

We have begun the process of investigating a replacement Learning Management System (LMS) for our current implementation of Blackboard.

We will review Blackboard (<http://www.blackboard.com>), Canvas (<http://www.canvaslms.com>), Schoology (<http://www.schoology.com>), Sakai (<https://sakaiproject.org>) and Google Classroom (<https://classroom.google.com>).

Currently Oberlin's LMS serves as a portal for some, but not all functions, students, staff and faculty use on a daily basis.

- Course content delivery

- Organization document repository and communications

- Administrative document repository

- Training and communication for Library Staff

- Student/Faculty/Staff directory (both text and pictorial)

- Access to or delivery of course surveys, Senior surveys, etc...

- Portal to campus announcements, publications, RSS feeds, etc..

- Placements tests for Calculus and Languages

Oberlin's LMS offers multi-tiered access to content, login credentials are synchronized with e-mail credentials, user and course status synchronized with Banner. All course enrollments, some organization enrollments, student and faculty/staff demographics are updated on a twice-daily basis. We currently access our LMS through a managed hosting model with local system administrators to provide Tier 1+ support to users.

To evaluate the LMS candidates we need to understand how our current system is used and, where possible understand where its shortcomings could be better addressed.

We will create a realistic example course (using the elements most faculty use in Blackboard) and have each vendor import it into the candidate LMS to evaluate the functionality on a (relatively) level playing field.

Some functionality Blackboard offers for courses:

e-mail

- E-mail entire course, subgroups or individual students

- Automatic e-mail of course announcements, test availability, etc...

- Extra line automatically inserted between paragraphs

- "Course Messages" function to provide communication without e-mail

assignments/reading repository

- Supports viewing/downloading of documents, audio files, video files, connection to web links and streaming video.

- Adaptive release to restrict access to content until prerequisites are fulfilled by the student

## Quizzes and Tests

Users can create their own questions or import publisher's test bank

Question types include:

Multiple choice, Multiple answer, T/F, Fill-in-the-blank, Short answer, Essay, Calculations, Either/Or, File response (download), Hot spot, Matching, Ordering, Quiz Bowl, Likert Scale (Opinion)

Specific availability dates and times

Single/multiple attempts

Force Completion

Test timer w/ and w/o auto-submit

Exceptions for special needs students/groups

Feedback available for students

Grade Center includes Access log detailing the time the student spent on each question while taking the test.

Automatic grading of questions with partial credit and manual override

Instructor had the ability to clear attempts if necessary

Analytics for question validation

## Journals, Discussion Boards, Wikis and Blogs

Graded and ungraded journal assignments

Identified and anonymous discussion boards

Multi-threaded or single-threaded discussion boards

## Gradebook

Review scores on examinations

Review feedback on examinations

Comparison of scores to mean/standard deviation

## Photo Roster