OSU’s Canvas Migration Plan

Oregon State University will transition from Blackboard to Canvas over a series of four terms, starting in Winter 2015 through Fall 2015. The transition includes all OSU course sites, for campus, hybrid, and Ecampus courses.

Blackboard course content

Content from all Blackboard courses from the past academic year will be imported in a single batch to Canvas. This will take 4-6 weeks in October and early November. The Blackboard course content will be placed in corresponding Canvas course sites in an area within Canvas we’re calling the “Library.”

The Canvas “Library” is a temporary holding zone where instructors and support staff can view the migrated Blackboard content within Canvas and decide how to proceed with their actual term-based Canvas course sites. Students will not have access to the Library sites. Timing of reviewing Ecampus courses in the Library may vary somewhat from campus-based courses.

All term-based Canvas course shells for current and future terms will be blank and unpublished (i.e., inaccessible to students until the instructor configures the site and publishes the course, just as they are now with Blackboard).

While we can’t keep the migrated Blackboard content in Canvas indefinitely, we can retain it long enough so that instructors may review and copy what they need.

Canvas schedule

Winter 2015

Campus course sites: WINTER 15 is an “opt-in” term for teaching live courses in Canvas. Instructors who have Canvas experience or whose course sites translate well to Canvas may request to teach in Canvas. If you’d like to teach your on-campus course in Canvas this Winter, please fill in and submit the Early Adopter Request form.

Ecampus course sites: Courses that are newly developed/redeveloped for WINTER 15 will be taught in Canvas, along with a small number of early adopters. Faculty interested in being early adopters should contact Shannon Riggs directly (shannon.riggs@oregonstate.edu or x72613).
Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015

Starting with SPRING 15 and then continuing for U2015 and F2015, all courses that are scheduled for a given term will be taught in Canvas. Exceptions are possible.

**Campus courses:** Exceptions may be accommodated. Canvas Migration Liaisons in each College will review exception requests and validate that instructor availability, programs, sequence courses, and other academic considerations are taken into account during the migration to Canvas. The Canvas migration team will track all campus course exception requests via an online Exception Request form.

**Ecampus courses:** Ecampus will follow the same schedule and will also accommodate exceptions – please contact Shannon Riggs directly if you have questions.

Fall 2015

**PACE, Extension, and INTO OSU:** Continuing Education, Extension, and INTO OSU courses will migrate to Canvas in F2015. This allows us time to accommodate technical features that are unique to these courses.

**Organization sites:** Blackboard ORG sites will be imported via an automated batch to Canvas during F2015.

Winter 2016

OSU’s Blackboard license expires in January 2016. All courses, whether on-campus, Ecampus hybrid, for-credit, or continuing education will be conducted in Canvas beginning Winter term 2016. Blackboard content will be archived. Details on the archive repository and retention time frames are TBD.

**Course site preparation** – whether instructors use migrated Blackboard course content or configure Canvas course sites “from scratch,” each Canvas course site requires individual attention. Blackboard course tools are not identical to Canvas course tools. Depending on the complexity of the tools and content, instructors can expect to spend anywhere from 4 – 20 hours per course site, not including basic training. The first course set-up is typically the most time-consuming.

**Instructor access to Canvas**

OSU’s technical team is spending August through mid-November 2014 to prepare Canvas and integrate it with Banner and other OSU systems.

**Campus course sites:** We anticipate that instructors will have access to Canvas course shells and their migrated Blackboard content around the third week of November

**Ecampus course sites:** Because migrating a fully online course is considerably more complex than moving a course site that accompanies a face-to-face course, Ecampus courses will use a different workflow and timeline. Ecampus will assist faculty by doing a significant portion of the preparations needed when course content is moved from Blackboard to Canvas.

The workflow will look like this:
• Ecampus courses migrated to a Canvas Library.
• Ecampus faculty register for a training session prior to the term in which they’ll be teaching in Canvas.
• Ecampus staff complete significant “prep work” on courses.
• Faculty complete the migration prep work, with Ecampus training and support as needed.

Training and support

Multiple modes of training and support will be available to all instructors and students starting in October 2014 and continuing throughout the migration. Please check our Web site for all of the details on training and support: http://blackboard-transition.oregonstate.edu/