



Dear Colleagues:

Summer break is almost here! Soon it will be time to celebrate commencement events and time for faculty and students to begin some relaxing time away from campus for the summer. For those who will be sticking around, summer courses will begin soon and the staff at ITDA are there to assist.



Are you looking to redesign a course for Summer 2 or Fall ? ITDA is here to help. The good news is that it's not too early to start planning for your next teaching appointments and prepare for new beginnings. *Now is the time to get started!*

This ITDA newsletter contains information on upcoming faculty training and two new software initiatives the university will be rolling out during the 2022-23 academic calendar.

Similar to a syllabus, this issue will be a summary of topics for things yet to come. This is our roadmap for accessing resources and sessions that will be informational and interesting, so get ready for some summer fun and excitement.

From,

The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)

Blake Soller, Director

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"The Line" Quote from Experience

"Where's my syllabus to guide me through life?"

BLACKBOARD DID YOU KNOW? Things to do

Before you leave campus for a well-deserved break, check out the VU Confluence How-To Articles to help you prepare for your next semester.

Courses are not automatically generated. Faculty must request in SelfService/DataVU.

- [Requesting Courses in Blackboard](#)

A good backup routine is essential in today's digital world, and so is removing files that are no longer needed or recycling them. Deleting old files in Blackboard also helps the university with computer network storage and reduces our digital footprint.

- [Blackboard File Management \(Download, Upload, Delete\)](#)

Courses can be duplicated in two ways: Copy or Export/Import.

- [Course Copy](#)
- [Export or Archive a Course](#)
- [Import a Course Package](#)

A special note on Blackboard Course Merge requests:

The start of a new term is a hectic time for all of us, and course merges are always a popular request. If you need to request Blackboard course merges for summer or fall, do it now by submitting a [VITAL/Blackboard Helpdesk Ticket](#).

It's time things got simple.

Simple Syllabus is higher education's most widely adopted and fastest-growing syllabus management platform. With nearly 100 years of higher education and software experience, Simple Syllabus supports institutions of all types and sizes, ranging from a few hundred students to organizations with nearly 50,000 across all major regional accrediting bodies in the US.



[Click on the Simple Syllabus image above to learn more.](#)



Simple Syllabus Knowledgebase

Create your account using your VU credentials for access to training videos, help desk, FAQs, and more.

[Click on The Simple Hub image to sign up.](#)




It's time to join the community.

The Community is a place for Blackboard users to connect and collaborate. Community is more than a platform, it's a culture of innovation, knowledge sharing, and partnership with the global education community.


Sign-up is free.

[Click on the Blackboard Community image above to learn more.](#)




Ask & Answer Questions

Share your expertise, engage with Blackboard experts, and network with peers.



Community Programs

Join a user group or program to collaborate, share experiences and best practices, and learn strategies to help your organization meet the global education community's evolving academic and professional development challenges.



Submit Product Feedback

Collaborate directly with Blackboard Product Management on feature ideas and provide use cases and feedback to help shape the future of our products and solutions.

It's time for better navigation.

Base Navigation

What is the Blackboard Base Navigation?

It is a modern, intuitive navigation menu that lives outside of courses. It includes links to new pages such as the Activity Stream, Calendar, Messages, etc. that provide quick access to the most critical information consolidated from all your courses.

[Click on the Base Navigation image above to view a short video demo.](#)

COMING SOON!

Faculty Training

Simple Syllabus - Join the Summer Pilot

Blackboard Base Navigation - A New Look & Shell

One-Button Studio - Video recording: Instructor Intro

Blackboard (Bb) Tech Talks - Sessions will be held virtually and at the Christopher Center for demonstrations and conversations on a variety of topics:

- Course Tools (Tests/Pools, Rubrics, Discussion Boards Blogs & Journals)
- Course Management & Control Panel
- Grade Center (Smart Views, Weights, External Grade)
- Copy Course vs. Export vs. Archive
- File Management (Download, Upload, Delete, Copy)
- Adding Content (Graphics, Videos, LinkedIn)

Dates and times TBA.

For questions or topic suggestions, contact ITDA@valpo.edu.



Guided Tour: Simple Syllabus and the Benefits of Syllabus Management

Guided: Simple Syllabus and the Benefits of Syllabus Management

In this one-hour demonstration learn how Simple Syllabus can help faculty save time, improve the learning experience, and streamline accreditation activities at your institution through digital class syllabi.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 | 2:00 pm ET

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 | 11:00 am ET



[Webinar Info. & Registration](#)

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