

# Blackboard

## **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 <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~blackboard> using your BlitzMail name and password. If you are having trouble logging in using Kerberos, use the DND login option instead, and contact the Help Desk ([help@dartmouth.edu](mailto:help@dartmouth.edu)) for help with your Kerberos installation.

**What browser can I use to access Blackboard?** We recommend Netscape and Safari for the Macintosh 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.

**What other information is available from the Blackboard Web site?** Blackboard Web sites have a number of other useful tools for students. *Professors choose which tools to enable, so you may not have access to the tools mentioned below.*

1. To send e-mail to the members of your class, click *Tools*, then *Send Email*.
2. To get to the class discussion board, click on *Communications*, then *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. To view your grades for the course, click *Tools*, then *My Grades*.

You can also customize Blackboard:

1. To customize the contents of your home page, click *Contents* in the upper right-hand corner of your Blackboard home page, then click *Layout* to customize its appearance. You can use the same method to customize the My Research and My Extras pages.
2. To select which courses to display, click the Pencil icon on the My Blackboard Courses module.

**What if I need more help?** Check the FAQs located here: <http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/faq/>. A link to the FAQs is also located at the Blackboard login page. If you can't find the answer to your question there, send e-mail to [blackboard.support@dartmouth.edu](mailto:blackboard.support@dartmouth.edu).