

BLACKBOARD VERSION 8 OVERVIEW

Feature / Learning Management System	Summary of Main Changes or Enhancements	Where to get help
Overview to Teaching & Learning Online	CDU now has access to a number of helpful Blackboard manuals that describe the online teaching and learning process and how to use Blackboard to facilitate your use of the Learning Management System.	A good place to start is the “Getting Started Guide” available from TLDG. Workshop: Introduction to Learnline
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WYSIWYG text editor box has increased features to enable you to attach and embed objects. Eg images • Can email announcements to users in course 	
Email	Return receipt (through Control Panel)	
Discussion Board	<p>Look and feel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can easily see summary of posts, unread posts, etc. • Can have different replying options (quote, flag). • Thread page views Tree or List view • Enhanced Visual Text Box Editor. • Increased range of settings (extra option under Remove, tags, quote, subscribe, rating, moderation, grade Status of threads (published, hidden, unavailable). <p>Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can order display of forums • 6 user roles: manager, participant, moderator, grader, reader, blocked • Records of postings on performance dashboard • Manage and Copy Forums. <p>Functionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerful search options by forum and then filter by author/student, date, status and tag • Grading of discussions- recorded in Grade Centre. 	<p>Workshop: “New features in Learnline: General enhancements and Discussion Board overview”</p> <p>Quick tutorials available when you log in under the section Academic Suite Release 7.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board Overview • Discussion Board Rating and Grading Statistic • Discussion Board user Management and Moderation • Discussion Board Multiple Attempts • Discussion Board Admin Panel <p>Blackboard Manual: “Making the most of discussions”</p>
Grade Centre	<p>Setting up grade centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding columns, reordering columns • Modifying items and their display options • Categories columns and view categories eg. Tests, assignments • Create smart views. Eg a group of students, query based- all students with particular performance level 	<p>Workshop: “New features in Learnline: Grade Centre and Early Warning System”.</p> <p>Quick tutorials available when you log in under the section Academic Suite Release 8.0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade Center: Determining Grades and Exemptions
Feature / Learning	Summary of Main Changes or	Where to get help

Management System	Enhancements	
Grade Centre cont.	Working with grades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View grades by item or student Enter grades and feedback with files, include instructor notes viewable only by instructor Can over-ride grades, exempt grades from calculations Customise the letter grade Weight totals Reset test attempts, review attempts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade Center: Analyzing Grades (differentiated" instruction orientation) Grade Center: Customizing the Grade Center Blackboard Manual: "Mastering the Grade Centre"
Early Warning System	This enables instructors to identify those students who may need remediation or more help in an area by creating and applying a rule and emailing them a message (eg. All students who have not logged in, all students who received a low score in an assessment).	Quick tutorials available when you log in under the section Academic Suite Release 7.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Warning System Workshop: "New features in Learnline: Grade Centre and Early Warning System"
Self and Peer Assessment	When setting up an assignment you can factor in a period where students review the assignments of peers after the initial assignment submission and then grade the assignment after the peer review.	Quick tutorials available when you log in under the section Academic Suite Release 8.0: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self and peer assessment
Performance Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details last access as well as days since last access Can track some of the content that has been reviewed by the student if this is enabled when the content is added. Keep records of posts. Links to the early warning system and grades 	We are still reviewing these capabilities to determine the level of detail that can be obtained.

Feature / Content Management System	Summary of Main Changes or Enhancements	Where to get help
Overall	Ability to store, reuse and share content materials (files, images, videos etc). Whenever you upload content there is an option to load if from the CMS. Overtime you can add metadata which tags the item and will enable you and if you allow it others to search and retrieve the item.	This aspect will be available however we are still determine the best method of using this ability at CDU (eg to populate Unit information guides with learning outcomes and assessments). Quick tutorials available when you log in under the Product title: Content System.
E-portfolios	The portfolio allows users to gather content from their collection in the Blackboard content system, organize it and present it attractively, perhaps for an evaluation or for a resume and share it	This aspect being trialled in 4 units for semester 2 (CAI and Education). Once the capabilities are determine we will provide further information after the trials.