

BLACKBOARD 101: Student Orientation to Blackboard

What is Blackboard? Blackboard is Dartmouth's online system for course web sites. Professors use Blackboard to share course materials and communicate with their students.

How do I get to Blackboard? Log in at www.dartmouth.edu/~blackboard using your Blitzmail name and password. If you have trouble logging in using Kerberos, use the DND login option instead, and contact the Help Desk (help@dartmouth.edu) for help with your Kerberos installation.

What browser can I use to access Blackboard? We recommend Netscape and Safari on the Mac and Internet Explorer and Netscape for PCs.

How do I get into my courses and what am I supposed to do once I'm there? Click on the course title in your My Blackboard Courses module. Every course web site has a navigation bar on the left that provides access to different sections. These links may look different from course to course, but most courses have a Syllabus or Course Information section with the course syllabus and a Documents section with readings or other files. Do a bit of exploring to see what's there.

What if I can't access all my courses? Not all professors use Blackboard for their courses, and you only have access to courses that have active Blackboard sites. Also, there is a delay of several hours between registering for a course and gaining access to the course site in Blackboard.

Is that all there is to it? Blackboard web sites have many useful tools for students. *Professors choose which tools to enable, so you may not have access to the tools mentioned below.*

1. Click on Tools and then Send Email to send email to the members of your class.
2. Click on Communication and then Discussion Board to get to the class discussion board. If your professor has enabled this tool, you will be able to post to the discussion board and read your classmates' postings.
3. Click on Tools and then My Grades to view your grades for the course.

You also might want to take a few minutes to customize Blackboard.

1. Click on Contents in the upper right-hand corner of your Blackboard home page to customize the contents your home page. Click Layout to customize its appearance. Use this same method to customize the My Research and My Extras pages.
2. Click the pencil icon on the My Blackboard Courses module to choose which courses to display.

What if I need more help? First, see whether you can find an answer in the FAQ located on the Blackboard login page or at projectsx.dartmouth.edu/faq/. If you can't find an answer, email blackboard.support@dartmouth.edu.