

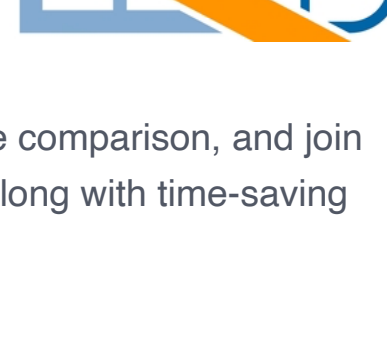
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

eLearning Technologies

Fall semester is just around the corner, and the eLearning team is ready to help! This issue includes resources to support your teaching and course preparation, details about an upcoming Blackboard Gradebook grid view interface change arriving with the August 7 monthly enhancements, and a preview of professional development sessions and drop-in office hours planned for the coming months.

- [Blackboard Gradebook Grid View Changes](#)
- [Blackboard August Enhancements](#)
- [Getting Your Fall 2026 Blackboard Courses Ready](#)
- [Blackboard Security and Zoom Maintenance 8/18-19](#)
- [Faculty Office Hours – Course Development & Accessibility Support](#)
- [August Professional Development Opportunities](#)
- [Connect with eLearning!](#)

Blackboard Gradebook Grid View Changes



On August 7, Blackboard will introduce a refreshed look for the Gradebook Grid View. This update is cosmetic only; there are no changes to Gradebook functionality. Learn what to expect in our [Gradebook Knowledge Base article](#), which includes a side-by-side comparison, and join one of our upcoming brief webinars to explore the new interface along with time-saving Gradebook features and tips.

The following are changing in the Grid View:

- Layout and navigation, including a new Grade Details panel that brings grading information and actions into one place
- Grade entry workflow
- How grades are posted
- How exceptions and exemptions are managed, now grouped under Accommodations

The following are not changing:

- Grades, calculations, and overall grade configuration
- Grade schemas and grading settings
- Course-level accommodations
- The List View
- All existing grades and submission history

Blackboard Ultra Gradebook: Hidden Gems & Updates Webinar

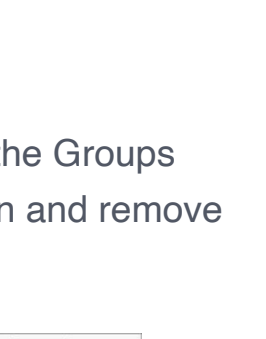
Join us for a quick 45-minute deep dive into the newest features and lesser-known tools designed to save you time and simplify your workflow. The last 15 minutes are reserved for Q&A.

Trainings are available:

- 8/13/26, 2 – 2:45 pm
- 8/18/26, 11 – 11:45 am
- 8/20/26, 2 – 2:45 pm
- 8/25/26, 11 – 11:45 am
- 8/27/26, 2 – 2:45 pm
- 9/1/26, 11 – 11:45 am

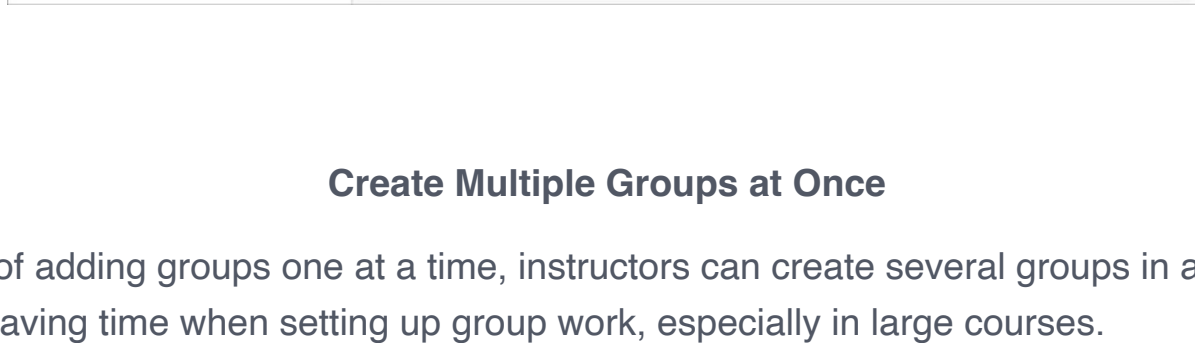
[Register for this workshop in Workday](#) to reserve your spot.

Blackboard Feature Enhancements for August



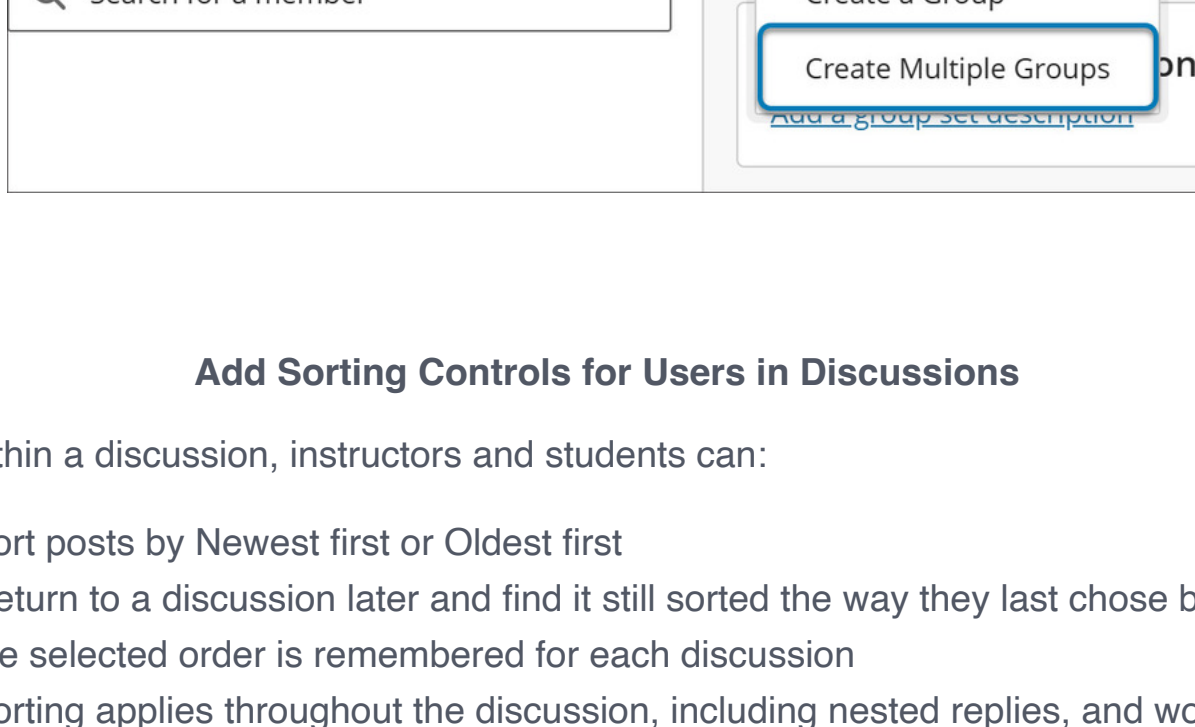
Manage Group Membership with Drag and Drop

Instructors can now use drag and drop to manage group membership in the Groups management experience. This makes it faster and more intuitive to assign and remove students from groups without relying on menus and selection lists.



Create Multiple Groups at Once

Instead of adding groups one at a time, instructors can create several groups in a single action, saving time when setting up group work, especially in large courses.



Add Sorting Controls for Users in Discussions

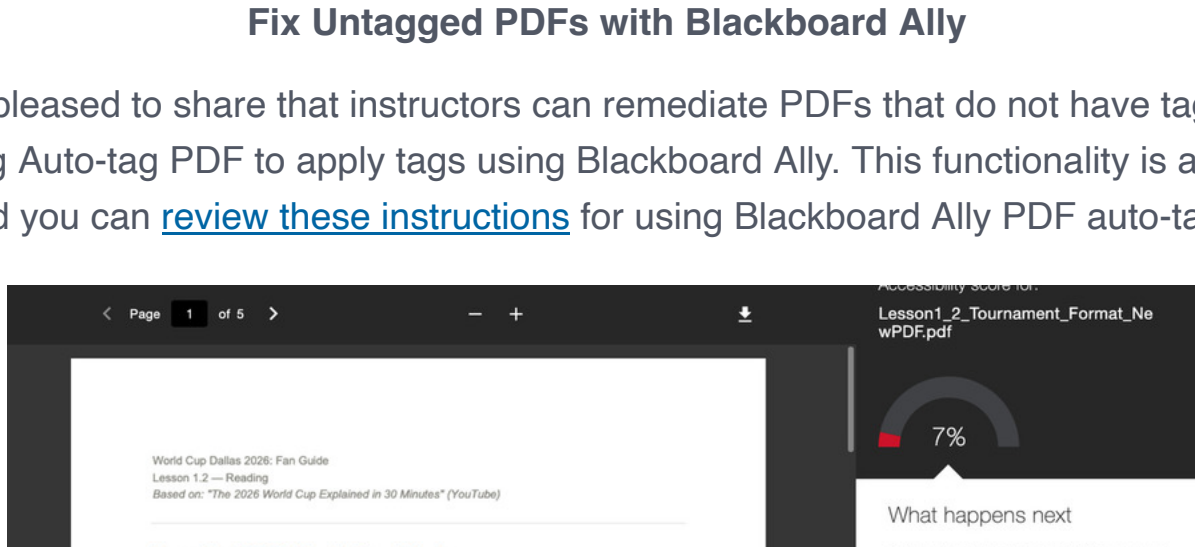
From within a discussion, instructors and students can:

- Sort posts by Newest first or Oldest first
- Return to a discussion later and find it still sorted the way they last chose because the selected order is remembered for each discussion
- Sorting applies throughout the discussion, including nested replies, and works the same way on mobile

Export Question Banks

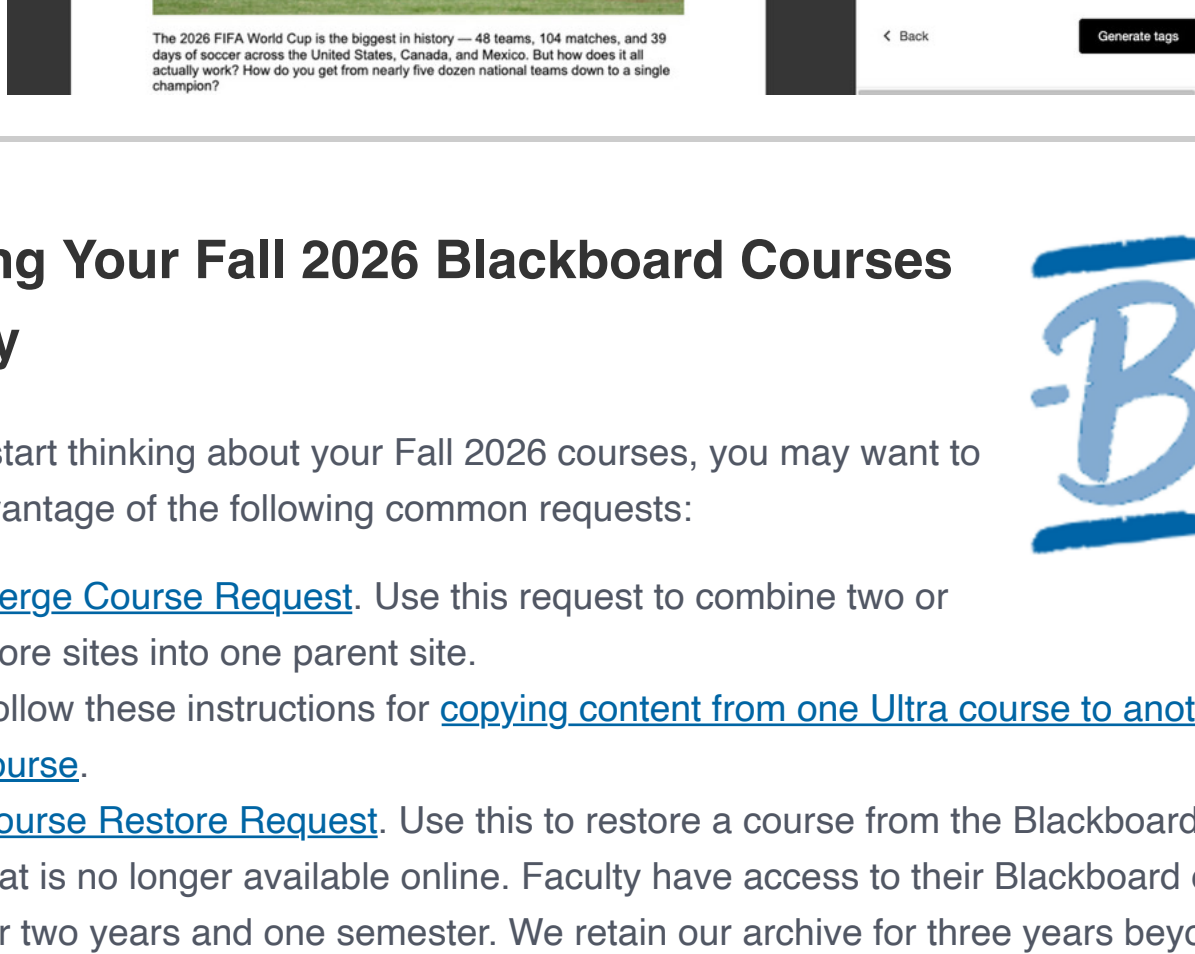
Instructors can now export a question bank as a file to their local device. This makes it easier to back up assessment content or share with other instructors for reuse across courses.

From the question bank management page, instructors can select an export option to download the question bank to their local file system. The exported file can be backed up, shared with other instructors, or reused in other courses.



Fix Untagged PDFs with Blackboard Ally

We are pleased to share that instructors can remediate PDFs that do not have tags by selecting Auto-tag PDF to apply tags using Blackboard Ally. This functionality is available now, and you can [review these instructions](#) for using Blackboard Ally PDF auto-tagging.



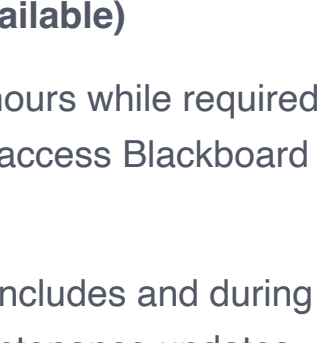
Getting Your Fall 2026 Blackboard Courses Ready



As you start thinking about your Fall 2026 courses, you may want to take advantage of the following common requests:

- [Merge Course Request](#). Use this request to combine two or more sites into one parent site.
- Follow these instructions for [copying content from one Ultra course to another Ultra course](#).
- [Course Restore Request](#). Use this to restore a course from the Blackboard archives that is no longer available online. Faculty have access to their Blackboard courses for two years and one semester. We retain our archive for three years beyond that.
- [Use this request to schedule a consultation](#) with your eLearning Technologies liaison for assistance with Blackboard.

Blackboard Security and Zoom Scheduled Maintenance 8/18-19



Tuesday, August 18: 11:00am – 12:00pm

Zoom Integration Update (No Expected Downtime)

The Zoom integration (LTI) between Blackboard and Zoom will be updated. No downtime is expected during this maintenance.

Faculty who copy content from a previous Blackboard course after this update will need to add the new Zoom LTI Integration before using Zoom in their course. Instructions are available in the [Setting Up Zoom Meetings in Blackboard Knowledge Base article](#).

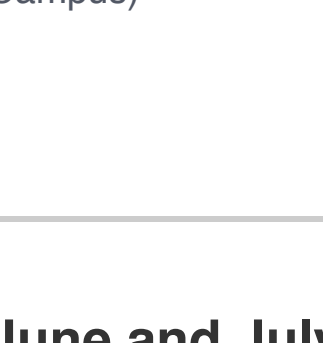
Wednesday, August 19: 1:00am – 3:00am

Blackboard Security Maintenance (Blackboard Unavailable)

Blackboard (lms.gvsu.edu) will be unavailable for approximately two hours while required security updates are installed. During this time, anyone attempting to access Blackboard will see a maintenance page.

This maintenance has been scheduled after the summer semester concludes and during overnight hours to minimize disruption to the campus community. Maintenance updates will be posted on the IT Service Status page.

Faculty Office Hours – Course Development & Accessibility Support



Bring your laptop and join us for dedicated course development time with support from the eLearning Technologies team and Student Accessibility Resources. Whether you're preparing a new course or refreshing existing content, stop by for one-on-one assistance. Bring your questions, and feel free to stay for as little or as much time as you need. Team members will be available to provide:

- Hands-on support with Blackboard, Panopto, and other instructional technologies
- Guidance on course design best practices and accessibility considerations
- One-on-one consultations with your eLearning liaison and Student Accessibility Resources staff
- Assistance preparing course materials for the upcoming semester
- Tours of the Bridge studios and consultations with our Digital Media Developers

Available Sessions

- Thursday, August 6, 2026 • 12:30 – 3pm • DCH 2260 (Health Campus)
- Monday, August 10, 2026 • 12:30 – 3pm • KHS 4402 (Valley Campus)
- Wednesday, August 12, 2026 • 12:30 – 3pm • SCB 2001 (City Campus)

Fill out this [registration form](#) to reserve your spot!

Professional Development Opportunities for June and July

SELF-PACED OPTIONS



In addition to our live Zoom-based trainings, we're excited to offer several self-paced options this fall, allowing you to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule.

- [Accessibility and Blackboard Ally Self-Paced Training](#)
- [Accessibility Best Practices for Respondus Lockdown Browser](#)
- [Adobe Self-Paced Courses](#)
- [Getting Started with Blackboard Ultra](#)
- [MI ExpLOER Learning Modules and Certificate](#) (OER Basics)
- [Padlet 101](#)
- [5 STEPS for Course Design](#)

TRAININGS OFFERED VIA ZOOM



Throughout each semester, the eLearning team offers a variety of webinars covering a wide array of teaching topics related to technology. Most sessions are facilitated in a LIVE webinar format using Zoom. Click on the title of the webinar to register in Workday Learning and obtain your Zoom meeting link.

Blackboard Training

Did you know Blackboard Could Do That?

Review the latest monthly enhancements to Blackboard, demonstrated with time for guided how-to practice on how these enhancements can be applied in your courses.
8/13/26 • 11am – 12pm

Blackboard Ultra Essentials

- 8/18/26 • 9am – 10am
- 8/19/26 • 1pm – 2pm
- 8/20/26 • 7pm – 8pm
- 8/24/26 • 7pm – 8pm
- 8/27/26 • 3pm – 4pm

Blackboard Ultra Gradebook: Hidden Gems & Updates

- 8/13/26 • 2pm – 2:45pm
- 8/18/26 • 11am – 11:45am
- 8/20/26 • 2pm – 2:45pm
- 8/25/26 • 11am – 11:45am
- 8/27/26 • 2pm – 2:45pm

Course Setup Simplified: A Fast Track from Syllabus to Blackboard

- 8/25/26 • 11am – 12pm
- 8/27/26 • 1pm – 2pm

Accessibility Trainings

Accessibility and Ally: Creating Course Materials That Work for All

- 8/10/26 • 9:30am – 10:30am
- 8/28/26 • 11am – 12pm

Making PDFs Accessible

- 8/11/26 • 10am – 10:30am
- 8/20/26 • 2pm – 2:30pm
- 8/26/26 • 11am – 11:30am

PDF Tune-Up in 15 Minutes Using Ally

- All sessions are 15 minutes.
- 8/14/26 • 9am
- 8/17/26 • 11am
- 8/21/26 • 2pm
- 8/25/26 • 3pm

Digital Pedagogy Topics

Declutter Your Digital Life

- 8/12/26 • 1pm – 12pm

Exploring AI in Higher Ed: Ethical and Effective Use of AI, a Faculty Discussion

- 8/12/26 • 10am – 11:30am

Hypothesis: Activating Annotation in Your LMS

- *This is a Hypothesis-sponsored workshop. Use your GVSU email address when registering.
8/13/26 • 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Hypothesis: Annotate your Syllabus with Your Students

- *This is a Hypothesis-sponsored workshop. Use your GVSU email address when registering.
8/20/26 • 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Hypothesis: Collaborative Annotation Tool for Blackboard

- 8/28/26 • 1pm – 2pm

Video and Digital Media Topics

Creating Instructor Presence with Panopto

- 8/18/26 • 1pm – 2pm

Using Padlet to Engage Online Learners

- 8/11/26 • 11am – 12pm

Introduction to Adobe Express

- 8/10/26 • 10:00am – 11:00am

Video Editing with Adobe Express

- 8/13/26 • 10:00am – 11:00am

Using Video to Create Authentic Assessments and Support Academic Integrity

- 8/14/26 • 10am – 10:30am

Windows 11, Microsoft 365, and Zoom Topics

Time-saving Tips in Outlook

- 8/5/2026 • 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Work Smarter with Zoom AI Companion

- 8/17/26 • 1:30pm – 2pm

Microsoft Excel 101

- 8/19/26 • 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Create Fillable PDF Forms from Documents and Images

- 8/26/26 • 1:30pm – 2pm

Customized Training

Departments can also request that webinar topics be customized and scheduled at their convenience. Send email requests to it@gvsu.edu with the requested topic, date/time, and format preferences (Zoom or in-person).

Connect with eLearning!

There are many benefits to working with eLearning. We can assist in optimizing your Blackboard course structure, enhancing online and hybrid learning experiences, and incorporating innovative tools to foster active learning. You're encouraged to contact your [eLearning Technologies liaisons](#) or submit a [consultation ticket](#) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Kim Kenward, Director of eLearning Technologies
kenwardk@gvsu.edu
GVSU Information Technology

[Visit our eLearning Technologies website](#)

posted by Jamison Wheeler from Noun Project / Question by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project / feedback by Vectorslab from Noun Project / meeting by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project / clear open by Shahenik Singh from Noun Project / website by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project / reminder by conchard from Noun Project / explain by icons4people from Noun Project / fix by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project / tour by Coloursandpencils from Noun Project / key by Aaron K. Kim from Noun Project / check by Oleg Chiriac from Noun Project / clearing by Nabila Karen Barakat from Noun Project / new by Juke4027 from Noun Project / lead by Deepak from Noun Project / foundation by M. Ole Orlando from Noun Project / working together by Kevin from Noun Project / Accessibility by mikozon from Noun Project / toolbar by David Polatin from Noun Project / setup by Gregor Cresnar from Noun Project / Training by Adrien Coquet by Noun Project / content paper and by Nana ngafua from Noun Project / Software by Aslak from Noun Project

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