# WeBWorK-Blackboard Integration

Blackboard supports the Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) protocol that can connect WeBWorK to Blackboard. You create an "Assignment/Link" on Blackboard providing an URL of the WeBWorK course to be connected. The only additional step you need to take in this process is setting up the grade in Blackboard.

# Faculty login and content linking

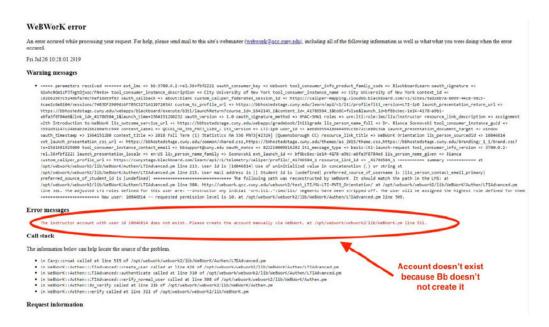
## Instructor' login

Instructors, TAs, and professors access and manage their WeBWorK courses as usual as before the WeBWorK-Blackboard integration. For accessing and managing their course, they use the WeBWorK front page <a href="http://webwork.gcc.cuny.edu/webwork2">http://webwork.gcc.cuny.edu/webwork2</a>.



In the LTI's default configuration of WeBWorK, accounts for users with roles of TA or higher are NOT created via Blackboard. The instructors' accounts are manually created in WeBWorK by the system's administrators, as it has been done since the system was implemented at QCC.

Instructors, professors, and TAs cannot access WeBWorK via Blackboard. If a user in one of these roles attempts to login into WeBWorK via Blackboard, the following error message appears.



Instructors can use the "Student Preview" mode in Blackboard to access the links to assignments in WeBWorK. This way, a student account is created in WeBWorK for them, and they will be allowed to log in to WeBWorK via Blackboard as any student would.

For security reasons, the cut-off at the TA level for creating LTI-based accounts is to prevent instructors with LMS access from posting links on Blackboard with a WeBWorK URL to courses they do not manage. Thus, preventing them from adding themselves (and potentially their students) to somebody else's course. With the default cut-off to TA, the worst case is that an unauthorized student WeBWorK account gets created for the course by a faculty using "Student Preview."

## Content linking in Blackboard

### 1) Enable LTI in Blackboard

By default, Blackboard already has WeBWorK available as a tool. But if it is not, the instructor can go to "Customization" in the Blackboard menu and click on "Tool Availability." Then scroll down and make sure the box in the QCC WeBWorK row (in the "Available" column) is checked.



### 2) Create an assignment

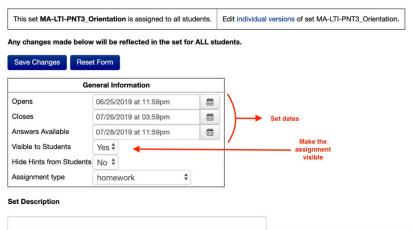
Instructors create assignments in WeBWorK as usual. For more information about this, check <a href="https://github.com/bsosnovski/WeBWorK/blob/master/Getting\_Started\_with\_WeBWorK\_for\_QCC\_Faculty.pdf">https://github.com/bsosnovski/WeBWorK/blob/master/Getting\_Started\_with\_WeBWorK\_for\_QCC\_Faculty.pdf</a>

The summary of the steps in creating an assignment in WeBWorK is as follows:

- Name the new assignment (e.g., MA-LTI-PNT3\_Orientation).
- Select the questions/problems to be part of the assignment.
- Set dates for when the assignment opens and closes and when the answers will be available.
- Make the assignment visible.

The last two steps are shown below.





### 3) Linking the assignment in Blackboard

Once a WeBWorK assignment is ready, the instructor needs to link the assignment in Blackboard for students to access them in WeBWorK.

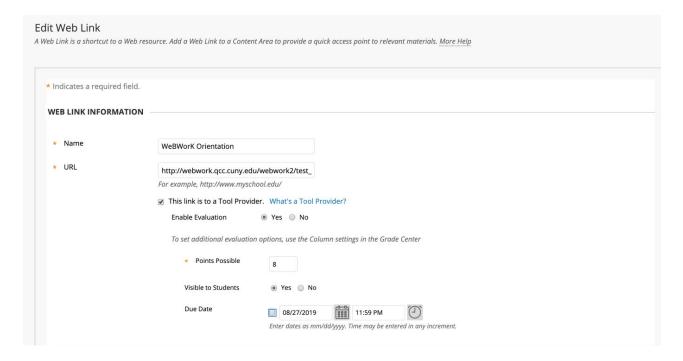
- Go to the content area where you want the assignment link to appear.
- Then Build Content > Web Link.
- Add a name for the assignment.
- Add the URL of the assignment you are linking to. (The URL looks like this: http://webwork.qcc.cuny.edu/webwork2/CourseName/Assignment)
- Check the box "This link is a Tool Provider."
- Enable Evaluation and make it visible to students.
- Set the number of points (same as in WeBWorK)
- (Optional but recommended) Set the due date in Blackboard.
- (Recommended) Set the link to open the assignment in a new window.

## **Example:**

A valid link for linking an assignment looks like http://webwork.qcc.cuny.edu/webwork2/test LTI/MA-LTI-PNT3 Orientation

#### Note:

Visibility and due dates of assignments are not automatically synchronized, and changing these in WeBWorK doesn't alter them automatically in Blackboard. It is recommended that instructors also set due dates in Blackboard and allow WeBWorK to control the availability of the assignments.

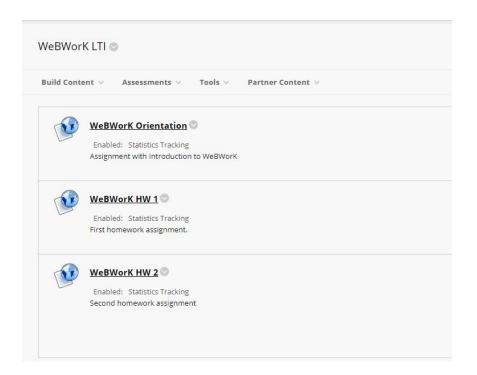


Now everything is set and ready for the students.

**Note:** Instructors must ensure that grading is enabled for the link and that the total number of points for the assignment is also set.

Use 100 points so that the grade looks like a percentage. However, the grade given to the student will always be a percentage of the total available points, so any number of points can be used.

The following shows assignment links created in the content area "WeBWorK LTI."

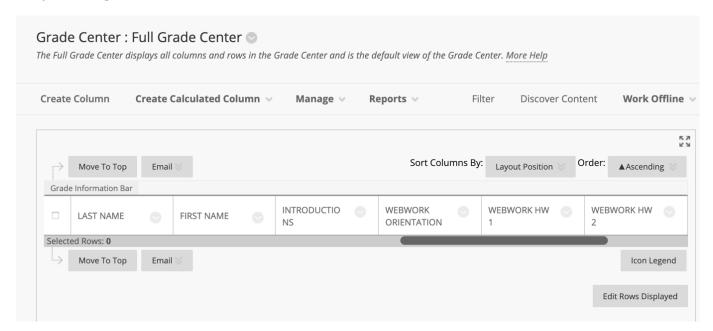


## Grade sync

The LTI configuration in WeBWorK is set to return the total score for each assignment to Blackboard. In other words, instructors will see multiple columns in the Blackboard Grade Center, one for each link/assignment, which will be filled out with students' scores on individual WeBWorK assignments.

WeBWorK will attempt to update student grades every time students submit an answer to a problem, and this keeps the student's grades current. One possible downside of this feature is that it can drain our QCC WeBWorK server.

Below is an illustration of the corresponding columns created in the Grade Center based on the abovementioned assignments. These columns will be filled with scores as students access the assignments using the links provided in Blackboard.



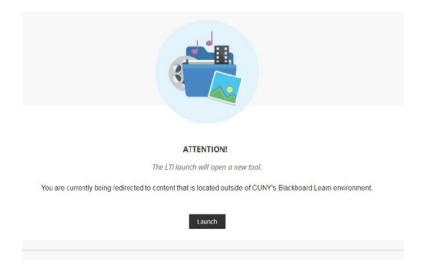
# Testing the system as a student

## Student's login

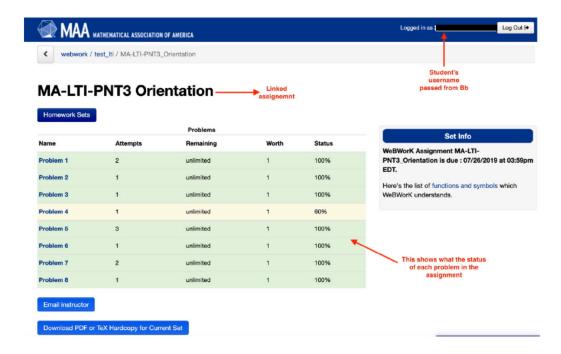
With the WeBWorK-Blackboard integration via LTI, Blackboard automatically creates students' accounts in WeBWorK. A password will not be required from the students to access WeBWorK. Students are automatically assigned to all visible homework sets.

Students' accounts created via Blackboard will not have either a student ID or an initial password in WeBWorK, and students will not be able to login into WeBWorK directly. There is only one way for students to log in, and they must log in to Blackboard and select a WeBWorK assignment.

Students see the link(s) to their WeBWorK assignment(s) in the Content area in Blackboard. They will use the link(s) to access the WeBWorK assignment(s). Once students click on a link, they receive a notification that they will be redirected to an application outside Blackboard.



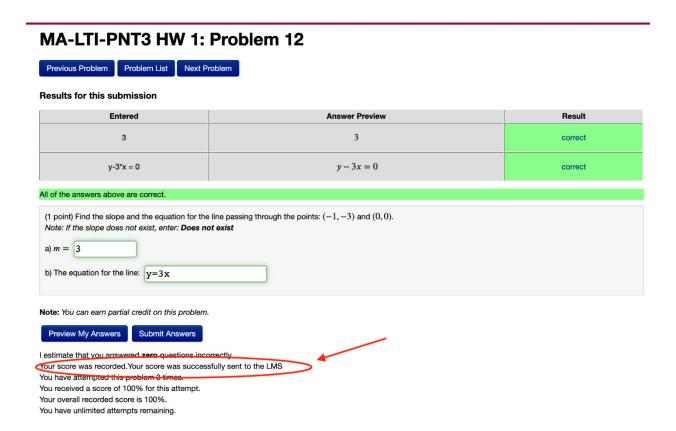
The screenshot below shows an example of what a student sees after logging into WeBWorK.



The screenshot above shows that login was successfully done via Blackboard, and the student can submit answers to the assignment before or on the due date.

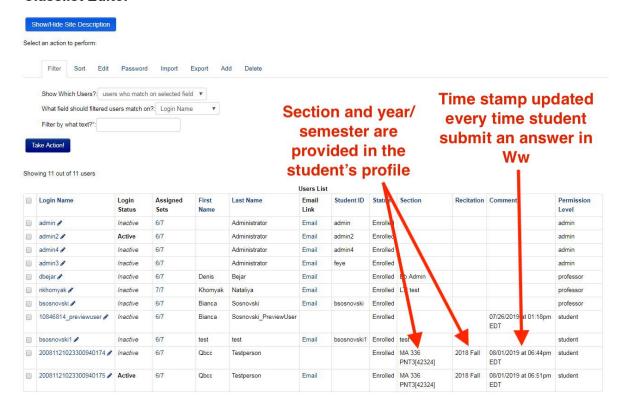
In WeBWorK's configuration, the section and semester/year of a course are passed to WeBWorK. The information helps to facilitate instructors' management of their course accounts in the system.

Once in WeBWorK, students navigate and finish assignments the way they usually would, and WeBWorK behaves just as it would if there were no connection to Blackboard. The only difference is that when students submit a grade, they should get a message like the one below about the status of the submission.

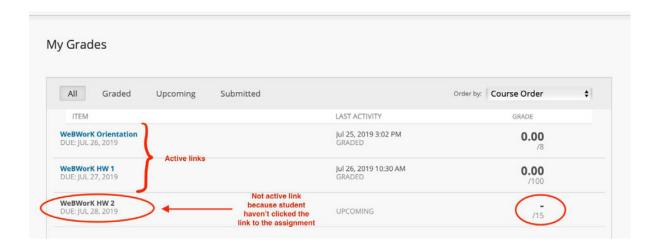


From the instructors' perspective, WeBWorK's class list shows the new student account created with a time stamp of the latest grade submission to the LMS, section, and semester/year of the course enrollment.

### **Classlist Editor**

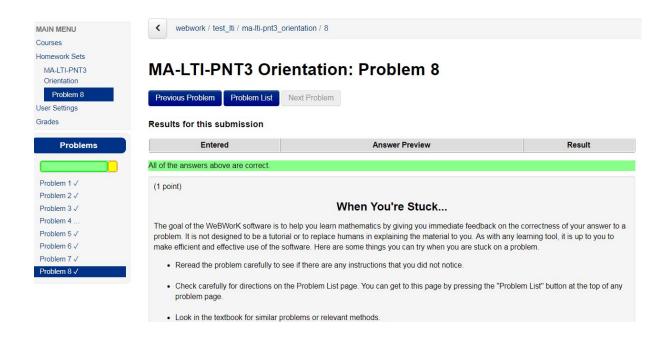


The following is the student's view in Blackboard's "My grades."



### Grade submission

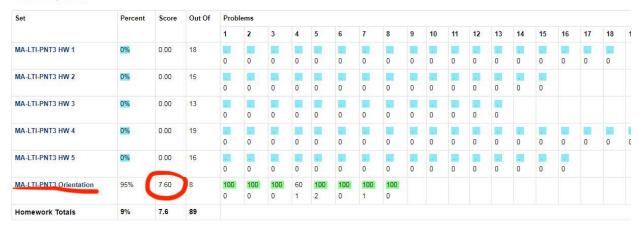
After submitting an assignment, the debugging message in WeBWorK shows that the grade was passed successfully to the LMS.



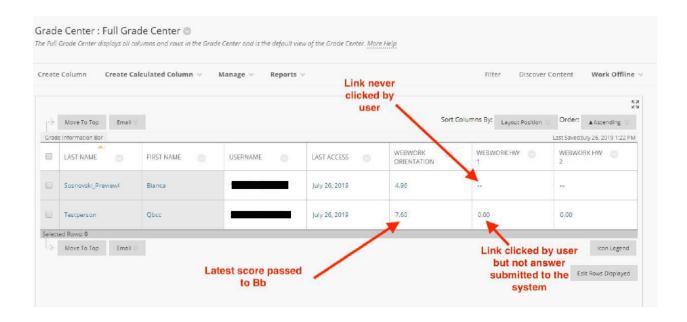
The student sees the following in WeBWork's grades.

## **Grades**

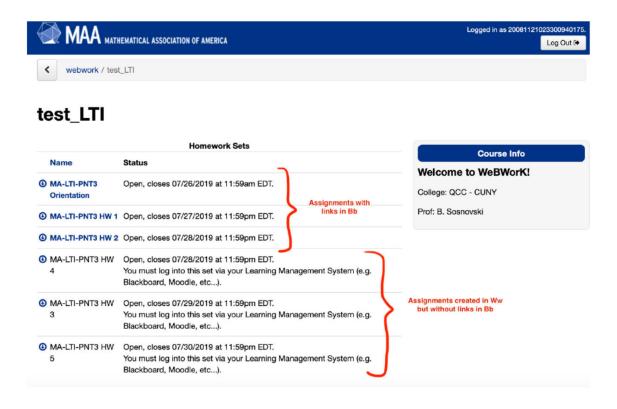
#### **Qbcc Testperson**

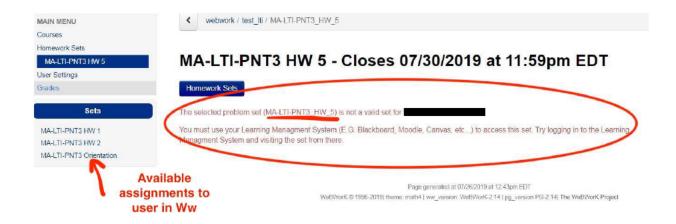


And faculty sees the following in Blackboard's Grade Center.



If assignments are made visible in WeBWorK but need links in Blackboard or their links were never used by the user, students would be able to see the sets but not access them directly via WeBWorK.

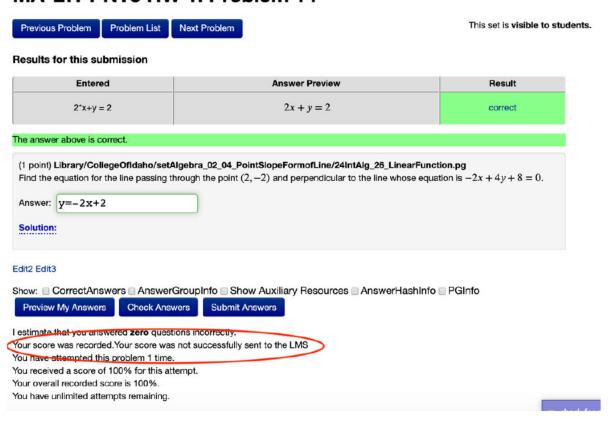




#### Note:

In Blackboard, instructors do not have grades. In this case, they will see the message "Your score was not successfully sent to the LMS," which is OK. The following shows what they see in WeBWorK.

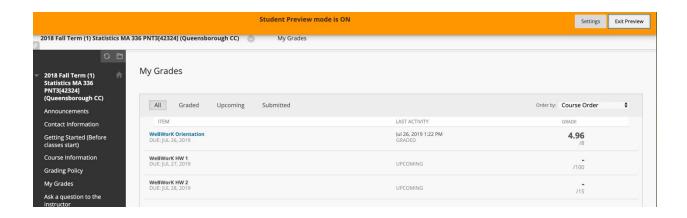
# MA-LTI-PNT3 HW 1: Problem 14



Instructors can switch to the "Student Preview" mode in Blackboard and click on a specific assignment link. Once the Instructors successfully log in as a student, see the assignment, and try answering some questions, they will see the corresponding scores appear in their student preview account in Blackboard's Grade Center.

Using the student preview mode in Blackboard is a way to ensure that grades are being passed back to the system; otherwise, if grades are not being passed back, instructors must troubleshoot.

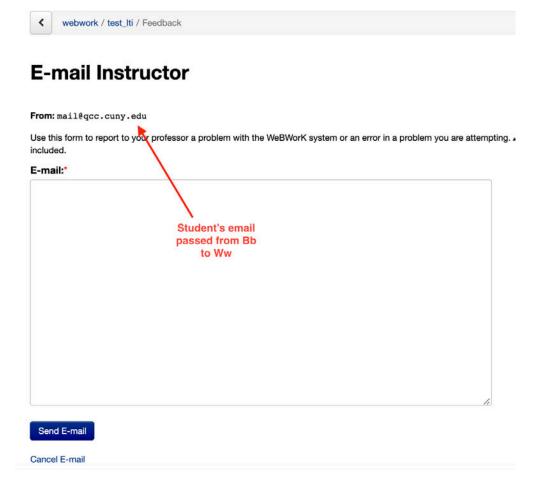
In either case, Blackboard logs you into the same account in WeBWorK.



# Other WeBWorK's features:

One of the essential features of WeBWorK is the button, <u>Email instructor</u> which students use to communicate with instructors about a specific problem in the assignment posted.

If students click on the button, they will be taken to a page where they can type a question that will be sent to their instructor. Then the instructor will receive a link that will take them directly to the problem student is working on.



This WeBWorK feature helps faculty to provide feedback to students.

# Summary

With the integration, the Department's WeBWorK server allows direct login via Blackboard, and it includes the:

- Automatic creation of WeBWorK student accounts from Blackboard;
- Single login via Blackboard;
- Automatic grade passback from WeBWorK to Blackboard;
- Assignments are assigned to users once visible.

### What remains the same:

- WeBWorK courses are created at the request of course instructors by the department WeBWorK administrators;
- Instructor accounts must be manually created on WeBWorK;
- Assignments are created, opened, and closed on WeBWorK.