

# Release 8 for the Blackboard Learning System™ – Enterprise License

## Blackboard Academic Suite™

Blackboard developed Release 8.0 for the Blackboard Learning System™ – Enterprise License and Basic License in close collaboration with our clients—day-to-day users of the system. This release improves the performance of the software, makes it easier to use, contains smart grading features, as well as tools to help learners develop critical thinking skills. Release 8.0 provides users with new ways to manage and share digital content in an institution-wide content management system. Self assessment and peer review features will engage students better. Faculty members will be delighted by the new Blackboard Grade Center™—a completely redesigned Gradebook—and the integrated plagiarism deterrence software and social bookmarking tools.

*"Blackboard's new Grade Center is a revolution in grade management, where the possibilities for marking periods, averaging and reporting are seemingly endless and there is everything a faculty member needs for managing course grades. The interface is remarkable - easy to manipulate and intuitive for the first-time user. Say goodbye to paper grade books and offline spreadsheets!"*

Paul Vitagliano,  
Blackboard Educational Director  
Centenary College

### A Smarter Blackboard Grade Center™

Release 8.0 contains a new and easy to use smart grading tool: Blackboard Grade Center. We took the best features of the WebCT and Blackboard Gradebooks, solicited critical input from users to make further, significant improvements, and developed the Blackboard Grade Center—to enable instructors to teach rather than complete data entry. Features within it include allowing for customization; enabling instructors to access thorough analysis at their fingertips; and helping to maximize their time, so they can focus directly on teaching and how their students are doing.

### Facilitating Self and Peer Assessments

Students can become more engaged in learning by participating in shared activities, yet group work that requires reflection and develops critical thinking skills is difficult to manage logistically and time consuming for faculty members. Release 8.0 of the Blackboard Learning System – Enterprise License contains Self Evaluation, a new feature created by a Blackboard client that enables students to review and grade their own assessment submissions by following criteria set by their instructor. With another feature, Peer Evaluation, students can review and grade work submitted by their peers in a course, following the criteria set by their instructor, and even compare their responses. These features of Release 8.0 enable students to understand their own strengths and weaknesses better, learn how to collaborate and offer constructive criticism—skills they will need throughout life.

Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
20.00	25.00 (A+)	50.00 (83.33%)							
20.00	16.00 (D)	- (-)							
18.00	19.00 (C)	- (-)							
17.00									(91.67%)
14.00									
20.00									
16.00									
8.00	15.00 (D-)	57.00 (95.00%)							

The screenshot shows a detailed view of the Blackboard Grade Center. A context menu is open over a row, offering options: 'Grade Details', 'Add Comment', and 'Exempt Grade'. The background shows a list of students with their respective scores and percentages.



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## Preventing Plagiarism

Plagiarism has always been a challenge for institutions – historically one of the most challenging to measure and control. SafeAssign™ by Blackboard is a plagiarism prevention service that enables institutions to protect the originality of student work and ensure a fair academic environment for all learners. SafeAssign helps prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers within the existing teaching and learning environment. It also deters plagiarism by helping students learn proper attribution and citations. For institutions on an Enterprise license, SafeAssign is integrated into Release 8.0 at no extra cost.

## Social Learning Network Expands Further

In Release 8.0, Blackboard Scholar™ is integrated into the Blackboard Learning System – Basic License. This innovative social bookmarking feature, available for no additional cost, enables users to access an academic resource-sharing service customized for education. Rather than saving—or “bookmarking”—favorite Web sites in a browser or course, these tags can be stored and easily accessed from anywhere within Scholar. Scholar users also can search through and quickly sort bookmarks from specific institutions, disciplines, people or roles. This capability enables Scholar users to create more effective networks, collaborate more easily, and leverage expertise from across institutions and around the globe.

## Manage Digital Content Easily

Employing multiple systems across an institution can be costly, especially as financial and human resources become increasingly scarce, and inhibit collaboration among different departments and campus groups. The Blackboard Content System™, a collaborative content management solution, meets the diverse needs of constituents across an institution in a secure fashion—whether the users are students, faculty members, librarians or administrators.

Enhancements to the system in Release 8.0 enable users to:

### Facilitate collaboration with improved workflows

- Whether students are completing group work or an institution requires a more defined and repeatable process, such as content clearance procedures, workflows now are more adaptable to what users need.

### Get an overview with the Collaboration Page

- Access everything you need at once on the new Collaboration Page, which includes a shared “To Do” list, shows where workflows begin, provides different workflow options and facilitates collaboration by e-mail.

### Easily incorporate metadata

- Classification of metadata now can occur when a piece of digital content is added to the system; metadata also can help faculty members reuse content appropriately and enforce copyright permissions.

### Glean insight from the 360° view

- Ensure your documents remain in your archive, so that data can be easily used as the starting points for future classes.
- The new 360° view enables administrators to determine the usage of content, which helps users decide when to delete old files that may be irrelevant; 360° view also provides users with statistics, tracking, permissions and other information about specific content.

### Maximize the sharing and reuse of content

- Leverage and easily share HTML content in your courses, within and across different formats: search for and reuse assignment materials, discussion topics, generic HTML content, course content and Grade Center columns.
- The Reusable Objects feature enables content creators to reuse content stored in the Blackboard Content System and throughout the Blackboard Academic Suite.



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