with attempts, you will see a notice at the top of the page and prompted to **Save and Update Attempts**. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

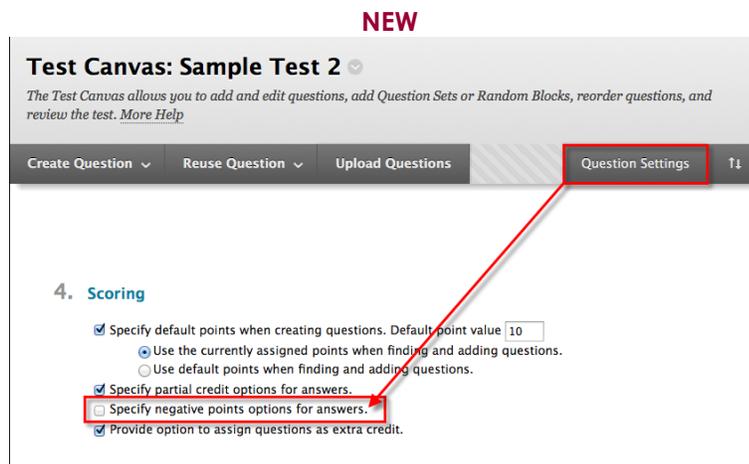


Negative Marking

Allows Instructors to apply negative point values for incorrect answers on assessment questions. This is useful in penalizing students for guessing answers by giving negative points rather than zero. It must be enabled in **Question Settings** on the test or pool canvas. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

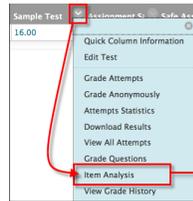


What's New in Blackboard 2013

Item Analysis

Provides statistics on overall test performance and individual test questions to help you recognize questions that might be poor discriminators of student performance. You can use this information to improve questions for future test administrations or to adjust credit on current attempts. You can run item analyses on deployed tests, but not on surveys. This feature wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS
N/A



NEW

Item Analysis : Sample Test

The Item Analysis tool provides statistics on overall test performance and individual test questions to help you recognize questions that might be poor discriminators of student performance. You can use this information to improve questions for future test administrations or to adjust credit on current attempts. You can run item analyses on deployed tests, but not on surveys. Access previously run item analyses under the Available Analysis heading or select a deployed test from the drop-down list and click Run to generate a new report. More Help

Select Test: Sample Test. Run

Available Analysis
Sample Test - April 5, 2013 12:12 PM

Sample Test
Analysis Last Run April 5, 2013 12:12 PM. Run Item Analysis again to display the latest question data. Edit Test

Test Summary						Discrimination			Difficulty		
20.0	2	0	1	0.0 *	00 hr 01 min	0	Good Questions	0	Easy Questions	0	Fair Questions
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Fair Questions	0	Medium Questions	0	Poor Questions
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	Cannot Calculate	2	Hard Questions	0	Cannot Calculate

Filter Questions

Select Question Type: All Question Types Select Discrimination: All Discrimination Select Difficulty: All Difficulty Go Reset Filter

Question	Question Type	Discrimination	Difficulty	Graded Attempts	Average Score	Std Dev	Std Error
▲ This is a short test.	True/False	Cannot Calculate	0.0%	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
* Record your 90 second elevator speech introducing yourself.	Short Answer	Cannot Calculate	0.0%	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Displaying 1 to 2 of 2 Items Show All Edit Paging...

Legend

- Review recommended (RS) Question Set
- Questions might have changed after deployment (RB) Random Block
- * Not all submissions have been graded

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

Fill-in-the-Blank and Fill-in-Multiple Blanks questions now offer **contains** and **pattern match** as grading options for answers. Instructors no longer have to rely only on exact match for grading and manually enter every possible correct answer. Instructors can also make the answers case sensitive, which wasn't available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

2. Answers

Add answers for all possible correct responses.

Number of Answers

* Answer 1

NEW

2. Answers

Add answers for all possible correct responses.

Number of Answers

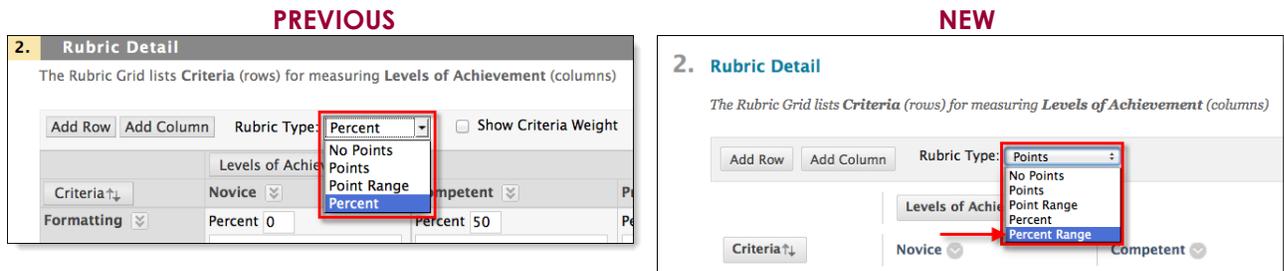
* Answer 1 Case Sensitive

Exact Match
Contains
Exact Match
Pattern Match

What's New in Blackboard 2013

Rubrics

Though this feature is not new, it has been enhanced to allow instructors to grade using a **percentage range** in addition to the existing points range.



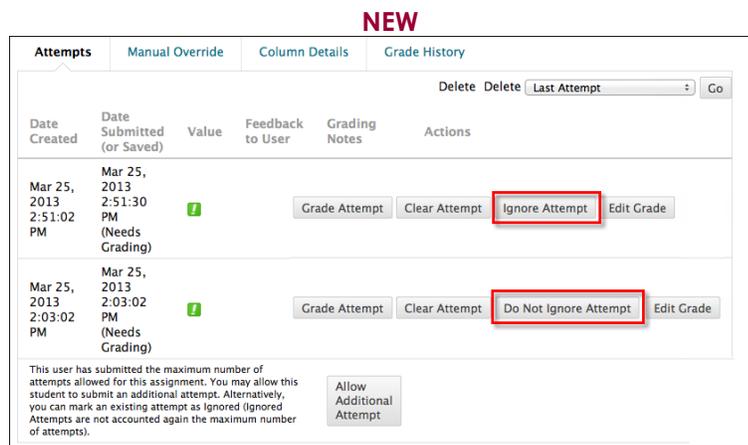
Grade Center

The Grade Center organization and tools have not changed, but a few enhancements were made with the addition of the following:

Ignore Attempt

Instructors can now choose to **Ignore Attempt** with multiple attempts, which doesn't remove submissions from Blackboard, but does remove it from **Needs Grading** and the grade calculation. In the previous version, ungraded attempts left an exclamation point in My Grades, hiding the graded attempt. This setting eliminates the issue. You can reverse it at any time by clicking **Do Not Ignore Attempt**.

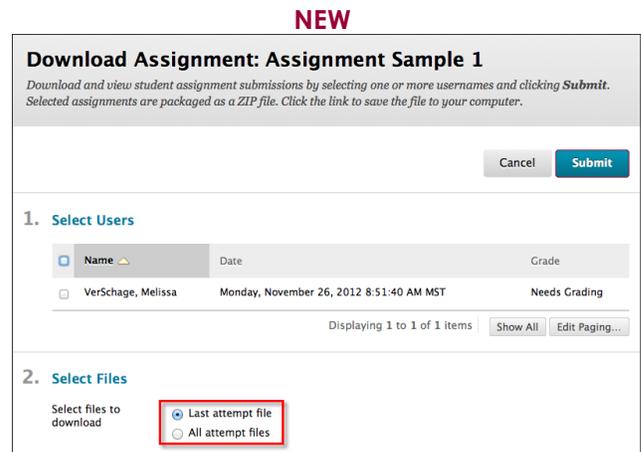
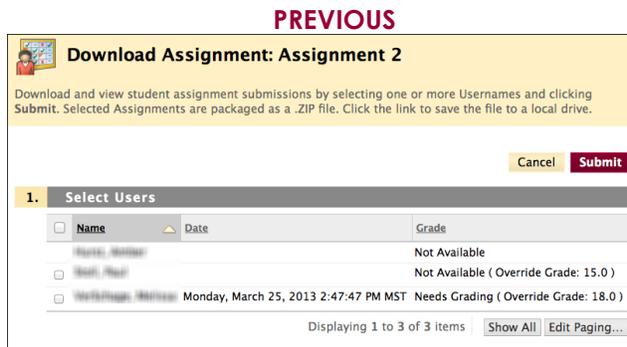
PREVIOUS
N/A



What's New in Blackboard 2013

Assignment File Download

Though this feature is not new, it has been enhanced to allow instructors to choose whether they want to download the last attempt or all attempts for multiple attempt assignment. Previously, you only had the option to download only the last attempt.



Calendar

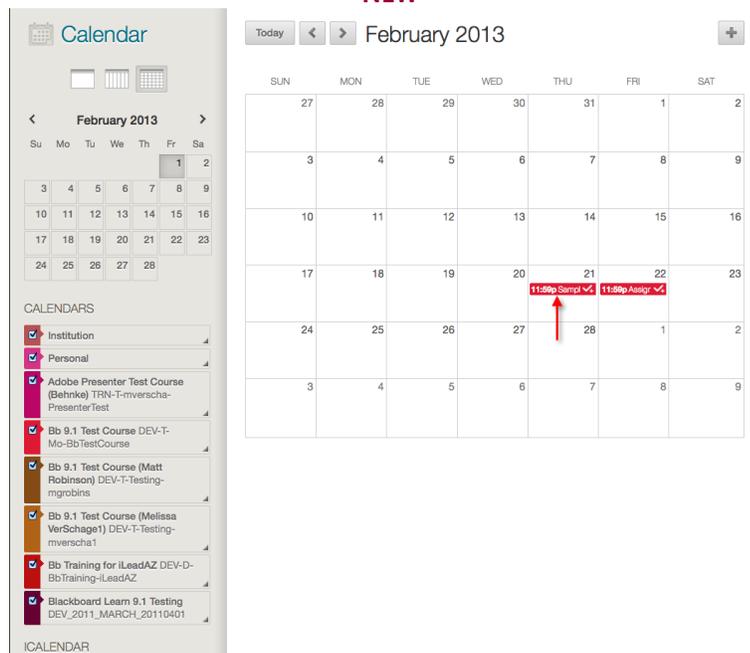
The calendar has been completely revamped:

Connected to Graded Items

Gradable items with due dates automatically populate the calendar. If the instructor doesn't use the due date feature, the items will not populate the calendar. This feature was not available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A



What's New in Blackboard 2013

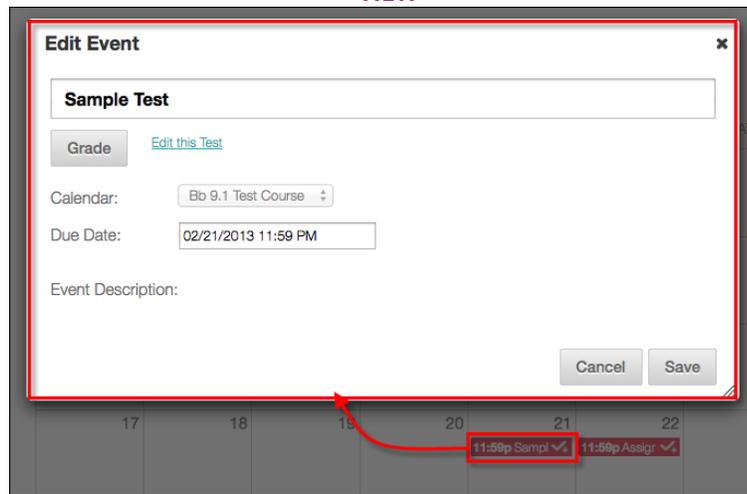
Interactive Functionality

Instructors can easily manipulate items on the calendar by dragging them to another date, which updates the due date in the Grade Center. Instructors can also grade and edit assignments from the calendar view. This feature was not available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW



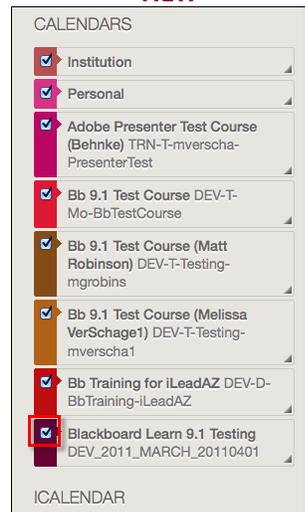
Multiple Calendars

Students and instructors can choose to view individual, multiple or all course calendars in one calendar. They simply can check or uncheck the course titles to hide or show that calendar. This feature was not available in the previous version.

PREVIOUS

N/A

NEW



What's New in Blackboard 2013

Create Events

All users can create events on their own calendar by clicking the **plus icon** in the upper right corner. In the previous version, this feature was available by clicking the **Create Course Event** button.



Contacts

The Contacts tool (or Staff Information as we call it) hasn't changed, but it has been enhanced. Previously, instructors only had spell check available in the content fields, as shown here. In the new environment, the Office Location and Office Hours fields now have a language option in addition to the spell check. The Notes field now has a content editor so instructors can create dynamic content

