Michener Blackboard User Guide

A Faculty guide to providing a successful learning experience in Blackboard
Introduction

This course style guide introduces a standardized means by which a Michener full-time program course in Blackboard Learn should be organized and presented to students. The intent is to provide a consistent learning experience in Blackboard across all full-time programs. Please use this style guide as a resource to be referenced at any time as you prepare your course for an upcoming semester.

Getting Help with Blackboard

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact:

- Michener’s Help Desk: *for technical support*; Monday to Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at helpdesk@michener.ca
- Michener’s Blackboard After Hours Support: *for technical support*; Monday to Friday between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM and weekends and holidays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM at bbsupport@michener.ca
- Centre for Learning, Innovation and Simulation (CLIS): *for all curriculum and instructional design inquiries*; Monday to Friday between 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM at clis@michener.ca
Logging into Blackboard

Visit Michener’s Blackboard Learn site, click the drop-down menu Sign in with third-party account and select Login with SSO to access Blackboard using your Active Directory username and password. Your Active Directory user name and password is provided by Michener’s Help Desk. Please note that passwords are case sensitive.
My Institution Screen

The My Institution screen is the first page you see after logging into Blackboard. This page contains several modules that allow you to manage your Blackboard account, view course announcements and access courses in which you are enrolled.

1. Hot Spots: quick links to Michener services for Faculty and Students
2. Tools: access to tools such as Announcements and editing your Personal Information
3. My Announcements: contains recently posted announcements in your course(s)
4. My Courses: contains links to courses that you are enrolled in. The courses are organized by the role you have them (i.e., Instructor, Student, Teaching Assistant, etc.). For more information about course roles, see Appendix I.
Course Interface

There are 4 sections for every course page:

1. The Course Menu: Contains links to tools and content in your course

2. The Control Panel: Contains links to course tools, Grade Centre, User & Group management and the Content Collection

3. The Content area: This is where your course content is displayed to your students

4. Student Preview: Tool that enables instructors to view the course exactly as a Student experiences it. You can enter and exit Student Preview as often as needed without logging out of Blackboard.

5. Edit Mode: Tool that allows you to toggle between your Instructor view of the course to a partial Student view of the course. Useful for quick testing the availability of content in your course
Course Appearance

A course in Blackboard should be arranged so that students can navigate the course with a minimum of direction. The Course Menu should provide quick access to what the student needs with the fewest number of mouse clicks. Learning plans and assessment information should be neatly organized so that the student understands what is required of them from one week to the next. This organization also extends to the Content Collection (the repository for your course’s content). The following are examples of the recommended arrangement for the Course Menu, a learning plan, assessment information, Grade Centre and the Content Collection:

Course Menu:

The course menu’s appearance should be displayed in Text style for easy reading:

Course menu items that must be included for all Michener Blackboard courses:
- Announcements (as your course entry point)
- Course Outline
- Contacts (Instructor or tutor contact information)
- Weekly Learning Plans
- Assessments
- My Grades

Other course menu items can be added as required by the course, for example:
- Discussion Board
- Groups
- Journals
How to Set Your Course Menu

In addition to the required menu items, some courses may need discussion boards, journals, groups, etc. In order to add these tools to your course menu:

1. In the top left corner of your course menu, place your cursor over the “+” button
2. Select “Content Area” or “Tool Link”
   a. Content Area: Selecting this option provides a section for course content (documents, PowerPoint, web links…)
   b. Tool Link: for tools such as Discussion Board, Blogs, Journals
3. Input a name for the course menu item in the “Name” field. Note: Try to keep the name as short as possible
4. Click the check box “Available to users” to make the new course menu item available to student users
5. Click “Submit” to complete the process
6. Using the Up/Down arrow icon on the left side of the newly created course menu item, click and drag the new menu item to the desired position in the course menu
Control Panel Tools

The Control Panel displays for users participating in a course with the role of Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Course Builder or System Administrator. It contains links for accessing course tools (such as Announcements, Discussion Board, Rubrics, Send Email and Tests, Surveys and Pools), course reporting (Evaluations), the Grade Centre and Users and Groups.
Weekly Learning Plans

Weekly Learning Plans for each week or module should be organized in a way that allows the student to understand what is expected of them from week to week. Well organized learning plans consist of the following:

1. The folder in which content for the week or module is contained. Include a short, one or two sentence description of the topics contained in the folder.

2. The competencies for the week/module

3. The learning objectives for the week/module

4. The learning activities relevant to the week/module

Module 1: An Overview of Immunology

Competency: Explain the basic concepts of immunology

Learning Objectives

- a. Compare an antibody and an antigen.
- b. Define the term immunology.
- c. Name the functions and characteristics of the immune system.
- d. Identify the first, second, and third lines of body defense against microbial diseases.
- e. Compare innate and adaptive immunity.
- f. Identify the immune characteristics and functions of the five mature leukocytes.

HOW TO PROCEED

1. View:
   - Immunology Overview (video 9:34)
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64K5BjZ3ly
   - A Journey Through the Immune System (video 5:10)
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CI526yF77y
   - Immune Response-Bacterial Infections (video 5:33)
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5oQUM4_Um

2. Read: Turgeson Chapter 1 Reprint (PDF)

3. View: Turgeson Chapter 1 Color Plate 1 (Word Document)

4. View PowerPoint:
   - Module 1 (Voice-Over PPT)
   - Module 1 (PPT no audio)
   - Module 1 (PDF With Notes for Printing)

5. Review: Turgeson Chapter 1 Questions and Answers (Case Study, Review Questions and Additional Questions) (Word Document)
Assessment Information

The Assessments section of the course should contain links and information for all assessments in the course, even for those that are not delivered in Blackboard. The purpose is to provide quick access to information on all assessments that are part of their final grade calculation. The Assessments section should be linked in the Weekly Learning Plans where assessments are scheduled to take place. Assessments can take the form of Tests, Assignments (for submitting documents), graded Discussions and paper based offline tests and exams. The names, description and grading information should match the course outline to maintain consistency. The name of assessments should be written as follows: “PAT #: Name of Assessment (Week due) - % of grade”. A brief description of the assessment instructions can also be copied from the course outline.

Example of an Assessments page:

**PAT 1: Readiness Quizzes (Weeks 3, 6 & 9) - 30%**

**SAMPLE**

Directions:
The quizzes will be available at specific times during Weeks 3, 9 and 14 in class or on Blackboard.

- Week 3 quiz will focus on previously learned material from weeks 1 and 2
- Week 6 quiz will focus on previously learned material from weeks 3 to 5
- Week 9 quiz will focus on previously learned material from weeks 6 to 8

Each quiz is worth 10% and includes approximately ten (10) multiple choice questions and five (5) short answer questions.

**PAT 2: Written Assignment (Week 10) - 25%**

**SAMPLE**

Directions:
Write an essay on an intersection of at least two major themes discussed in class. You should have your topic selected and approved by faculty in Week 5. Your essay must use APA format and adhere to 15 to 20 page (3750 - 5000 word) limit.

Acceptable document formats are Microsoft Word (.docx) and Adobe PDF.

This assignment is worth 25% of your final course mark.
Content Collection

The Content Collection is the repository for all documents and files in your course. Content for your course should be contained in folders for each week or module in a way that mirrors how course content is organized in your program directory on the Y:\ drive. Once content is uploaded to the course Content Collection, it can then be linked in your course where students can access it. Using Content Collection to manage the materials used in your course is essential in order to avoid duplicate copies, particularly when updating files for a new section of the course and to manage the amount of space your course occupies on the server at Blackboard Managed Hosting.
To create a folder in Content Collection

1. In the Control Panel, click “Content Collection” and then click on your course code (ex: APCH110-F21)
2. Click the button “Create Folder”
3. Input a name for the folder into the “Name” field
4. Click “Submit” to complete the process
Uploading Files to Content Collection – Single & Multiple Files

Files can be uploaded to the course content collection in two ways: Single File and Upload Zip Package.

1. In the Content Collection, enter the folder in which you want to upload your files
2. Place your cursor over the "Upload" button and select "Upload Files"
3. Click the button “Browse Local Files” to select a single file or click and drag files and folders from the Windows Explorer (or Mac Finder) into the dotted box
4. Click “Submit” to complete the process
Uploading Files to Content Collection – Upload Zip Package

This is the other method for uploading multiple files and folders. Note: files and folders need to be packaged into a .zip file before proceeding with this process.

Create a .zip package on a Microsoft Windows PC

1. In the Windows Explorer, select all the files and folders you wish to place into a .zip package

2. Right-click on the selected files and folders and select “Send to” → “Compressed (zipped) folder”

3. Re-name the newly created .zip package as desired
Create a .zip package on Apple mac OS

1. In the Finder, select all the files and folders you wish to place into a .zip package
2. Right-click on the selected files and folders and select “Compress # items”
3. Re-name the newly created .zip package as desired
Uploading the Zip Package to your course Content Collection

1. In the Content Collection, enter the folder in which you want to upload your .zip file
2. Place your cursor over the “Upload” button and select “Upload Zip package”
3. Click the button “Browse Local Files” to select a .zip file or click and drag a .zip file from the Windows Explorer (or Mac Finder) into the dotted box
4. Click “Submit” to complete the process. The contents of the .zip file will be automatically extracted into the selected folder in the Content Collection
Course Content: Week 01

The Content Collection provides central file storage for all content. When creating content for your course, you can link to items anywhere in the Content Collection. When you change an item in the Content Collection, all links to the item reflect those changes. Using the links in the Control Panel, you can access the content in your present course, in all courses you teach, in all of your organizations, or in all of the courses in the institution. More Help

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<th>FILE TYPE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EDITED</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>PERMISSIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Sep 1, 2017 2:55:25 PM</td>
<td>2.23 MB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overwriting a File

Overwriting a file in Content Collection is the recommended process for managing files that need to be updated but also appear in multiple places in your course. It eliminates the need for having multiple copies of the same file present in Content Collection making it easier to manage the content in your course. Once a file is overwritten, the change is reflected everywhere in the course it is linked in the course.

1. In the Content Collection, navigate to the location of the file to be overwritten
2. Place your cursor over the file and a chevron button will appear next to the file name
3. Click the chevron button and select “Overwrite File”
4. Click the button “Browse Local Files” to select the new file or click and drag the new file from the Windows Explorer (or Mac Finder) into the dotted box
5. Click “Submit” to complete the overwrite process
**Edit Settings (to change the name of a file)**

After overwriting a file in the Content Collection, it may be necessary to update the file name (ex: for a course outline)

1. Place your cursor over the file and a chevron button will appear next to the file name.
2. Click the chevron button and select “Edit Settings”
3. In the “File Name” field, update the file name to reflect the newly updated file
4. Click “Submit” to apply the change

*Note: the Edit Settings step is only required if there are minor differences between the old and new file names, such as changing the year from 2019 to 2021 in a course outline*
Edit Settings Michener Blackboard Course Style Sheet - draft - 07-05-17.docx

**FILE INFORMATION**

- **File Name**: Michener Blackboard Course Style Sheet - draft - 07-05-17.doc


**Permanent URL**: https://michener.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/xid-957311_1

- **File Type**: application/vnd.openxmlxml
- **File Size**: 3.69 MB
- **Owner**: SYSTEM
- **Created By**: Sam Student

Click **Submit** to proceed. Click **Cancel** to go back.
Linking files from Content Collection

Files and links to external resources can be linked in the learning plans using the Content Editor, attached to an Item or as stand-alone items. Where possible, it is recommended that files be linked within the learning plans using the Content Editor to place them within the context of their respective learning plans. Once a file has been uploaded to the course Content Collection, it can be linked anywhere in the course as many times as necessary without the need to upload multiple copies of the same file.

The Content Editor

The Content Editor is the tool that allows you to add formatting to text, insert images and hyperlinks in a way that is similar to popular word processing software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the toolbar, press ALT+H10 (PC) or ALT+FN+F10 (Mac).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- \textbf{Competency - Explain the basic concepts of immunology}
  - \textbf{Learning Objectives}
    - a. Compare an antibody and an antigen.
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    - c. Name the functions and characteristics of the immune system.
    - d. Identify the first, second, and third lines of body defense against microbial diseases.
    - e. Compare innate and adaptive immunity.
    - f. Identify the immune characteristics and functions of the five mature leukocytes.

\textbf{HOW TO PROCEED}

1. View.
Adding Hyperlinks Using the Content Editor

This is how you insert links to external websites in your Learning Plans.

1. Edit the desired Item in a content area
2. Highlight the text for which you want to hyperlink
3. Click the “Insert/Edit Link” button in the Content Editor (it looks like a little chain link)
4. In the “Insert/Edit Link” window, input the URL for the desired website
5. In the “Text to display” field, adjust the text to be linked as needed
6. For “Title”, input a short description of the file being linked. This is a necessary accessibility feature to comply with Provincial AODA legislation
7. For the “Open Link” drop-down menu, select “New Window”
8. Click the “Save” button to complete the file link
9. Repeat steps 2-8 to create additional hyperlinks
**Competency** - Explain the basic concepts of immunology

**Learning Objectives**

a. Compare an antibody and an antigen.

b. Define the term immunology.

c. Name the functions and characteristics of the immune system.

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e. Compare innate and adaptive immunity.

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**HOW TO PROCEED**

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   - A Journey Through the Immune System (video 5:10)
     http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6y52oYf7w
   - Immune Response-Bacterial Infections (video 5:33)
     http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oOUMP4_Um

2. Insert/edit link

   **Url**
   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSYED-7rNY

   **Text to display**
   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSYED-7rNY

   **Title**
   Immunology Overview - YouTube

   **Open link in...**
   New window

3. Add more links if needed

4. Save changes

5. Close dialog box

6. Update text if necessary

7. Review and finalize content

8. Complete document
Link Files Using the Content Editor

This is the preferred method of linking files in your Learning Plans.

1. Edit the desired Item in a content area

2. In the “Text” field, place your cursor where you want to link a file from the Content

3. Click the “Add Content” button in the Content Editor (it looks like a little “plus” sign in a circle)

4. In the “Add Content” window, click the button “Insert Course Files” to select the desired file from the Content Collection or “Insert Local Files” to select a file from your computer
Competency - Explain the basic concepts of immunology
Learning Objectives
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   - Through the Immune System (video 5:10)
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yS8SvF77Mw
   - Immune Response-Bacterial Infections (video 5:03)
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiZq2QnE5kU
2. Read: Turgon Chapter 1 Report (PDF)
3. View: Turgon Chapter 1 Color Fills 1 (Word Document)

Common Tools
- Insert Local Files
- Insert Course Files
- Insert from Cloud Service
Grade Centre

The Grade Centre is a spreadsheet-like tool where assessment grades are recorded and weighted according to the course outline for the purpose of calculating the student's final grade. The arrangement of the Grade Centre columns should mirror the arrangement of the assessments in the Assessments section of the course in order to be consistent between the course outline, the Assignments section, the student’s My Grade tool and the Instructor's Grade Centre. Some assessment tools, such as tests, assignments and gradable items (discussions, blogs, journals, etc.) are automatically created when the assessment is created or made gradable. Where possible, it is recommended you use gradable items in Blackboard for assessments for automatic column creation in the Grade Centre. Offline and paper-based assessments require columns to be manually created in Grade Centre. Grade Centre totals can be Weighted or Totalled (for more information see link).

Weighted vs. Total Columns

Weighted and Total columns calculate grade information differently. The difference is as follows:

**Weighted** – Includes only columns for assessments that count toward the final grade in the course outline. You set each assessment's raw score to be converted to a percentage of the final grade totalling 100%. Assessments should be weighted according to the course outline so that the final grade is correctly calculated regardless of each assessment’s raw score.

**Total** – A cumulative total of the raw scores for all columns in the Grade Centre.
To arrange the column order in the Grade Centre

1. In the Control Panel, click “Grade Centre” and select “Full Grade Centre”
2. Place your cursor over the button “Manage”
3. Select “Column Organization”
4. In the “Not in a Grading Period” section, use the multi-directional arrow buttons to click and drag Grade Centre items into the desired position
5. Click “Submit” to apply the change
Creating a Grade Centre Column

Grade Centre columns for assessments held outside of Blackboard need to be manually created to ensure the final grade is calculated according to the course outline.

1. In the Full Grade Centre, click the button “Create Column”

2. Input a name for the column in the “Column Name” field
   Note: The Grade Centre Name column is optional and is only displayed in the Grade Centre, not the student’s My Grades Tool

3. For the drop-down menu “Primary Display”, leave it at the default setting “Score”

4. Input the raw score into the “Points Possible” field (Note: this is a required field)

5. Set your display options in the Options section
   • Include this Column in Grade Center Calculations: Yes or No
   • Show this Column to Students: Yes or No
   • Show Statistics (average and median) for this column to Students in My Grades: Yes or No

6. Click “Submit” to complete the process and return to the Grade Centre

New Grade Centre columns appear on the right side of the Grade Centre.
Create Grade Column

Grade Columns represent any student effort that is measured. Columns for gradable items are added to the Grade Center automatically. Work that is not automatically graded can be measured in the Grade Center by creating a Grade Column. More Help

**COLUMN INFORMATION**

- **Column Name**
  - PAT & Final Exam

**Description**

For the toolbar, press ALT+F10 (PC) or ALT+FN+F10 (Mac).

- **Primary Display**
  - **Score**

  Grades must be entered using the selected format. Grades display the same format in both the Grade Center and My Grades.

- **Secondary Display**
  - **None**

  This display option is shown in the Grade Center only.

**Category**

- **No Category**

- **Points Possible**
  - 100

**Associated Rubrics**

Add Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date Last Edited</th>
<th>Show Rubric to Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Click Submit to proceed.
**Columns for assessments created in Blackboard (Tests, Assignments, Graded Discussions/Blogs/Wikis and Journals) are created automatically in the Grade Centre.**
**Weighting Grades**

Grades should be weighted according to the course outline using the Weighted Total column. This means that regardless of the raw scores for each assessment in the course, they will be correctly calculated as their respective percentages of the final grade.

To weight the grades for your course in the Grade Centre:

1. Place your cursor over the title for the Weighted Total column and
2. Click the chevron button and select “Edit Column Information”
3. Leave the Primary Display set to “Percentage” and the Secondary Display to “None”
4. In the “Select Columns” section, choose the relevant Grade Centre columns. Note: you can choose multiple columns by holding the Shift or Control keys.
5. Click the right-facing arrow to move the selected columns into the “Selected Columns” field
6. Input the percentage weights for each assessment according to the course outline. Percentages need to add up to 100%
7. For the option “Calculate as Running Total”, select “No”
8. Set your display options in the Options section
   - Include this Column in Grade Center Calculations: Yes or No
   - Show this Column to Students: Yes or No
   - Show Statistics (average and median) for this column to Students in My Grades: Yes or No
9. Click "Submit" to apply the changes
Appendix I

Course Roles

**Instructor** – Instructors have full access to the course. This role is generally assigned to the person developing, teaching, or facilitating the class. If a course is unavailable to students, users with the Instructor role may still access it. The instructor role can control tool availability.

**Teaching Assistant** – Users with the Teaching Assistant role have access to most of the course. If the course is unavailable to students, teaching assistants may still access the course. Teaching assistants can't remove an instructor from a course.

**Student** – Student is the default course user role. A user with the role of Student submits coursework and participates in discussions. Students can't create or grade course items.

For more information, please visit the [Blackboard Course Roles page](#).