

D2L's Brightspace: A Glossary

Quick Summary

While Blackboard Learn and Brightspace have many similar features, the changes in terminology can be confusing! This document will serve as a glossary to help faculty understand the names and functions of various Brightspace tools in comparison to Blackboard. It is organized by category and then alphabetically by Blackboard terminology.

Important: Most Blackboard content will transfer to Brightspace if you are exporting/importing or utilizing K-16 Solutions. However, [some cleanup](#) will be required. To gain understanding of how each content type will transfer when migrated, please review [Migration from Blackboard Learn to D2L's Brightspace: K-16 Solutions](#). There are a select few content types that will migrate as something other than their listed counterparts below; there are also some differences in how content will transfer based on the migration method chosen.

Course Content and Organization

This section highlights the basic building blocks of a course.

Blackboard Learn Feature	D2L's Brightspace Terminology
Achievements	Awards
Adaptive Release	Release Conditions
Announcements	Announcements <i>The announcement widget on the course home page allows students to dismiss announcements to reduce clutter; however, the announcements will permanently remain under the "Th" link in the Teal navigation bar as long as they are set as available.</i>
Assignments	Assignments <i>Assignments using SafeAssign as a plagiarism checker will need to be recreated as TurnItIn assignments.</i>
Availability/Due Dates	Availability/Due Dates <i>Note: For Discussions, you will need to manually create a due date on the course calendar.</i>
Blogs*	No direct counterpart; recommend using Discussions.
Calendar	Calendar
Contacts	Class List
Content Area	Module

Course Content	Content <i>Add modules/submodules to organize your content (similar to using folders in Blackboard).</i>
Course Links	Quick Links
Descriptions	Descriptions
Discussions	Threads within a Forum; see the heading “Discussions” below for a detailed explanation.
External Files	File: If a document is up loaded as an attachment. External Link: If the file lives outside of the LMS, i.e., OneDrive or DropBox.
Files	Files will need to be attached inside a File/Web Page.
Folders/Sub-folders	Modules/Sub-modules
Glossary	No direct counterpart; recommend creating a File/Web page.
Grade Center	Grades
Items	Files /Web Pages <i>When an “item” shows up in a D2L’s Brightspace module, it is called a Web Page. If you create one from scratch, the menu refers to it as a File. If you want to edit one, you will select “Edit HTML File.”</i>
Journals*	No direct counterpart; recommend using Assignments.
Learning Modules	Mod ules
Mashup <i>Most commonly used for YouTube videos.</i>	You will need to create a file and then use the “Insert Stuff” button to embed the media.
Random Blocks/Pools	Question Library <i>Test Pools are called “Sections” and Random Blocks are called “Question Pools.”</i>
Rubrics	Rubrics
SCORM Packages	SCORM Object <i>SCORM packages will now function inside of the LMS without opening in a new window.</i>
Surveys	Surveys

Tasks	Checklists
Tests	Quizzes
Test Questions	Quiz Questions <i>A few question types have no direct counterpart. Please see the breakdown under the “Test Questions” heading below.</i>
Web Link	Link
Wikis*	No direct counterpart.

* Denotes content types with no direct corresponding tool in Brightspace. Contact the [Instructional Design Team](#) to explore options.

Test Questions

Nearly all test question types from Blackboard Learn have a counterpart Brightspace as quiz questions. Below is a chart explaining differences in terminology.

Note: Brightspace does not allow for quizzes worth zero points. Instead, faculty can choose to exclude that quiz from the grade book.

[Learn more about Brightspace Quiz Question Types.](#)

Blackboard Learn Test	D2L’s Brightspace Quiz
Calculated Formula	Arithmetic
Calculated Numeric	Arithmetic
Either/Or	True or False
Essay	Written Response**
File Response*	<i>No direct counterpart</i>
Fill in Multiple Blanks*	Fill in the Blanks <i>If you are migrating content (export/import or K-16 Solutions), this question type will transfer as “short answer.” **</i>
Fill in the Blank*	Fill in the Blanks <i>If you are migrating content (export/import or K-16 Solutions), this question type will transfer as “short answer.”**</i>
Hot Spot*	<i>No direct counterpart</i>
Jumbled Sentence*	<i>No direct counterpart</i>

Matching	Matching
Multiple Answer	Multi-Select
Multiple Choice	Multiple Choice
Ordering	Ordering
Quiz Bowl*	<i>No direct counterpart</i>
Short Answer	Short Answer** <i>If you are migrating content (export/import or K-16 Solutions), this question type will transfer as Written Response.**</i>
True/False	True or False

*Denotes question types with no direct counterpart. [Make an appointment](#) with the Instructional Design Team to learn about alternative options.

**These question types will need to be manually graded.

Additional Question Types

Brightspace offers the following additional question types that are not available in Blackboard Learn:

- **Multi-Short Answer:** Used for when students can fill in multiple blanks, but their individual answers can be in any order.
 - *Example: Creating a list where specific items need to be named, but the order is inconsequential.*
- **Significant Figures:** Students are required to answer in scientific notation; their solution must contain a specified number of significant figures.

Discussions

D2L's Brightspace uses a three-layer approach to discussions.

1. **Forum:** A forum is like a container for multiple discussion topics; think of it like a folder that you can use for organizing your discussions.
2. **Thread:** This is what you would consider a "Discussion"- the place where you list a prompt for students to respond to.
3. **Post:** Responses to a Thread.

When Blackboard Learn Discussion Forums are migrated to Brightspace (via export/import or K-16 Solutions), a Forum (the organizational structure) will be created for *each* discussion forum; inside of that Forum, you will find a Thread by the same name, to which you and your students can reply with Posts.

Faculty can easily reorganize their new "Threads" into a different Forum structure; however, this will break the link if the Thread is linked within a module (or previous folder). These links would need to be reset manually, which is a simple process.

