

# Upgrade Benefits July 2016

## *Blackboard LMS*

### *VALUE Rubrics 2016*

Blackboard has provided a set of “VALUE” Rubrics that can be used/edited for our Core Abilities. These rubrics are formatted for Blackboard use only. Let me know if you have any questions about incorporating them into your course(s).

*These rubric .zip files are available on the BTC network drive:*

*J:\Teaching Learning Center\Rubrics\0\_VALUE 2016*

*You will also find .pdf files of each rubric for your viewing convenience.*

### *Accessibility*

Grading Journals will now work with a screen reader.

### *Browser/HTML5 Support Update:*

Learn 9.1 now supports the Microsoft Edge browser. Some new browser releases no longer support NPAPI plugins. Without these plugins, some Learn features may not render correctly. Click the link below to see the latest supported browsers:

[https://en-](https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Administrator/020_Browser_Support/Browser_Support_Q2_2016)

[us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1\\_2014\\_04/Administrator/020\\_Browser\\_Support/Browser\\_Support\\_Q2\\_2016](https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Administrator/020_Browser_Support/Browser_Support_Q2_2016)

### *Announcement Date Restriction Default*

"Not Date Restricted" is now selected by default for Announcements.

### *Discussions*

Users can navigate from thread to thread without having to return to the main Discussions page.

## *Blackboard Collaborate Ultra:*

### *Pre-load content*

Load content before class, and keep it in session: Now moderators can prep for class at the beginning of the week, or even at the start of the semester! Moderators can open the Collaborate Room (from any course) at any time and load the files they want to share. These files stay in the “room” until deleted by a moderator. Load them once and reuse them as often as you want.

### *Better recordings quality*

Enjoy better quality in your recordings. Blackboard has applied better smoothing and a higher bit rate to improve the quality of text in recordings with shared applications.

## *Qwickly Attendance Tool*

1. You will have options beyond just “Present” or “Absent”
  - a. For example: Tardy could be worth 90% of the days points and be considered 33% of an absence (3 tardies = 1 absence)
  - b. System Admins can set up these statuses and even allow faculty to create their own.
2. **Excused Absences:** A new attendance type that shows as an absence but is omitted from being counted against them when totaling the student grade.
3. **Comments** Associated with absence: Keep track of information related to the student's absence with a comment.

4. Absence **Stats** for a course: At a glance, see aggregate information about which students have been missing class the most.
5. Ability to take attendance **multiple times per day**: Have a lab and class the same day? Take attendance for both.
6. Ability to delete a date column: You'll no longer need to "reset" attendance for a day to delete the column.

“There are more features than what we've outlined above, but these are some of the changes we thought you'd be interested to know about. As always, we'll release a full set of changes notes when the new version is available.” *Qwickly Attendance*