



# What's New and Different in the *Blackboard Learning System (Release 6.1)* A Blackboard Educational Services Tip Sheet

## Introduction

The *Blackboard Learning System (Release 6.1)* has several new features and system administration functions. These features include enhanced content development, *Blackboard Content System* integration, improved Assessment workflow, Gradebook View features, and Course Copy functions. A full description of all functions may be found in the *Blackboard Learning System (Release 6.1) Release Notes* and in the *Blackboard Academic Suite Instructor Manual*. System Administrators may wish to review the *Blackboard Academic Suite Administrator Manual* for additional information.

## Blackboard Content System Module

**New!** The *Blackboard Content System* is a content management application designed to meet the needs of today's academic institutions. It includes capabilities in four key areas: Learning Content Management, ePortfolio Management, Virtual Hard Drive Management and Library Digital Asset Management.

In the System Control Panel the Content System module is displayed below the Courses module. The Content System module is grayed out if the system is not installed. Once installed, System Administrators will have the flexibility of managing the *Blackboard Content System* within the Administrator Control Panel of the *Blackboard Learning System*.



**Note:** Please note the *Blackboard Content System* is a second application and is licensed separately from the *Blackboard Learning System*. This feature is available to System Administrators only. For more details please consult *Blackboard Academic Suite Administrator Manual*.

## Text Box Editor

**Improved!** The Text Box Editor features vast improvements in creating rich content to use within the *Blackboard Learning System*. Integrated into the Text Box Editor are the following:

- **WYSIWYG** – WYSIWIG (What You See is What You Get) features allow rich text formatting, insertion of graphics, cutting and pasting of content from other applications, and insertion multimedia files.
- **Spell Check Editor** – As part of the text box editor, Spell Check contains a full English dictionary. During the Spell Check process custom words may be added to the User Dictionary.



**Note:** Text Box Editor features are disabled by default. System Administrators will need to enable these features for faculty use. Please consult the *Blackboard Academic Suite Administrator Manual* for the procedure to enable the Text Box Editor features.

## Quick Edit

**New!** The Quick Edit feature is a small, yet powerful feature that lets Instructors, Course Developers, and Teacher Assistants toggle from the course design view to student view. This bypasses the need to access the Course Control Panel. Toggling back and forth ensures easier content viewing.



**Note:** The Quick Edit Feature is disabled by default. System Administrators will need to enable this feature for faculty use. Please consult the *Blackboard Academic Suite Administrator Manual* to enable the Quick Edit feature.

## Login Module

**New!** System Administrators now have a greater flexibility in placing the Login Module on any desired Tab within the *Blackboard Portal System*. When the Login Module is made available to users, and Portal Direct Entry is enabled, it allows users to login directly from the Portal Tab containing the Login Module and thus bypassing the Gateway page.



**Note:** Please note the *Blackboard Portal System* is a second system and is licensed separately from the *Blackboard Learning System*. This feature is available to System Administrators only. For more details please consult *Blackboard Academic Suite Administrator Manual*.

## Course Copy

**New!** Instructors and System Administrators now have multiple options for copying courses. These options facilitate the creation and management of multiple sections of the same course.

- Copy Course Materials into a New Course: This option is ideal for Instructors or System Administrators who wish to create multiple sections of the same course.
- Copy Course Materials into an Existing Course: When managing two or more sections of a course, Instructors and System Administrators can copy selected content from an existing course into other existing course sections.
- Copy Course with Users (Exact Copy): This option copies the course in its entirety including all student data. It can be used for courses that span multiple semesters or quarters.



**Note:** Course copy operations may take time to execute depending on the size of the course. Email notifications will be sent when the operation is complete.

## Gradebook Views

**New!** Gradebook Views are designed for Instructors who may have a large course enrollment or use the Gradebook extensively for multiple assignments. To make viewing the Gradebook easier, the *Blackboard Learning System* (Release 6.1) offers Gradebook Views. With Gradebook Views, Instructors may perform the following:

- View Grade By Gradebook Item: Instructors may search through assignments, use filters to find a specific assignment, and manage items.
- View Grade By User: Instructors may search through students; use filters to locate a specific student, and manage grades by student.

## Assessment Workflow

**Improved!** The Assessment workflow has been improved and now includes a new option. When selecting assessment options, Instructors may now choose Force Completion. By using Force Completion, the students must complete the Assessment the first time it is launched. They may not save the Assessment to work on it later. The Force Completion requirement is displayed to students on the assessment itself.

Additional improvements to the Assessment workflow include

- Multiple attempts status is shown to the student (enable or disabled).
- **Submit** and **Save** buttons displayed for Assessments that have either display all questions at once, or one question at a time options.
- A warning to the student when unanswered questions are left on the Assessment after clicking the **Submit** button.
- Navigation arrows for Assessments that display questions one at time.
- Posting a Course Announcement when an assessment is deployed.

### **To Learn More...**

Blackboard Educational Services offers comprehensive training programs and instructional materials for products in the *Blackboard Academic Suite™*. For more information about Blackboard Educational Services onsite workshops, regional events, and online seminars, please visit the online [Training Center](http://behind.blackboard.com) at <http://behind.blackboard.com>.