

Blackboard and Canvas Feature Comparison

Feature	Blackboard	Canvas	Additional Information
Adaptive Release	✓	✓	
Add Files	✓	✓	
Add Users	✓	✓	
Announcements	✓	✓	
Assignments	✓	✓	
Appointment Scheduler	✗	✓	Canvas "Scheduler" allows signups for presentation time slots, office hours, and other appointments.

Blog	✓	✗	Workaround for Canvas, Use discussions, assignments or pages depending on goals/objectives of the blogs, or utilize external tools such as Google Docs.
Chat/Virtual Classroom	✓	✓	
Commons	✓	✓	Canvas has a repository that allows users to share content (either entire courses or modules).
Content Collection/My Files	✓	✓	Files stored in Canvas are course-specific.
Course Calendar	✓	✓	New feature available in Canvas: Appointment Scheduler - Sign ups (presentation time slots, office hours, etc.)
Course Content Areas	✓	✓	There is no "Content Area" in Canvas, but content can be organized using Modules and Pages.

Course Copy	✓	✓	
Course Messages	✓	✓	Canvas has a single tool which will allow users to communicate with one another both within Canvas and via external email accounts.
Discussion Boards	✓	✓	Canvas provides an integrated system for class discussions, allowing both instructors and students to start and contribute to as many discussion topics as desired.
Documents, Images, & Media	✓	✓	
Grade Center/Grade Book	✓	✓	There are a number of differences between the Blackboard and Canvas grade book features. Additional details are available in the Faculty Starter Kit in Canvas.
Groups	✓	✓	Canvas Groups are a small version of a course and used as a collaborative tool where students can work together on group projects and assignments.

Items & Pages	✓	✓	Pages in Canvas contain version tracking and can be rolled back to a previous version.
Journals	✓	✗	Workaround: Use discussions or assignments depending on learning objectives/grading for journals.
Learning Module	✓	✓	Canvas Modules allow instructors to organize content to help control the flow of the course.
Lesson Plan	✓	✗	Modules and pages can be used to organize content and activities in Canvas.
Notifications	✓	✓	Notifications can be received via email or SMS text messages in Canvas. Each individual is in control of their own notification settings.
Performance Dashboard	✓	✓	
Retention Center	✓	✓	

Rubrics	✓	✓	In Canvas, rubrics can be built ahead of time or while creating an assignment.
SafeAssign (built-in plagiarism detection tool)	✓	(see additional notes)	Turnitin, a similar service, is available in Canvas.
Send Email	✓	✓	Any messages sent via a Canvas Inbox will also be sent to users' external email accounts (see also notes on Course Messages.)
Student Preview	✓	✓	You can view a Canvas course the same way that your students view your course through Student View. Enabling Student View creates a Test Student in your course.
Syllabus	✓	✓	Users are still able to upload their own version of their syllabus file in Canvas. The Canvas built-in syllabus tool also contains a new feature where it auto populates a schedule based on due dates in the course.

Tests, Surveys and Pools	✓	✓	Not all question types are available in Canvas. Unsupported question types are converted into a text type question. There is also no feedback option in question settings.
Video and Audio Feedback When Grading	✗	✓	Using the Canvas Media Comment tool, instructors can record audio and video Grading Feedback using the microphone and camera of their system.
YouTube Search and Embed	✓	✓	
Web Links	✓	✓	
Wikis	✓	✓	Wikis in Canvas is created via Pages and providing all users access to the page.