Blackboard Discussion Board

Utilizing the Discussion Board in Blackboard can be a useful tool to increase student communication and to discuss course topics. Instructors can post topics for students to elaborate and share their thoughts and interpretations. Students have the ability to post their questions and comments at anytime thoughts come to their mind. Additionally, instructors can use the Discussion Board to assess class participation similar to class discussion in face-to-face courses.

Terms

Forum: Overall Topic for discussion (created by the Instructor)

Thread: Subtopic within a Forum (created by the Instructor or students)

Post: Individual discussion made by a student or Instructor. Instructors or students may respond to posts similar to email.

Grade Forum: The process of assigning a grade to a user for their performance in a forum.

Grade Thread: The process of assigning a grade to a user for their performance in a thread.

Collect Posts: The process of selecting one or more posts or threads for inclusion in on a page that can be sorted, filtered, printed, and saved as a document. The collection is gathered into a format that can be sorted, filtered, printed, and saved as a document that can be viewed in a browser.

Flag: A mark used to call attention to the post.

Save: The act of saving a post as a draft. Note: This does not submit the post.

Creating a Forum

1. Select the course that you would like to add a forum in the Discussion Board.

2. Select the Control Panel

3. In the Course Tools section, select Discussion Board

4. Select the course that you would like to create a forum

5. Select the Forum button

6. In the Name field, type a name for your forum

7. In the Description field, enter a description for the students to see

8. In the Forum Availability section, make sure that the Yes button is selected to make the forum available to the students

9. Make any optional selections in the Forum Settings section

10. When finished, select the Submit button

Creating a Discussion Thread

1. Select the course with a forum that you would like to add a thread

2. Select the Control Panel

3. In the Course Tools section, select Discussion Board

4. Select the course that you would like to add a thread

5. Select the Forum that you would like to add a thread

6. Select the Thread button

7. Type a subject name in the Subject field

8. Type text in the message field. This text will start the thread.