

# What's New in Blackboard 8

Welcome to Blackboard 8.

The University recently upgraded to Blackboard Version 8. As a result, users now have the ability to perform an array of tasks that were unavailable in previous versions of Blackboard.

To login to your course, go to <http://blackboard.cuonline.edu> and enter your **Username** and **Password** in the relevant fields.

**Blackboard Alerts**  
[Click here to view the current status of the Blackboard System](#)

**Updating Student PIN**  
To update your PIN (password for Blackboard), please access the student portal for your campus.

- [Downtown Denver Campus](#)
- [Anschutz Medical Campus](#)

Changes to information in your portal will automatically be updated in Blackboard within 24 hours when changed on any weekday.

**NEED HELP?**  
CU Online Help Desk (Mon-Fri 7:00 am - 7:00 pm)

- Email us at [CU Online Help](#) or phone 303.315.3700
- [CU Online FAQ's](#)
- [Animated Blackboard Faculty Tutorials](#)
- [Discovering Blackboard Simulation](#)

**Browser Test**  
Use the button below to check if your web browser is properly configured to use Blackboard

**Login Here**  
Enter login information here and click the Login button below.  
**Student and Faculty alphanumeric passwords/PINs are in UPPER CASE!**  
**Employee Training: use your six-digit Employee ID for both the Username and Password.**

Username:

Password:

Login

**Login Information/Help**

- Students:**
  - Student Academic Courses**
    - Login using your nine-digit University Student ID and four-digit University Student alphanumeric PIN. (Example: 800123456 and AB12)
    - Find answers to frequently asked Blackboard questions for [students](#)
- Faculty:**
  - Faculty Academic Courses**
    - Login using your Employee ID (padded with three leading zeros) as your Username and your four-digit alphanumeric PIN as the password. (example: 000123456 and AB12)
    - Please contact [help@cuonline.edu](mailto:help@cuonline.edu) (303.315.3700) if you are having login difficulties or need your PIN sent to you.
    - Find answers to frequently asked Blackboard questions for [faculty](#)

When you have logged in, go to the **Control Panel** to see some of these new features

**Information**  
Syllabus  
Lectures  
Course Files  
Assignments  
Communication  
Discussion  
Tests & Quizzes  
Student Tools  
eLearning Links  
My Grades

**Help Desk**  
Student Groups

**Tools**  
Communication  
Course Tools  
Course Map  
**Control Panel**  
Quick Enrollment

ANNA'S TRAINING COURSE (BB7 TRAINING COURSE) > ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Announcements**

**ENTER**

**Welcome to Blackboard 8**

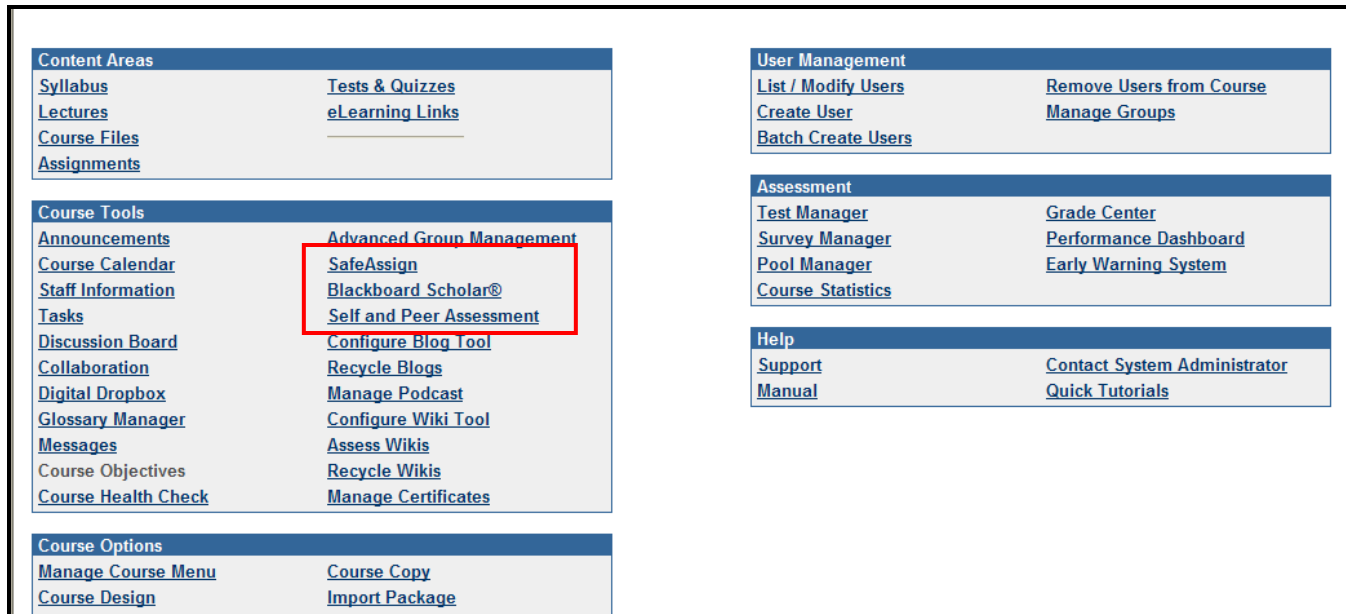
VIEW TODAY | VIEW LAST 7 DAYS | VIEW LAST 30 DAYS | VIEW ALL

July 09, 2008 - July 16, 2008

**Tue, May 22, 2007 - Welcome**  
Welcome to the Blackboard 8 Training course. There are several new enhancements, so please take your time to review over these.

Blackboard Academic Suite™  
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Accessibility information can be found at <http://access.blackboard.com>

From the Control Panel, you can select to utilize any of these new features



Some of the new features are highlighted below:

## Grade Center

The Grade Center has had many improvements made to it. Within the Grade Center, it is possible to:

- enter data into the spreadsheet itself
- generate reports
- email users
- freeze the columns (ie student name, ID) so you don't have to keep scrolling back and forth to see a student's grades

The following icons are displayed in the toolbar of Grade Center page:



**Add Grade Column** - An icon used to create a Grade Column in the Grade Center

**Add Calculated Column** - A drop-down menu with options for creating Calculated Columns in the Grade Center

**Manage** - Displays the Grade Center management options when the action link is triggered. Selections include options for:

[Uploading](#) data into the Grade Center from an external source file.

[Downloading](#) data from the Grade Center in a delimited file format.

[Categories](#) classifications of Columns of gradable items such as "Test" or "Assignment".

[Smart Views](#) custom made views of Grade Center data created by Instructors and saved for continued used.

[Grading Periods](#) user-defined segments within the Grade Center that can be defined as Terms, Semesters, Quarters, Years, and so on.

[Grading Schemas](#) map scored gradable items into a user-facing display. Show/Hide Users determines whether a student's record is visible in the Grade Center.

[Organize Grade Center](#) allows Instructors to change the order and visibility of Columns as well as assign Columns to Grading Periods and Categories.

[Showing and Hiding Users](#) allows Instructors to hide or show users in the Grade Center views.

**Email** – Displays the Email options when the action link is triggered.

**Reports** – Displays a page from which Reports for the Course are created. For more information on Reports, see [Creating Reports](#).

**Grade History** – Displays a page where the Grade History of any selected students is displayed. For more information on Grade History, see [Grade History](#).

**Current View** – A drop-down menu that lists all the different views of the Grade Center, each of which can be set as the default view. **Current View** includes the following possibilities:

- Full Grade Center: this is a view created by default; it displays all columns and rows of the Grade Center
- Preview of My Grades: this view is created by default. It displays the columns visible to students.
- Final Grade View: this view is created by default. It displays all columns, including a pre-created Total Points column and a Weighted Grade column.

## **Self and Peer Assessments**

Self and peer assessment features help facilitate student group work. Self Evaluation enables students to review and grade their own assessments by the following criteria set by their lecturer. With Peer Evaluation, students can review work submitted by their peers using specific criteria, compare their responses and offer constructive criticism.

## **Scholar – A Social Learning Network**

For students and faculty who like online social networking, there is another added feature called Scholar. Scholar is a social research networking system. This means that a person can add people, friends or members of a group to this system. It is similar to MySpace, Facebook and del.icio.us except meant for research projects. When a student does research, they can bookmark it in Scholar and those friends/students on their list can see what they have researched.

## **SafeAssign**

SafeAssign is a plagiarism prevention tool that helps instructors prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers. In addition to acting as a plagiarism deterrent, it also has features designed to aid in educating students about plagiarism and the importance of properly citing material from other sources

## **Issues Identified**

### Issue

#### **Disappearing Grade Center from My Grades view**

- This usually affects users that have an override grade entered into an assignment column without having completed an underlying attempt. It has also been an issue during the release of an exam/quiz.

### Solution

The issue will be corrected in Service Pack 3 for Blackboard Academic Suite release 8.0.

If you still have questions, let us know. Please contact:

Anna Thai – [anna.thai@cudenver.edu](mailto:anna.thai@cudenver.edu)

Patrick Lowenthal – [patrock.lowenthal@cudenver.edu](mailto:patrock.lowenthal@cudenver.edu)

### **Reference:**

<http://www.blackboard.com/release8/>