

Feature-by-Feature Comparison: Canvas and Blackboard

Source: Montclair State University, <https://www.montclair.edu/media/montclairedu/oit/tti/Canvas-vs-Blackboard-Comparison-table-links-only.pdf> (with some modifications by sjtu)

Blackboard	Canvas	How is Canvas Different?
Make Course Available	Publish Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas courses are unpublished as a default. Instructors must "publish" their course for students to access it.
Announcements	Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users can receive notifications via email Canvas allows students to comment on an announcement if instructor allows. Announcements appear on the User Dashboard. Canvas has the ability to add RSS feeds.
Files	Files	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything you upload into Files is accessible to students by default. You can create folders to organize materials; folders and items can be locked. Drag & drop files into folders. All files in this area can be downloaded as a .zip file. You can upload a .zip file to Files and Canvas will ask if you want to unzip it or not.
Blackboard Content Items	Pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pages are essentially a Wiki (you can edit and track their history). You can grant the ability to edit the Page to students. Pages can include text, video, links to your files, or links to other course content such as assignments, discussion etc. If you customize the Home Page layout of your Canvas course, you'll be creating a special page named Front Page. Pages can be linked to other Pages.
Discussion Forums	Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can require users to post to the discussion before viewing other replies. Instructors and students can easily view/filter posts. Can receive notifications via email. Group Discussions are seamlessly integrated into Group Pages.
Send Email	Messages/Conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private messages appear in your Inbox; Notifications will push out to Email, Messages can include file attachments, or just text. Conversation messages are also generated by a comment made by a student or instructor on an assignment. By default, students will receive an email for every announcement and message.
Assignments	Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas uses a SpeedGrader. It gives the instructor the ability to comment a document, without downloading the student's submission. When an Assignment is created, it is added to the Assignment page, Syllabus and Calendar. If updated, all links are updated. You can create a grade assignment to create a column in the Gradebook automatically. Interactive rubrics can be used for grading. Instructors can limit the type of file allowed to be uploaded. Peer Review assignments or Group assignment can be created.
Tests/Quizzes/Surveys	Quizzes/Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quizzes/Surveys are automatically submitted if it is a timed assessment. Timer can be adjusted for individual students to allow for extended time. Instructor can selectively allow an additional attempt for a student. Quiz can be edited after student submissions and are automatically regraded. Quiz questions and answers can contain audio/video/images. Canvas does not have "Hot Spot" questions types Quizzes can be graded or not graded. Surveys (also found here) can be graded or not graded. Quiz questions can be pulled from question banks.

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No Equivalent	SpeedGrader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade/give feedback on all submissions for an assignment/quiz quickly in one place. You can add comments to the submitted file. Use speech-to-text to give feedback. Sort students in various ways so that you work on them alphabetically, or by submission date, or anonymously (their names can be hidden from the teacher), or by whether or not they've submitted the assignment.
Grade Center	Grade Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded assignment, quiz, discussion will automatically create a column in the Gradebook. Grades can be weighted. Easily sort columns in one click by due date or assignment group. Instructors can curve grades. Instructors can Mute assignments. Message students who haven't submitted yet, scored less than or more/less than a certain criterion on an assignment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can download submissions from the grades area Students can enter "what---if" scenarios to calculate hypothetical grades.
Rubrics	Rubrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrates with gradable items. Ability to integration with SpeedGrader interface. You can override the grade the rubric produces. Student viewable.
Modify Course Menu	Modify Course Menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas does not allow you to rename existing menu links. You can hide menu items from students as needed Modules are used in Canvas for organizing content. You can also rearrange the order in which these navigation menu items are displayed.
Calendar	Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar is automatically populated with items that have Due Dates. Drag & drop items on calendar to make changes in dates. Any change made is applied automatically to all objects associated with that item in various areas of the course. Instructors and students can view multiple course calendars in one view. All dates can be changed at once when importing course from Canvas/Bb. Each user also has a personal calendar (listed as his/her name) for events that aren't class---related. Calendar items will be listed in the Syllabus page automatically. The calendar has a scheduling tool.
Learning Units	Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modules are similar to folders/Learning Modules/lesson plans in Blackboard. Drag & drop for ordering Modules and module content. Can set Module prerequisites and Module completion requirements. Can require students to go through Module requirements sequentially. Modules can be "locked" until a given date. Modules appear on the Modules page.
Groups	Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups have access to many similar course tools including Announcements, Pages, Files, Discussion
Notification Dashboard	Recent Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Activity links allow you to expand, remove or navigate to that item within the course.

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