



### **Blackboard Instructor:**

Introduction, download, timing, FAQ

### **Description:**

Blackboard Instructor is Blackboard's brand new mobile application that gives instructors a simple and intuitive way to manage courses, interact with students, and view content with an emphasis placed on their immediate needs.

*What features will be available in the first release of Blackboard Instructor?*

**Course Management:** View all courses for available terms and see a summary of each course including upcoming assignments, announcements and more.

**Content and Assessment Preview:** Review course content and assessments created in Blackboard Learn on mobile to ensure content is accurate and mobile-friendly.

**Discussions:** View, create and reply to discussion board threads.

**Announcements:** Review, create and send out announcements to students.

**Collaborate:** Host and join Collaborate sessions.

### *Key Benefits of Blackboard Instructor:*

**Save time and work more efficiently:** We know time is one of your most valuable assets. Blackboard Instructor saves you time by allowing you to send announcements, quickly check courses and monitor discussions on the go.

**Easily find what you're looking for and complete tasks:** Blackboard Instructor's simple, user-centric design helps you easily find and access exactly what you're looking for, so that you can move on to your next task.

**Create mobile-friendly content:** Make sure your course materials, content and assessments created in Learn are mobile-friendly, so that students can engage with your course when they want to, using the devices they want to.

**Connect with students:** Connect with your students right from your phone using Collaborate.  
*\*If you license Blackboard Collaborate*

### *Why wasn't grading included in the initial release?*

Based on client feedback, we prioritized critical activities around course management and student engagement first in our initial launch of Blackboard Instructor. We understand that grading is very important to educators, and are currently working on an initial set of grading features to be launched over the course of the next several quarters. We made the conscious

decision to release features as they are developed so that we don't withhold value and convenience that could be available before the start of the next school term. This also enables us to continue to gather user feedback, iterate and improve all of our features over time. Like our Blackboard mobile app for students, Blackboard Instructor will follow our continuous delivery cadence so we can continually bring updates and new features to our users.

The functionality launched in July 2017 gives instructors a simple and intuitive way to manage courses, interact with students, and view content. We will follow this initial feature set with grading workflows, including a tablet optimized grading experience that allows instructors to quickly review, grade, and comment on student submitted assignments. Over time, we will also provide access to rubrics, multimedia feedback, and delegated/anonymized grading in Blackboard Instructor.

#### *Mobile Learn Transition Positioning:*

Blackboard has made a significant investment in our mobile products over the last year to better meet the needs and expectations of students and instructors. With the transition to the Blackboard app for students and Blackboard Instructor from Mobile Learn, we are excited to provide a set of mobile apps that are focused on the workflows and tools most important to staff and students. With the release of Blackboard Instructor just around the corner, we encourage you to start preparing now for these changes.

#### **Download**

[https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard\\_App/Instructor/Quick\\_Start](https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard_App/Instructor/Quick_Start)

#### **Timing**

Important dates:

Now: The Blackboard student app is already available globally in iOS, Android, and Windows app stores

July 20, 2017: The Blackboard Instructor was made available globally on iOS and Android through the Apple and Google Play app stores

August 1, 2017: Mobile Learn is scheduled for removal from app stores

August 31, 2017: Support for Mobile Learn is scheduled to end

Visit [this Help Site page](#) for more information on how to transition from Mobile Learn to the Blackboard student app and Blackboard Instructor.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: What is Blackboard Instructor?*

A: Blackboard Instructor is Blackboard's brand new mobile application that gives instructors a simple and intuitive way to manage courses, interact with students, and view content with an emphasis placed on their immediate needs.

*Q: When was Blackboard Instructor released?*

A: Blackboard Instructor was released on July 20, 2017 in all markets where we currently support Blackboard Learn in July. We will continue to provide you with updates leading up to the launch date.

*Q: Which devices are compatible with Blackboard Instructor?*

A: Any device running on iOS 9+ or Android 4.2+

*Q: What features will be available in the first release of Blackboard Instructor?*

A: The first release of Blackboard Instructor will include the following features/capabilities:

- Course Management: View all courses for available terms and see a summary of each course including upcoming assignments, announcements and more.
- Content and Assessment Preview: Review course content and assessments created in Blackboard Learn on mobile to ensure content is accurate and mobile-friendly.
- Discussions: View, create and reply to discussion board threads.
- Announcements: Review, create and send out announcements to students.
- Collaborate: Host and join Collaborate sessions.

*Q: Is Blackboard Instructor available to my client?*

A: Ensure that your client meets the following technical requirements needed to go forward with Blackboard Instructor:

[Mobile Web Services Building Block 94.9.5+](#)

2. Blackboard Learn 9.1, October 2014, Blackboard Learn 9.1, Q4 2015, Blackboard Learn 9.1, Q2 2016, Blackboard Learn 9.1, Q4 2016, Blackboard Learn 9.1, Q2 2017 CU2 or Blackboard Learn SaaS (3200.4.0+)

*(Note: Mobile Web Services Building Block 94.9.6 is required for versions prior to Q4 2015)*

Mobile license or a solution bundle with mobile. Contact your Blackboard account executive to find out if you have this

For more information, please see this [Behind the Blackboard announcement](#).

*Q: Is Blackboard Instructor replacing Mobile Learn?*

A: Yes. Mobile Learn served both students and instructors within one app and after conducting in-depth research we made the decision to develop two persona-based apps centered around the core workflows of instructors and students. Our first persona-based app for students is currently available and our second persona-based app is Blackboard Instructor. With the release of Blackboard Instructor, we will now have our two persona-based apps available to the market and will be removing Mobile Learn from app stores on August 1, 2017 and ending support on August 31, 2017. For more information on transitioning from Mobile Learn to Blackboard and Blackboard Instructor please visit [this help site page](#).

*Q: How will this affect individuals currently using Mobile Learn?*

A: Students and instructors currently using Mobile Learn will continue to have access to the application. Mobile Learn will no longer be updated and Blackboard will no longer be supporting the application after August 31, 2017. We strongly encourage all Mobile Learn users to make the transition to Blackboard Instructor or Blackboard as soon as possible. These new persona-based apps were specifically built with the end user's unique needs in mind and have a more modern, intuitive and user friendly interface that enhances the mobile experience.

*Q: What are the differences between Blackboard Instructor and Mobile Learn?*

A: Blackboard Instructor is a persona-based application, specifically built with instructor's core workflows in mind, while Mobile Learn provides functionality to both students and instructors. Blackboard Instructor was designed with streamlined workflows, an improved, modern UI, and only includes the features critical to the everyday needs of instructors, significantly improving the mobile experience compared to the complicated navigation in Mobile Learn. While user's will not find all the same features in Blackboard Instructor, key enhancements include the ability to join Collaborate sessions and preview course content the way students will see it on the student app. Blackboard Instructor will also have monthly updates with new features and improvements.

*Q: Is Blackboard Instructor replacing Bb Grader?*

A: Bb Grader will continue to be available at this time, but is only accessible on iOS tablets. After the first release of Blackboard Instructor, we will be adding grading functionality, which will allow instructors to access and complete all their core course management and grading activities in one mobile application.