

Blackboard Learn Original vs Ultra Feature Comparison

Original	Ultra	Status	Details
Achievements	Badgr Spaces/Canvas Credentials	Available with Limitations	<p>With the Badgr integration in Ultra Course View, you can issue digital badges that recognize student achievement and allow them to granularly share their skills outside of Blackboard.</p> <p>Feature Loss - You cannot create and issue certificates using the Badgr integration, but participants can print their badge as a certificate via Badgr. Badges can only be awarded based on Assignments and Tests; Badgr does not support achievement on other assessment types nor for manual or calculated Gradebook items.</p>
Adaptive Release	Release Conditions	Available	Items can be made available based on date and time, performance (such as a grade on another item), and by individual or group membership.
Anonymous Grading	Anonymous Grading - Hide Student Names	Available	You must choose this option for each individual Assignment, Test, and Discussion you create. You cannot grade anonymously if scores are posted automatically; disable automatic posting to enable anonymous grading.
Announcements	Announcements	Available	Announcements can be scheduled in advance. Announcements appear in a pop-up box when students enter the course. Announcements in Ultra can also be sent to students via email, although attachments in the Announcement can only be accessed in the course.
Assignment	Assignment	Available with Limitations	<p>Assignments are available and robust, including advanced features like group submission, rubrics, audio/video feedback, inline annotation, and more.</p> <p>Assignments must remain visible to students for them to view their score, feedback, and any inline annotations.</p> <p>Feature Loss - Group assignment submissions cannot be downloaded in bulk.</p>
Attendance	Attendance	Available	Access Attendance by clicking Attendance under <i>Details and Actions</i> in your Ultra course. Functions and features identical to Original Course View.
Blogs	TBD	Discontinued	<p>Discontinued.</p> <p>Alternatives - Use Discussion Board in Blackboard or an external blogging platform like Harmonize, Teams/OneNote, or OneDrive (WORD document).</p>
Calendar	Calendar	Available	Click the Calendar icon at the top of an Ultra course to access.
Collaborate	Collaborate	Available	Class Collaborate course room and scheduler are available in the <i>Details and Actions</i> area of an Ultra course.
Contacts	--	Discontinued	Not available in Ultra and not planned.

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			Alternatives - Use Profile feature to add a photo of yourself and your name pronunciation. Full name and email address are automatically updated.
Content Collection	Content Collection	Available	Files from the Content Collection can be added to the course via the plus icon on the course outline. Files in the Content Collection can be added to Documents via either the plus icon or the text editor.
Content Editor	Content Editor	Available	The content (text) editor in Ultra includes the ability to format text, add images, embed YouTube videos, and build equations. It does not include the ability to directly edit the html code, to ensure the text is accessible and mobile-compatible. You can create HTML content blocks in a Document, however.
Course Banner	Course Image	Available	When a Course Image is set, it is displayed as the Course Tile on the Courses page in the base navigation. It can also be toggled on to be displayed as a course banner.
Course Link	Course Link	Available with Limitations	<p>You can create course links on the Course Content page. Click the + icon and select Create from the menu. In the <i>Create Item</i> panel, select Link, then switch to the Course Link tab. Search for and select the item you want to link and then click the Save button. The visibility of a course link is tied to the visibility of the linked content.</p> <p>Feature Loss - you cannot link to discussions; you cannot link to a folder or learning module from within a folder or learning module; you cannot link to content within a learning module where force sequence is enabled (because this would potentially allow students to bypass the forced sequence). You cannot add course links via the text editor, such as on an Ultra Document or in an Announcement.</p>
Course Menu	--	Discontinued	In the Ultra Course View, there is no course menu. All of the content is listed on a single page, to make it easier for students to navigate, and links to course tools are organized in the Details and Actions area or along the top of the page. Content can be organized using folders and learning modules, which open and close.
Course Reports	Student Activity	Available with Limitations	<p>The Ultra Course View does not include the same course reports as the Original Course View, but other reports are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Student Activity report summarizes student activity on an Assignment or Test. • The Class Performance / Course Activity Related to Grades report provides a distribution of students grades and the time spent in the course to help identify students who may be falling behind. • If you have enabled Progress Tracking, you can view the Student Progress report for individual items to determine whether students have opened

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			content, when they accessed it, and whether they marked it as complete.
Discussions	Discussions	Available	Discussions can be created on the content page, such as in a folder or learning module, or they can be created directly on the Discussions page. Feature Loss - Subscriptions are not available but discussion posts are included in the Activity Stream and daily notifications. Discussions cannot be set to be anonymous.
Edit Mode	--	Discontinued	Not available in Ultra Course View. You are always in edit mode unless you are in student preview mode.
Embed Media or Mashup	Embed Media	Available with Limitations	Images and web-based videos can be embedded within a Document (page) in the Ultra Course View. Feature Loss - Video can only be embedded from select sources, including (but not limited to) YouTube and Vimeo. For other platforms, such as social media or news sites, you will need to simply create a link to the media or paste embed code into an HTML block in a Document.
Files	Upload (Course Content page), Upload from Computer (Document), or Attachment (Text Editor)	Available	Upload files from desktop or cloud storage. Files can also be dragged and dropped into a course or the text editor. Once enabled by the institution, add live and collaborative cloud documents from Microsoft OneDrive.
Folders	Folders	Available	Folders organize content within the course outline, and open and close to make it easier for students to find specific files or Documents. Folders can be made visible or hidden.
Glossary	--	Discontinued	Not available in Ultra and not planned. Alternatives - Create a web link to an external subject-matter glossary or upload the terms and definitions as a file.
Goals	Goals and Standards	Available	Assessments can be aligned to specific Goals, including Assignments, Tests (including individual questions), Discussions, and Rubrics.
Grade Center	Gradebook	Available with Limitations	Most grading functions are available in the Gradebook, which is accessed by clicking the Gradebook tab in the toolbar at the top of the course. Feature Loss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the grid view, columns cannot be sorted by clicking on the headers. The Needs Grading view is discontinued, but you can view assessments that need to be graded in the

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			Activity Stream or on the list view of the Gradebook.
Groups	Groups	Available with Limitations	<p>Groups can be created manually or generated randomly. They can be created in three different places within a course and can be used for any of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Groups - These groups allow you to send Messages to a subset of students. These groups can be used for Discussions and Assignments and can be used to filter the Gradebook. • Discussion Groups - These groups allow you to limit students to viewing and interacting in discussion only within their group and can be used for Assignments, but not for filtering the Gradebook • Assignment Groups - These groups allow students to make a single Assignment submission on behalf of their group and assigns the same grade to each member of the group (which you can override individually if necessary). <p>Feature Loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cannot see the other members in a Course Group; they can only see the other members of their discussion groups. • Groups do not have a dedicated group space to access tools or share files.
Item	Document	Available	The term "Document" refers to a page in Ultra that resembles a web page. Documents can include images, text, uploaded files, and HTML content. If you only need to add a file without accompanying text, use the <i>Upload</i> option instead.
Journal	Journal	Available	Journals can be created by using the + menu to create content, then selecting Journal under <i>Participation and Engagement</i> .
Learning Module	Learning Module	Available	Learning Modules can contain multiple files, Documents, Assignments, Tests, or Discussions. They can also contain a single layer of folders to organize materials within the module.
Lesson Plan	--	Discontinued	<p>Not available in Ultra and not planned.</p> <p>Alternatives - Use Learning Modules or Folders. Then, create Documents that house information that would have been in the Lesson Plan Content Information section (description, objectives, subject area). You can organize the order of items in your Learning Module or Folder however you want, and you can use Conditional Availability to force sequential viewing within a Learning Module. If you are using Lesson Plans as a planning tool only, you can follow</p>

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			the same steps above but keep the content hidden from students.
Performance Dashboard	--	Available with Limitations	<p>The Class Performance / Course Activity Related to Grades report provides a distribution of students grades and the time spent in the course to help identify students who may be falling behind. Access this report from the Analytics tab or on the Grades page in the base navigation.</p> <p>Alternatives - You can view alerts within your Activity Stream, keep track of assignment submissions in the Gradebook, and view a single student's grades by clicking a student's name on the Student List View or the Grid View of the Gradebook. You can view when students last accessed the course by switching to the student list view in the Gradebook.</p>
Portfolios	--	Available with Limitations	<p>Students can create a Portfolio directly in the Portfolios tool by clicking Tools from the Base Navigation.</p> <p>Feature Loss - Portfolios cannot be directly submitted to an Assignment in the Ultra Course View. As a workaround, students can share the Portfolio with themselves as an external user to generate a URL to access their Portfolio, and then submit that URL via the text editor in the Assignment. Faculty can then access and review the portfolio from the Gradebook and utilize the rubric and feedback features of the Assignment.</p>
Publisher Integrations	Content Market	Available	Most publisher integrations are available in Ultra Course View; you should contact your publisher representative for more information.
Retention Center	--	Discontinued	<p>Not available in Ultra and not planned.</p> <p>Alternatives - Many of the features of the Retention Center have been repurposed through the Activity Stream, where you will receive alerts for students falling behind, absent, and failing. You can no longer create rules for early alert criteria.</p>
Roster	Roster	Available	Available in the <i>Details & Actions</i> area within an Ultra course. You can view the full student roster, enroll a TA or another Instructor, or add an accommodation for a student (such as extended timers) that apply to all assessments in the course.
Rubrics	Rubrics	Available	<p>Rubrics are available for all assessment types.</p> <p>Feature Loss - Rubrics are limited to a maximum of fifteen rows and columns. You cannot download a summary rubric report from an item in the Gradebook.</p>
SafeAssign	SafeAssign	Available	<p>SafeAssign is available for Assignments and for Essay questions on Tests.</p> <p>Feature Loss - Ultra Course View does not include a</p>

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			method for direct submission; Instead create Assignments with SafeAssign enabled.
SCORM	SCORM	Available	To add a SCORM package in your Ultra course, click the plus sign to add content, click Create , select SCORM package , and select Upload SCORM package or Browse Content Collection .
Self and Peer Assessment	Peer Review	Available with Limitations	<p>Assignments can now be designated for peer review. Select Peer Review in the Assignment settings, then set up peer review settings, such as the number of reviews per student and the due dates for initial submissions and peer reviews. Peer reviews are entirely anonymous, although the instructor is able to see the review assignments and who provided feedback.</p> <p>Feature Loss - Peer review does not include a mechanism for self-assessment. Peer review currently only allows qualitative feedback, although you can connect it with a rubric to guide the review process.</p>
Send Email	Messages	Available	The updated Messages tool allows you to communicate with students via email. Messages retains a copy of the conversation in Blackboard and includes the option to send the contents to the student via email.
SlideShare/Flickr Embed	--	Discontinued	<p>Not available in Ultra and not planned.</p> <p>Alternatives - Create a slideshow (PowerPoint) or document and upload it to Blackboard directly or upload it to SlideShare and share the link to Blackboard. For Flickr images, search for the image on Flickr, copy the URL, and paste it to "Insert Image from Web" in editor (Document).</p>
Student Preview	Student Preview	Available	Access via the " Enter student preview mode " button in the <i>Details & Actions</i> area within an Ultra course. Click the ... menu in the upper-right corner to exit student preview.
Survey	TBD	Anticipated in 2023	<p>Not yet developed, but planned for Ultra Course View and still available in Original Course View.</p> <p>Alternatives - Use an external anonymous survey site, such as Qualtrics or Microsoft Forms.</p>
Tasks	--	Discontinued	<p>Not available in Ultra and not planned.</p> <p>Alternatives - The Activity Stream alerts students to upcoming due dates and assignments and alerts you about their progress and participation. Progress Tracking helps students determine whether they have completed course requirements.</p>
Tests and Pools	Tests and Question Banks	Available with Limitations	Tests can include Calculated Formula, Essay, Fill-in-the-Blank (single or multiple), Matching, Multiple Choice (single or multiple correct answers), and True/False questions. Questions can be reused from other Tests or from Question

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			<p>Banks (which are added in the Details & Actions area in an Ultra course).</p> <p>Feature Loss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question Types Not Available - Either/Or (Use True/False or Multiple Choice instead), File Response (Use an Assignment instead or ask students to submit the file at the end of the test using the additional information field), Jumbled Sentence, Opinion Scale/Likert (Use Multiple Choice instead), Ordering (Use Matching instead), Quiz Bowl, Short Answer (Use Essay instead). • Grade One Question at a Time - Currently, it is not possible to grade one question at a time.
Web Link	Web Link	Available	To create a link to web content, you can create a link directly in your course by clicking the +, Create , and then Link .
Wiki	--	Discontinued	<p>Not available in Ultra and not planned.</p> <p>Alternatives - Use Microsoft OneDrive for collaborative writing and editing, or try Microsoft OneNote for a shared space for note-taking. Use Google Sites or Weebly to have students create a website, or try a dedicated wiki tool available online.</p>