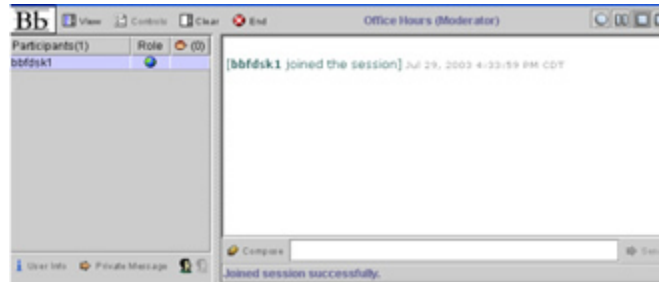


Use the Blackboard Chat Feature

Blackboard Chat is an instant messaging application where students and instructors can enter text in real-time. The Blackboard Chat feature allows for synchronous communication and an immediate response which is faster than email or the discussion board. Students do not need to take separate notes, rather, their chat log acts as a transcript of the session which they can refer to at a later time. Text chat has the potential to reinforce learning in more ways than audio chat does because it engages more regions of the brain than audio chat. Text chat develops students' ability to think on their feet while engaging them in the topic of conversation. Blackboard Chat can be used to conduct question and answer sessions, class introductions, online office hours, and more. The Chat feature is an excellent form of online collaboration that can enhance communication within your online course.



Adding a Chat Room to a Content Area:

Blackboard Chat rooms may be added to any content area for a direct link to a chat room.

1. Select the "Add" button at the top of your course menu (blue box)
2. Select "Add Tool Link."
3. In the drop down menu, select "Collaboration" from the listing. Then select "Submit".
4. Select the new Collaboration button that you created. Select the button on the page to "Create Collaboration session."
5. Next, give your chat a name .
6. Set date ranges for availability (if necessary)
7. In the Collaboration Tool area, select Chat from the list.
8. Press Submit.

When finished, you can select the chat link from within the Collaboration area to view the chat. You may need to install a Java plug-in. Follow the directions on the page to install the plug-in if necessary.