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Blackboard vs Moodle vs Canvas: Big Comparison for 2025

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CONTENT CREATOR

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EXPERT

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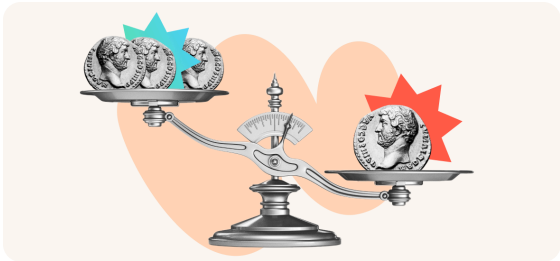
11 Types of LMS Platforms and How to Choose the Best Fit



The 10 Best LMSs for Higher Education Institutions



23 Moodle Plugins to Take eLearning to the Next Level



LMS Pricing: Find the Right Pricing Model for You [2025]

Whether you’re looking for an LMS for a school, an EdTech business, or your personal teaching project, your choice will affect everything from administrative efficiency to student engagement and, ultimately, learning results.

To help you get this step right, we’ve compared the most popular learning management systems for educational purposes: Blackboard vs Moodle™ vs Canvas, breaking down their key features, pricing, pros and cons, and customer feedback.

Before we move on to the detailed breakdowns and key differences of each platform, check out a quick comparison of the Moodle™ vs Blackboard vs Canvas learning management systems with their key characteristics, including user interface, accessibility, mobile compatibility, and more:

	Blackboard	Moodle™ software	Canvas
User interface	Clean, fairly intuitive	Steep learning curve, not beginner-friendly	Somewhat non-intuitive for novice users
Accessibility	Excellent	Good, but relies on third-party add-ons for some	Strong but not as proactive as Blackboard

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Mobile learning	+	+	+
AI capabilities	+	+	—
Free trial	30 days	No, the LMS is free	A free-for-teacher account
Best for	Academic institutions and nonprofit organizations that need a highly accessible, enterprise-level LMS.	Schools and universities looking for a tailored online teaching environment with customization options.	Individual teachers and K-12 organizations that prioritize blended learning and collaboration tools.
Comparison of Moodle vs Blackboard vs Canvas			

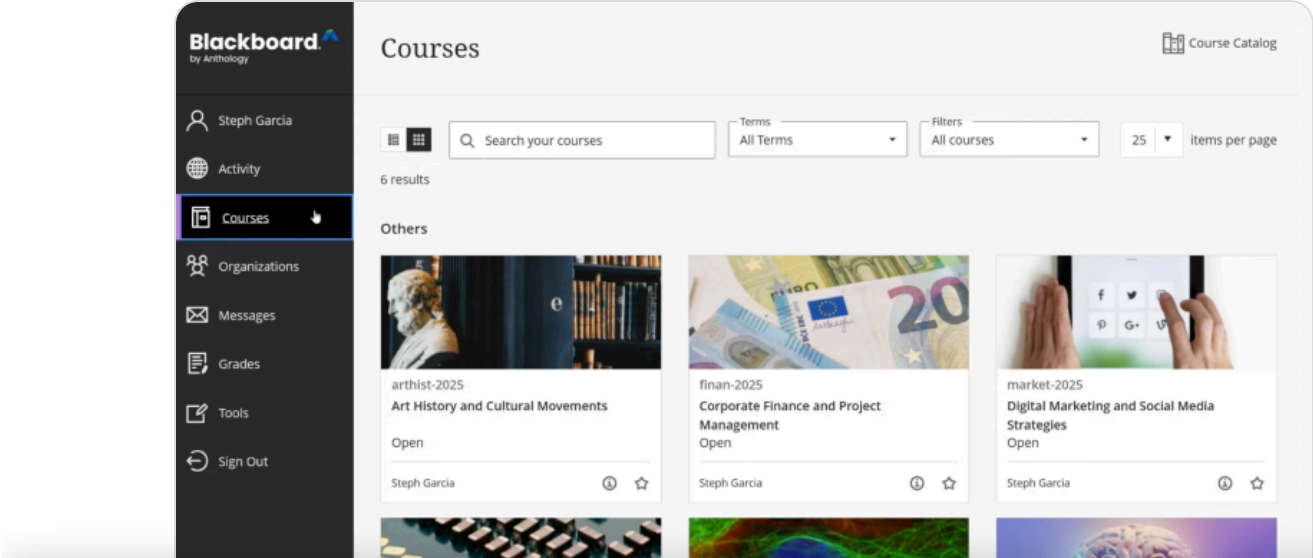
What Is Blackboard?

G2

4.0

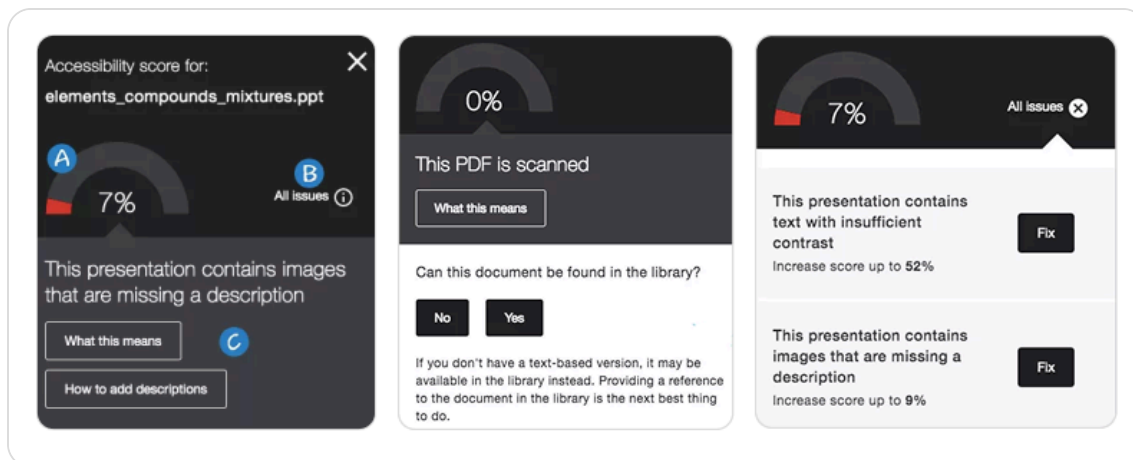
Capterra

4.2

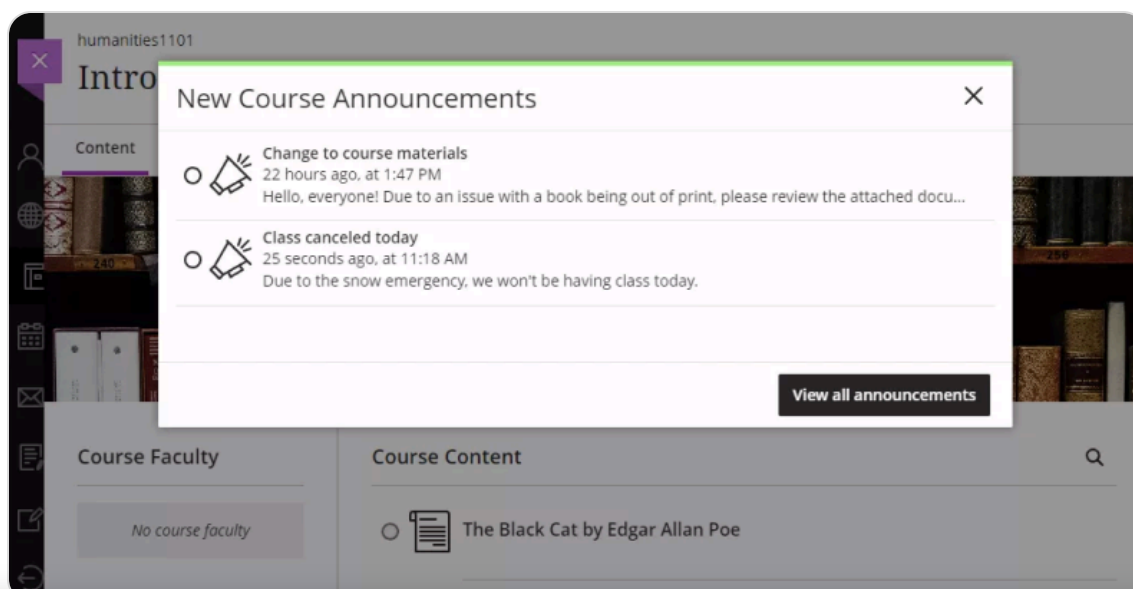


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Blackboard is one of the most established and widely used learning management systems around. Originally designed for higher education institutions and online teaching, Blackboard has expanded its reach to K-12 schools, corporations, and nonprofit organizations. Following its acquisition by Anthology in 2021, the LMS was enhanced with additional tools, creating a more unified and comprehensive education management platform for blended learning programs.

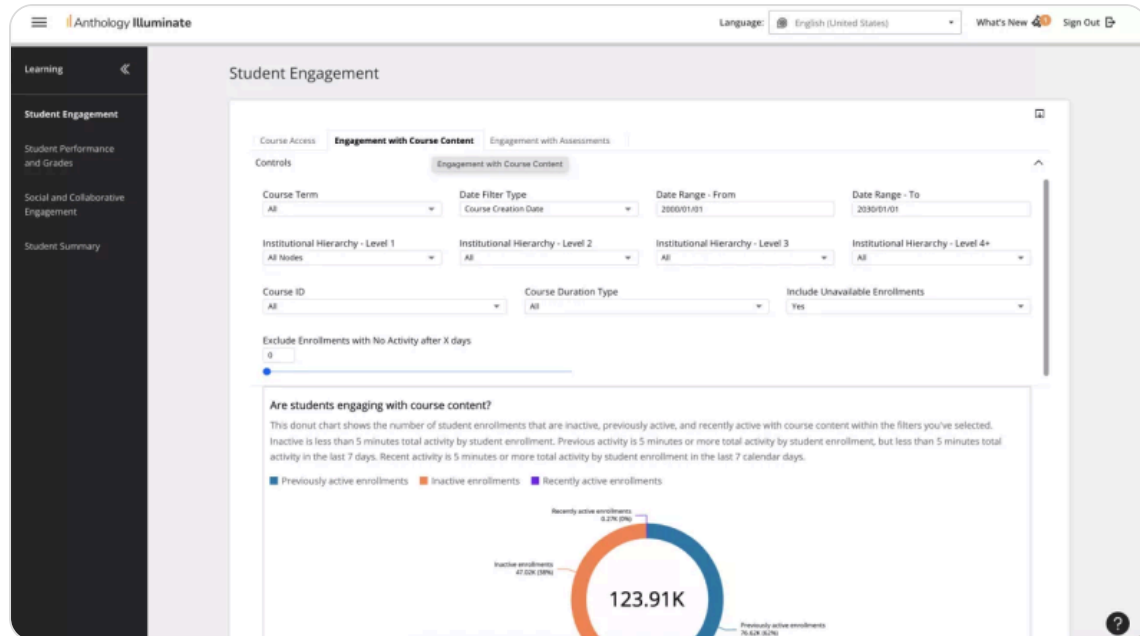


This popular LMS places a strong emphasis on online learning accessibility. Blackboard offers a clear and well-structured interface, convenient keyboard navigation, and a screen reader. It also integrates with *Anthology Ally*, which highlights potential content creation accessibility issues and translates online courses into 75+ languages. This gives learners an opportunity to download materials in alternative formats.



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To facilitate interaction between instructors and students, Blackboard offers a range of communication tools. Announcements are great for posting time-sensitive information, such as due dates, syllabus changes, and exam schedules, ensuring that critical updates reach Blackboard users promptly. Also, students can ask direct questions in private messages and join public discussions to reflect on ideas, ask questions, and connect with classmates.



With advanced visual filtering options, users can drill down into data, set alerts, and schedule automatic reports.

Even non-technical users can easily explore institutional data thanks to Blackboard's intuitive reporting and visualization tools. Administrators and instructors can get a comprehensive view of student progress, going beyond mere grades to provide valuable insights into discussions, test-question performance, and overall learning results.

Key features of Blackboard Learn

- **AI Design Assistant.** Using Blackboard's AI assistant, instructors can quickly generate content outlines, build course modules, source royalty-free images, and even create pedagogically correct assessments based on [Bloom's Taxonomy](#) to streamline workflows.

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- **Assessments and assignments.** You can create a variety of cheat-proof quizzes (with fill-in-the-blanks, multiple-choice, hotspot, and matching type questions) and engage learners in [knowledge checks](#) with peer review.
- **Student portfolio.** All students' achievements, including badges and microcredentials, are conveniently stored in their profiles.
- **Course catalog.** Learners can self-enroll in courses in areas such as continuing education, professional development, and community enrichment and gain a certificate after completion.

Blackboard's pros and cons

PROS

Strong emphasis on learning accessibility

[Blended learning](#): MS Teams and Google Meet integration with the built-in calendar for planning

A built-in plagiarism detector for high-stakes exams

Learning on smartphones

Unlimited courses

CONS

24/7 tech support for end users is available in the premium subscription only

Video recording and editing are only available in the premium subscription

Pricing

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Best for

Blackboard can be a perfect learning platform for academic institutions (from large universities and colleges to K-12 schools) and nonprofit organizations that need a highly accessible, enterprise-level LMS to implement innovative learning strategies.

What customers say (G2)

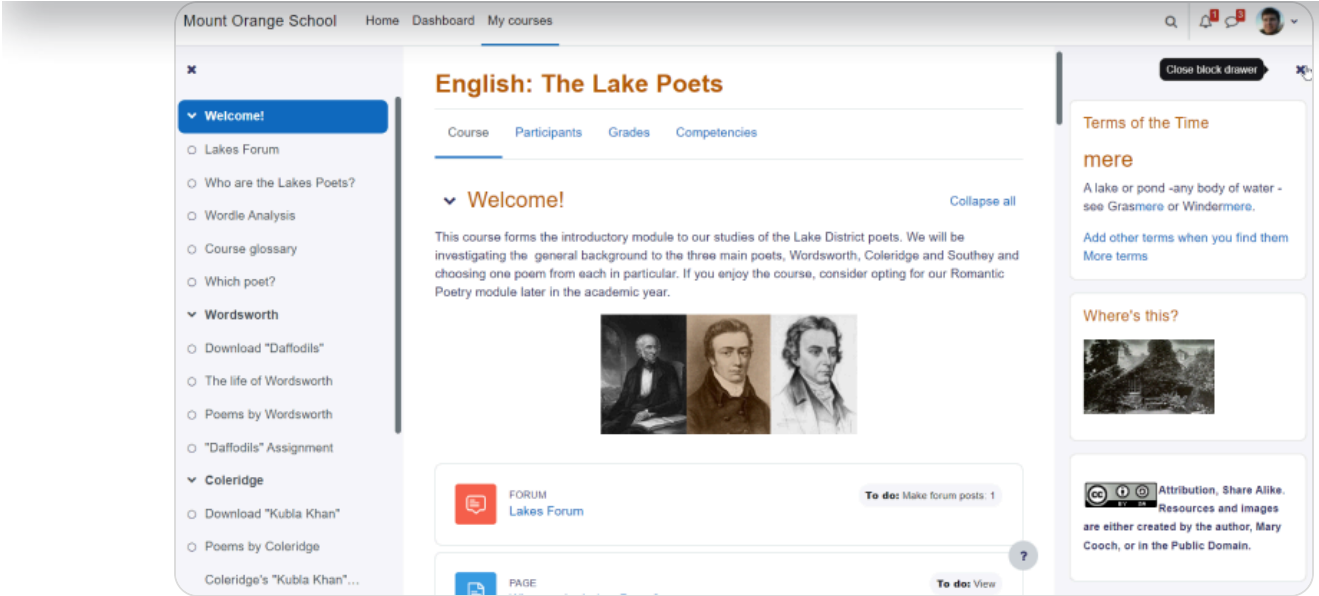
"I've been following the development of Blackboard for almost eight years. The constant effort to make changes and improvements always surprises. Two other aspects that deserve to be highlighted are the stability of the system and, especially, the UX team, always willing to help. In addition, events, seminars, and support materials always help to improve the experience of teachers and students."

"I like the user-friendly interface. Design of the interface is clean and it is easy for the students and staff to navigate and check their courses and materials. Features of assessment tests like Assignments and online tests simplify grading for instructors."

What Is Moodle™ software?

G2 4.1 Capterra 4.3

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Moodle™ is an open-source LMS renowned for its highly configurable nature – organizations can adapt and extend the platform through 2,000 open-source Moodle plugins and integrations to meet the learning needs of educational institutes.

Just like Blackboard, Moodle™ prioritizes learning accessibility. These two platforms come with text-to-speech tools and an integrated accessibility checker that analyzes courses, identifies accessibility issues, and provides recommendations.

Criteria group		Activities								Course
Aggregation method		All								All
Criteria		Announcements from your tutor	Prior Knowledge assessment	Factual recall test	Useful links	Video resources	Course discussion	Group Project	Reflective journal	Course complete
First name / Last name	Email address									
Frances Banks	francesbanks231@example.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Ellis	markellis267@example.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Franklin	brianfrankli228@example.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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A variety of reports in Moodle™ allows instructors and learning administrators to analyze student performance with ease. Key features include highly customizable reporting, detailed gradebook reports, activity logs, and completion tracking. Although its built-in analytics are basic, Moodle’s flexibility in integrating third-party plugins can provide deeper insights.

Celebrating Cultures				
First name / Surname	Workshop: My home cou...	Workshop: My home cou...	Database: Food for Moo...	
Frances Banks	26.40	18.22		Nice
Angela Bowman	59.60	16.44		Nice
Lao Cai	80.00	18.22		Really tasty
PC Paul Castillo	19.80	18.22		OK
MC Maria Cruz	80.00	20.00		OK
TD Thomas Day	0.00	20.00		Nice
Lisa Diaz	-	-		-
Brian Franklin	80.00	20.00		Nice
Barbara Gardner	80.00	18.22		Really tasty
Amy George	80.00	20.00		OK
Ann Hansen	59.60	20.00		OK

In Moodle™, every course has its own gradebook, which can record scores from assignments, quizzes, peer assessment workshops, ‘branching’ lessons, SCORM activities, and LTI training resources.

Moodle™ also includes “parent pages” with all the essential information for parents, including curriculum changes, behavior or homework reports, and attendance, which can be particularly beneficial for K-12 organizations.

Class discussions

Optional subscription
Unsubscribe from this forum

Add your response to each forum post by clicking "Reply" at the bottom. Don't write the first thing that comes into your

Add a new discussion topic

Discussion	Started by	Last post ↓	Replies	Subscribe
☆ Most important factor	Jeffrey Sanders 2 Mar 2021	Barbara Gardner 2 Mar 2021	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
☆ Saving the revolution	Jeffrey Sanders 2 Mar 2021	Jeffrey Sanders 2 Mar 2021	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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wikis (collaborative documents and web pages), messaging, and blogs.

Also read:

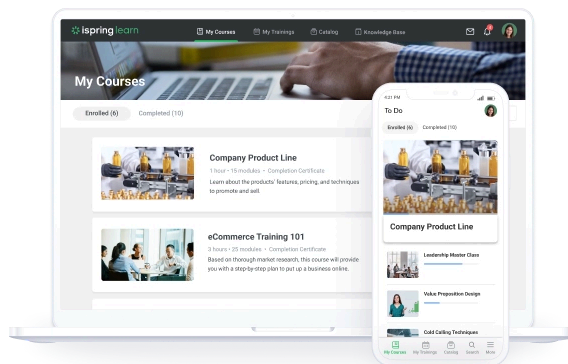
- [How to Create a Moodle Quiz: A Step-by-Step Guide](#)
- [How to Create a Course in Moodle](#)
- [The Best Moodle Alternatives](#)
- [The Best LMSs for Higher Education Institutions](#)

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Key features of Moodle™ software

- **Highly customizable.** Users can customize the entire learning environment through settings, plugins, themes, and even custom code, enabling Moodle to meet the specific needs of various

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- **Content branching.** Instructors can develop content that adjusts based on student responses, enabling personalized experiences for revision, practice, and decision-making exercises.
- **Competency-based training.** Create competencies that describe learner proficiency or certain subject-related skills, link competencies to courses, and make sure each activity is aligned with the predefined goals.
- **Quiz creation tool.** Moodle™ allows you to create over 15 question types, including matching, drag-and-drop, true or false, ordering, numerical, essay, multiple-choice questions, and more.

Moodle's pros and cons

PROS

Expensive customization and flexibility

Integrated AI (ChatGPT, Azure AI) for streamlined learning management

WCAG 2.1 AA compliant and supports 160+ languages

Committed to privacy compliance

Active global community that regularly contributes plugins, training services, resources, and support

CONS

Steep learning curve – the vast array of features and customization options can be overwhelming for new Moodle™ users

Limited out-of-the-box system functionality, as some advanced tools require additional paid LMS plugins or third-party integrations

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Moodle itself is a free, open-source software. However, there are additional costs that institutions or organizations may incur depending on their specific needs (e.g., hosting, support, and maintenance through Moodle Partners, customizations, and plugins).

Best for

Moodle™ can be a preferred choice for a variety of institutions seeking a cost-effective solution for creating a tailored training environment, from K-12 classrooms to multi-campus universities.

What customers say (G2)

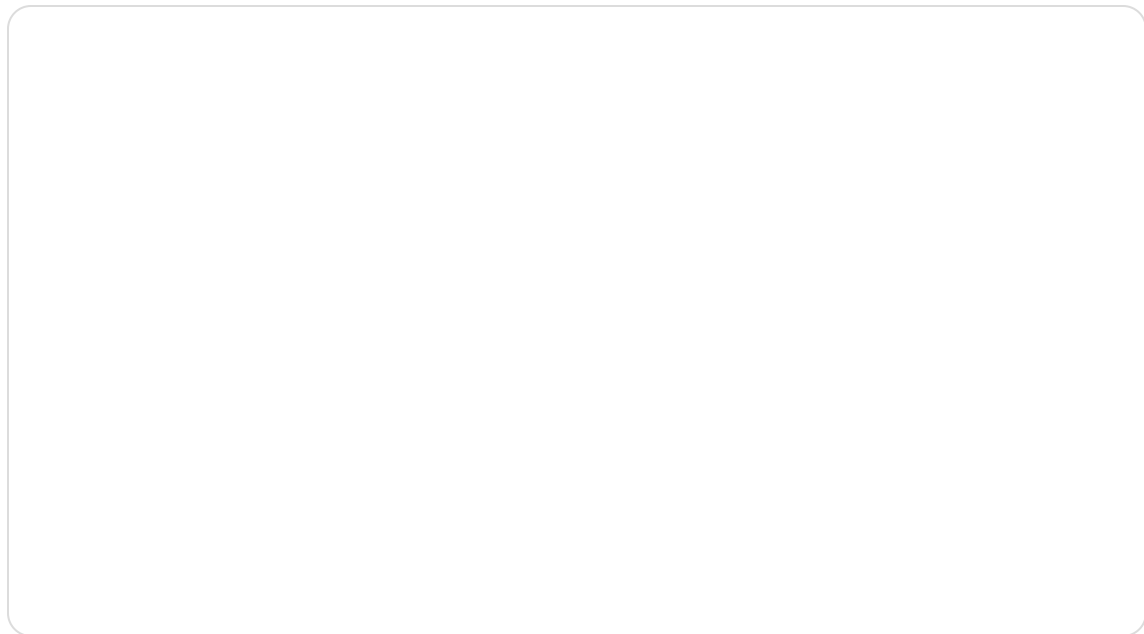
“Moodle has been around for a long time and has been popular in K-12, so many are familiar with it from prior use – making it easy to use. You can save money by self-hosting, and it is highly customizable, but it takes an individual with good programming skills. The care and feeding of a self-hosted Moodle take a village on-site and assistance from the community. Moodle developers are open to input from users, but it takes a lot of time and persistence to make changes.”

“Moodle is open-source and easy to develop, friendly user interface, comprehensive learning tools, multi-language, analytics and reporting and integration capability with platforms. It’s a very good learning management platform for educational institutes and universities with good features.”

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[Canvas](#) by Instructure is another popular LMS that serves as a central platform for online, hybrid, and in-person classrooms.

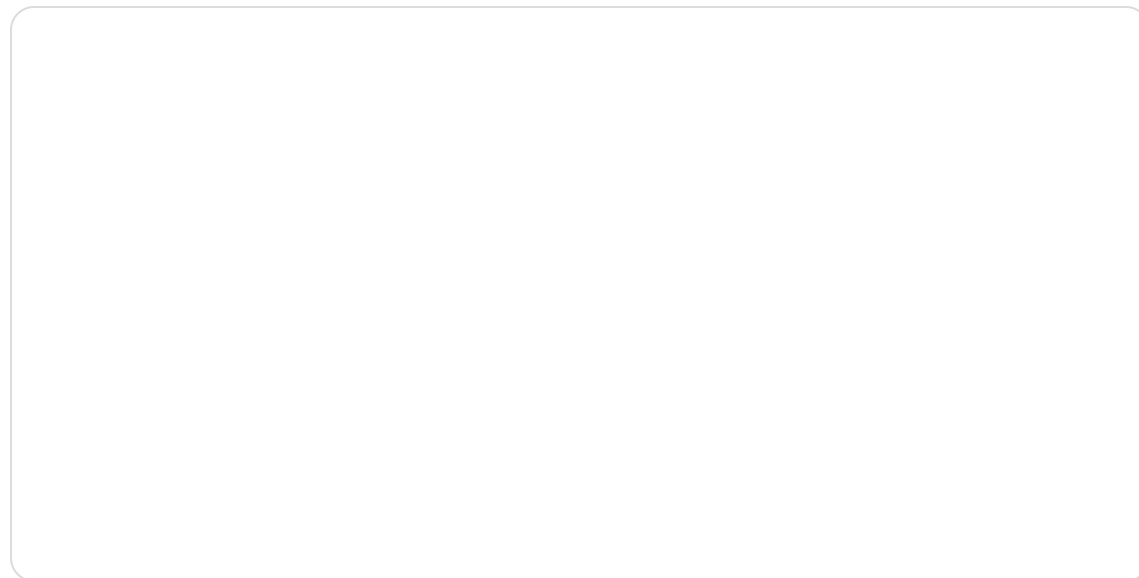


The instructor's dashboard with the current courses, to do-list, and upcoming events.

Once logged in, the first thing users see is the customizable dashboard – a centralized location that provides an intuitive overview of what's happening in all of your courses. Instructors are just a click away from scheduled events, grades, course

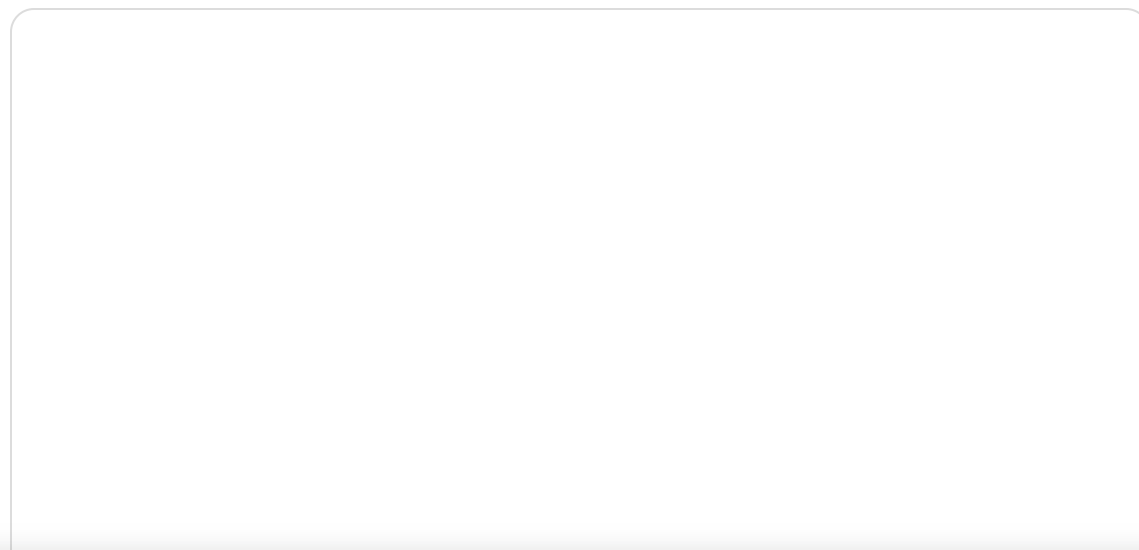
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specific topics and allows them to develop a one-directional path for learners to follow.



Each module can contain various online learning materials, including videos, files, texts, discussions, assignments, quizzes, and even external content integrated through LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability).

One of the standout Canvas features is *SpeedGrader* – a powerful grading tool that streamlines the evaluation process. It supports a variety of submission types, including text, file uploads, and media, and enables instructors to grade and provide feedback using rubrics, comments, and annotations.



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SpeedGrader allows you to view and grade student assignment submissions in a single place using a simple point scale or complex rubric.

SpeedGrader also makes it easy to navigate between student submissions, view assignment details, and track grading progress. Plus, it allows instructors to leave feedback in the form of video or audio.

Key features of Canvas

- **Communication tools.** Instructors can communicate with individual learners, groups, or the entire class through messaging, audio notes, video, and more. Students can collaborate via chat groups, videos, and other messaging tools.
- **Web conferencing.** Canvas enables instructors to create conferences for virtual office hours or meetings, with invitations sent upon creation and displayed in the course calendar.
- **Gradebook.** Instructors can easily view and enter grades for assignments, quizzes, and discussions. It supports multiple grade display types, including points, percentages, and GPA scales.
- **Integrations.** Canvas' App Center allows you to connect the LMS with different apps, content repositories, and other tools.
- **Outcome tracking.** The LMS enables instructors to create and manage outcomes, linking them to rubrics for grading and tracking student progress toward course goals.

Canvas' pros and cons

PROS

Free plan with basic system functionality for individual teachers
500+ integrations, including G Suite, MS Teams, SIS, Adobe, and open API

Training on mobile devices with offline support (iOS and Android)

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CONS

Basic reporting functionality

Occasional performance issues reported by users

Pricing

Due to Canvas' open-source nature, there's a free-for-teacher subscription plan. Pricing details for organizations and a free demo are available upon request.

Best for

Canvas LMS is great for educational institutions, especially K-12 organizations and individual teachers.

What customers say (G2)

"In general, it's very user-friendly for both instructors and students. I have used it as both. I like how the assignments build the calendar for you and you don't have to include them in your syllabus. It also gives assignment reminders to the student and grading reminders to the instructor which I find very helpful."

"Canvas is a robust LMS that our students in Grades 6 through 12 use on a daily basis. The ability for Canvas to pass grades back to our Student Information System and use LTI plug-in to

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Conclusion

As you can see, all three learning management systems – Blackboard, Moodle™, and Canvas – are strong enough for educational purposes, each shining with some particular functionality. Selecting the right one comes down to what best supports your learning goals. We highly recommend first defining business priorities, budgets, and key LMS requirements, and then testing out the shortlisted learning management systems during free trials. Good luck!

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Helen Colman

She enjoys combining in-depth research with expert knowledge of the industry. If you have eLearning insights that you'd like to share, please [get in touch](#).

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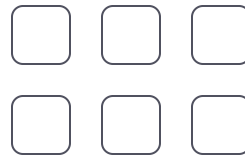
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