



## Learning Technologies



### Welcome

**Welcome to the Learning Technologies module. From this module, you will learn about a variety of technology tools for engagement and collaboration between instructors and students in the distance education classroom.**

The module contains information on a variety of learning technologies. After completing the module and quiz, check out the valuable Additional Resources folder — complete with ECU contacts for the technologies covered, websites of interest, and contact information for ECU's Disability Services and Copyright officer. Feel free to print the list for future reference.

**After completion of the Learning Technologies module, faculty will be able to:**

- evaluate and differentiate between the educational uses and features of five technology tools
- evaluate the five technology tools in order to create a technology plan to meet course(s) objectives, thereby enhancing the design of his or her online course(s)
- identify the resources available for Electronic Accessibility
- identify the resources available for Copyright.



Enjoy!



### Learning Technologies



### Learning Technologies Quiz

Please click the link above to take the quiz.



### Supplemental Resources (Optional)



## Blackboard

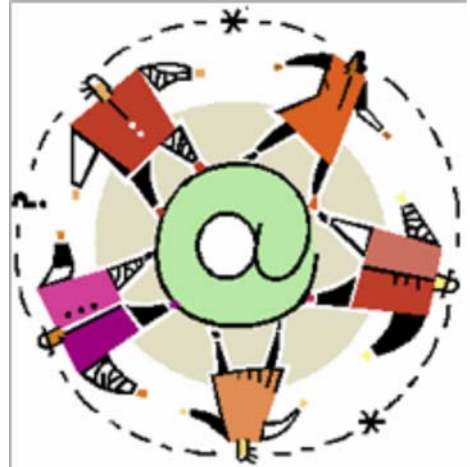
&lt; Page 1 of 16 &gt;

Blackboard, ECU's course management system, is a platform containing a multitude of tools to add both static and multimedia content in order to build a community of learners in your course. As well as adding content, there are tools to add assignments, tests, and surveys for student assessment. A basic Blackboard shell becomes a uniquely organized course - with a customizable menu bar - once you build your site with individualized content and assessments.

### Educational Uses:

All courses have a Blackboard shell where instructors can:

- organize and post course materials and resources, including multimedia
- post daily or weekly important announcements
- create assignments with links for student uploads
- create tests, test pools, and surveys to be taken online
- utilize the email function within the course
- manage groups of students using the group tool including associated assignments and discussion topics
- create discussion forums for threaded discussions
- engage in real-time chat sessions and/or virtual classroom
- utilize the Grade Center for automatic posting of grades or manual posting of grades, creating grade columns, weighted grades, organizing the Grade Center, and printing reports.





## What is Blackboard?



**Blackboard is the campus course management system centrally supported and hosted by**

**ITCS at East Carolina University. Blackboard has been in use at ECU since 2000.**

Blackboard is a comprehensive technology platform for teaching and learning, community building, content management and sharing. Instructors direct students through a learning path while focusing on the fundamentals while managing learning objectives. Blackboard, also known as a learning management system or course management system, allows for and promotes opportunities and insight to leverage new tools in order to reach all learners in a synchronous or asynchronous setting.

Instructors can plan, design, and build their courses by integrating resources from multiple content formats (from Word and PDF documents to multimedia presentations, etc.). Blackboard is more than a framework; it is designed to help instructors make learning more effective in and beyond the traditional walls. Included in our current version of Blackboard (Blackboard 9) are Web 2.0 tools and features, specifically blog, wiki, and journal tools. The blog tool is an effective tool for encouraging students to write, engage in reflective writing and learning, and provide peer reviews. Blackboard's wiki tool is ideal for assignments where knowledge-building is a goal with students becoming subject matter experts on specific topics. Wiki submissions from students can be edited by their peers, depending on how the instructor sets up the assignment. The journal tool is a viable option for a private journal between the instructor and student, or it can be made available for review and comments by all students, depending on the instructor's choice of settings. The tools mentioned - blog, wiki, journal - all work well as group assignments as well as assignments for the entire class.

To meet the needs of all educators and students, Blackboard has demonstrated a strong commitment to Accessibility:

Blackboard® is committed to ensuring that our platform is usable and accessible. The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) recently awarded Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1 with a Non-visual Accessibility Gold Certification, making it the first and only learning management system to achieve certification.

*Press Release, Blackboard, Inc. 2011*

For further information on Accessibility in Blackboard Courses, please see the Additional Resources folder within this module.

Faculty Audio  
Insight:  
Karen Vail-Smith  
on "Blackboard"  
(100 seconds)



## How to Get Started and Examples

### How to Get Started

Every course has a Blackboard shell. Click the Blackboard icon on the ECU home page, then:

- Log in to Blackboard using your Pirate ID and passphrase.
- See your list of courses.
- Click the course you want to access and you will enter your course home.
- Start customizing your course by adding content and assessments.
- Revise and/or add navigational links per your preference for organization, keeping the student's navigation in mind.
- Don't forget to turn your course on (Control Panel > Customization > Properties > Make Course Available).

### Examples

Take a look at a few snapshots of ECU courses in Blackboard 9 and the different ways of organizing content:

**Examples of course organization and customizing in Bb 9 and a snapshot of the Grade Center.**

**Grade Center: Full Grade Center**

In the **Screen Reader mode**, the table is static and grades may be entered on the Grade Details page accessed by selecting the table cell for the grade. [More Help](#)

Create Column Create Calculated Column Manage Reports

Last Name	First Name	example	Midterm Ass	Course Blog	history of ecu	Quiz 2
student	student	98.00	NEEDS GRADING	-88.00	-	-
Michael	Michael	88.00	99.00	55.00	99.00	88.00
Itcs1	Itcs1	55.00	66.00	2.00	33.00	65.00
Andrew	Andrew	66.00	2.00	33.00	65.00	99.00
Student	Student	-	-	-	-	-
Nicholas	Nicholas	-	-	-	-	-

Selected Rows: 0

Move To Top Email

To see some examples of exemplary courses from a cross section of institutions using the Blackboard Course Management System, go to [Exemplary Courses](#).



## Resources for Blackboard

Attached Files [Tutorial\\_Wiki\\_Bb9\\_Instructors.pdf](#) (310.933 KB) [Tutorial\\_Wiki\\_Bb9\\_Students.pdf](#) (306.179 KB)  
 [Gradebook\\_Cleanup.pdf](#) (550.463 KB)

### Examples of PDF Tutorials:

Please download and view the attached PDF tutorials. The Blackboard Administrators have created PDF tutorials for all Blackboard tools. Faculty are welcome to include PDF tutorials for students on their Blackboard courses. The ECU [Blackboard Blog](#) has PDF tutorials for faculty and students.

### Where to learn more about Blackboard:

- [ECU's Blackboard Blog](#)
- [Learning Technologies Grid](#)
- [SharePoint Training Calendar](#): <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-itcs/training.cfm>
- Blackboard Administrators:
  - [Matt Long](#), 252-328-9074
  - [Cindy Bowers](#), 252-328-9167
- [Blackboard Learn](#)
- [Blackboard's Exemplary Course Program](#)
- Contact [ECU Disability Support Services](#) for assistance captioning your videos for hearing impaired students
- Visit the [Introduction to Copyright LibGuide](#) created by ECU's Copyright Officer



## Camtasia

With Camtasia, you can turn your screen recordings into polished videos. Camtasia is a screen-recording software, ideal for recording lectures, training sessions, etc. Many edit features allow you to zoom in/out, add callouts, change audio, add a title page, and more.

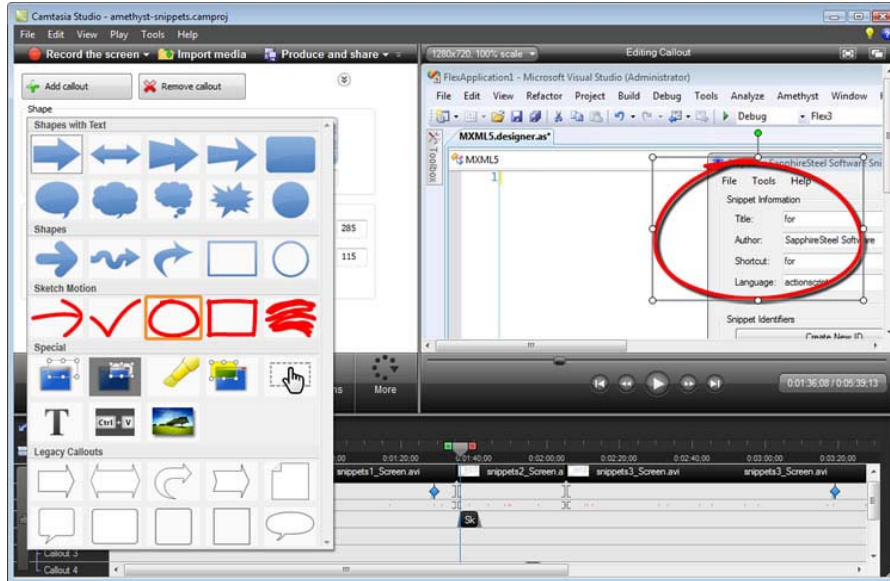
### Educational Uses:

- pre-record course lectures
- provide supplemental course material
- provide step-by-step tutorials
- provide a tour of your online course environment
- record webcam introductions to weekly course content
- provide a video to help with those frequently asked questions in your course.





## What is Camtasia?



**Camtasia is screen-recording software used to record onscreen activity, audio, and web cam video and to narrate existing PowerPoint presentations.**

Using Camtasia, faculty can record, edit, produce and share course content. Editing features include callouts, transitions, zoom-and-pan, audio enhancements, captioning (for hearing impaired students) and more. The final product will be a video file that students watch at their convenience and can include a table of contents to aid navigation.

### Faculty Audio

#### Insight:

**Mark Angolia**  
on "Camtasia"

(39 seconds)



## Resources for Camtasia

### Where to learn more about Camtasia:

- Visit the [Camtasia Studio 7 Learning Center](#).
- Visit the [Introduction to Copyright LibGuide](#) created by ECU's Copyright Officer.
- Sign up for group training on the [ITCS training calendar](#).
- Contact [Ginny Sconiers](#) to schedule a one-on-one training session.

### Examples:

- [Blackboard tutorial](#)
- [NUTR](#) – Using the Narrate PowerPoint feature, this 18-minute video is a course lecture on Menu Planning (Beth Wall-Bassette, 2010)
- [HIMA 3032](#) - This tutorial is an Introduction to the Course Blog site. (Susie Harris, 2011)

### How to get started:

1. Request Camtasia at the [Online Help Desk](#).
2. Login to PiratePanel to create your server space [PiratePanel](#) (to share your files).
3. You will need a headset to record audio.
4. You will need a webcam to record video.
5. Download the latest [Flash player](#) to view mp4 files.





Centra

Do you want to utilize web-conferencing in your online course as a synchronous learning experience? Centra is a web-conferencing software you can utilize for special presentations, class lectures, office hours, etc. After you complete the initial setup for a Centra session, students will follow the link and be able to log into your Centra session to listen, talk, type a message, and collaborate in a group setting. Live sessions can be archived for later viewing. A microphone or headset is required.

USES	Classroom meetings	Project presentations	Guest lectures	Hybrid courses	International studies	FEATURES	Peer interaction	Classroom management	Multiple presenters
	Recorded sessions, playbacks	Software demonstrations	Departmental meetings	Organizational meetings	Student group meetings		Whiteboard	Surveys	Application sharing
	Small group discussions	Exam proctoring	Research collaboration	Interviews	Office hours		Session recording, playback	Breakout rooms, labs	Evaluations, quizzes



## What is Centra?

Centra is a web-conferencing platform that provides a virtual classroom using live and recorded sessions.



Faculty Audio  
Insight:  
Ken MacLeod  
on "Centra"  
(97 seconds)

Centra enables faculty and students to attend class "live" from anywhere they have access to an Internet connection. It is accessed using a web browser and enables the student to see and hear the instructor as well as respond to the instructor's questions with audio chat - just like a normal class. All classes using Centra are automatically recorded, so the playback can be viewed later.



## Resources for Centra

### Examples:

Check out the [Centra Quick Start Video](#).

### How to get started:

- Visit the [Centra Resource Center](#).
- Complete a [Course Request form](#).
- Run the [System Verification Check](#), [Download the Centra Client](#) and view [System Requirements](#).
- Have a working headset or microphone.

### Where to learn more about Centra:

- Visit the [Centra Resource Center](#)
- Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Sign up for group training on the [ITCS training calendar](#).
- Contact [John Southworth](#) to schedule a one-on-one training session.



## Second Life



Using graphical representations, Second Life is a virtual world that has a vital presence on the ECU campus. Take your course into another dimension and interact with your students within the Second Life environment. Explore the educational uses of Second Life, such as simulations, virtual tours, collaborative experiences, and more.

### Educational Uses:

Class meetings	Office hours
Project creations/displays	Education simulations
Field trips	Presentations
Social interaction	Application and web sharing
Nursing simulations/trainings	Retail simulations
Social work simulations	Deliver high school curriculum
Interdisciplinary projects	Museum and gallery projects



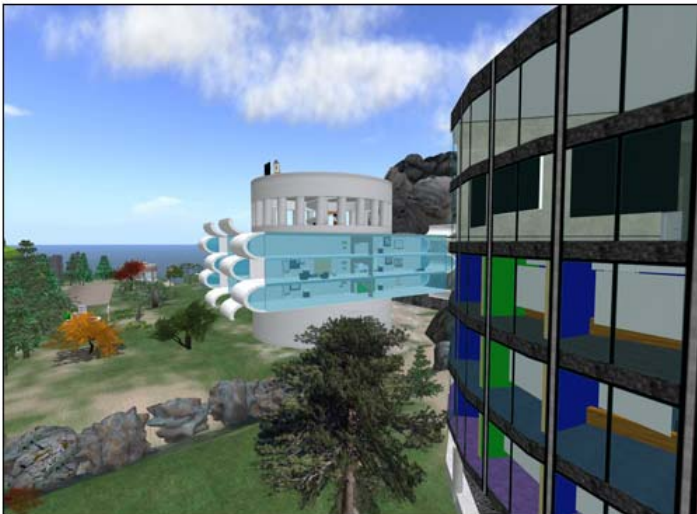
## What is Second Life?

### Second Life is a 3-D innovative approach to teaching.

Second Life provides multicultural exposure, the exploration of methods for online learning where faculty and student can interact with expressions, share course material, and create an avatar (a persona or graphical representation of the user) -- all using Web 2.0 technologies. ECU's Second Life has won both state and national [awards](#) for best practices in education.

A survey of Distance Education students prior to 2007 revealed that students felt they did not know the peers in their Distance Education classes. One of the solutions to this problem was the usage of Second Life, which allows students and professors to attend class as "avatars." Within Second Life, professors can utilize various media tools including presentation slides and videos; however, Second Life isn't limited to just slides and videos. Second Life offers the capability for much more thanks to its building and scripting language tools. After training in Second Life, ECU faculty have put their discoveries and knowledge to work in various ways from building a virtual ECU hotel to designing patient simulations for nursing students to constructing a biometric security system within a virtual building.

Explore the possibilities with [Second Life](#)!





## Resources for Second Life

### Examples:

For a glimpse into ECU's Second Life courses and examples, please see:

- [ECU Second Life Courses](#)
- [ECU Second Life Early College High School](#)

### How to get started:

Contact [Sharon Collins](#), 252-328-9126

### Where to find out more about Second Life:

- [ECU Second Life Website](#)
- [ECU's Second Life Wins Awards](#)
- [Second Life Website](#)
- [Second Life Education: The Virtual Learning Advantage](#)
- Contact [Sharon Collins](#), 252-328-9126



## WordPress Blogs

Creating a home for a course or professional blog can be accomplished with WordPress, an open-source web application. As ECU faculty, you have access to Word Press where you can create a blog site and customize it with the help of a myriad of templates to make it your own. Additionally, you can set permissions to restrict blog access to your students unless you want it available to the internet public.

### Educational Uses:

- use the blog for a course or department site
- allow for the creation interactive websites
- use your blog for tutorials
- generate dialogue among students and/or colleagues
- create enthusiasm for writing and communication
- engage students in conversation and learning
- develop and promote individual and/or common interests
- make the blog available to everyone or restrict it to a group of students or colleagues
- use the blog for conferences.





## What is WordPress?

**WordPress is an Open Source web application designed for *creating blogs*.**

WordPress allows users to create both static and dynamic web pages. Currently, blogging is being used in courses to provide interaction between faculty and students. It can also be used with departments and groups to share information and updates on projects. WordPress started as just a blogging system, but has evolved to be used as full content management system and so much more through the thousands of plug-ins, widgets and themes. WordPress is limited only by your imagination.







## Resources for WordPress

### Examples:

- [Blackboard Blog](#)
- [H1N1 Blog Site \(Sharing Information\)](#)
- [ECU Tech Tip Blog](#)
- [Web Conferencing Comparison Study](#)

### How to Get Started with WordPress:

Go to [WordPress](#) and log in using your Pirate ID and passphrase. Once you log in, you will be able to create as many blog sites as you need. To create a blog site, click on the "Dashboard" dropdown and click "My Sites." Then, simply click the "Create a New Site" link. You can now add your site.

### Where to learn more about WordPress:

- Visit the [WordPress Users Guide](#) site.
- Visit the [Official WordPress](#) site.
- Sign up for group training on the [ITCS training calendar](#).
- Contact [Matt Powell](#) to schedule a one-on-one training session.