Bb Ultra Rollout Update

Fall 2019

Phased Rollout

Getting the word out:

- FacSen: 4/5/19
- UPDs: 4/16-17/19
- IT Steering: 4/19/19
- UMBC Bb Update: 5/9/19
- USG Program Dirs.: 5/16/19
- FA19 Inst. Tech Update: 8/20/19
- FacSen: 9/10/19
- GPDs: 9/11/19
- Classroom Committee: 11/13/19

Discussed extensively at AY18-19 FacSen CPC Mtgs. tinyurl.com/umbcfacsencpc

https://doit.umbc.edu/itnm/?id=83448

UMBC Makes Major Investment in Instructional Technology

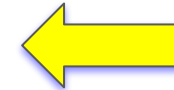Phased rollout of Bb Ultra better supports campus e-Learning

April 4, 2019 8:06 AM

Earlier this week the Provost and Deans agreed to a DoIT proposal to go forward with a broad investment in instructional technology support staff, software tools and training stipends for faculty. As part of this effort, DoIT will also be delaying the date for moving all courses to Blackboard Ultra, originally announced and planned for the start of Fall 2019, and extending to Fall 2021.
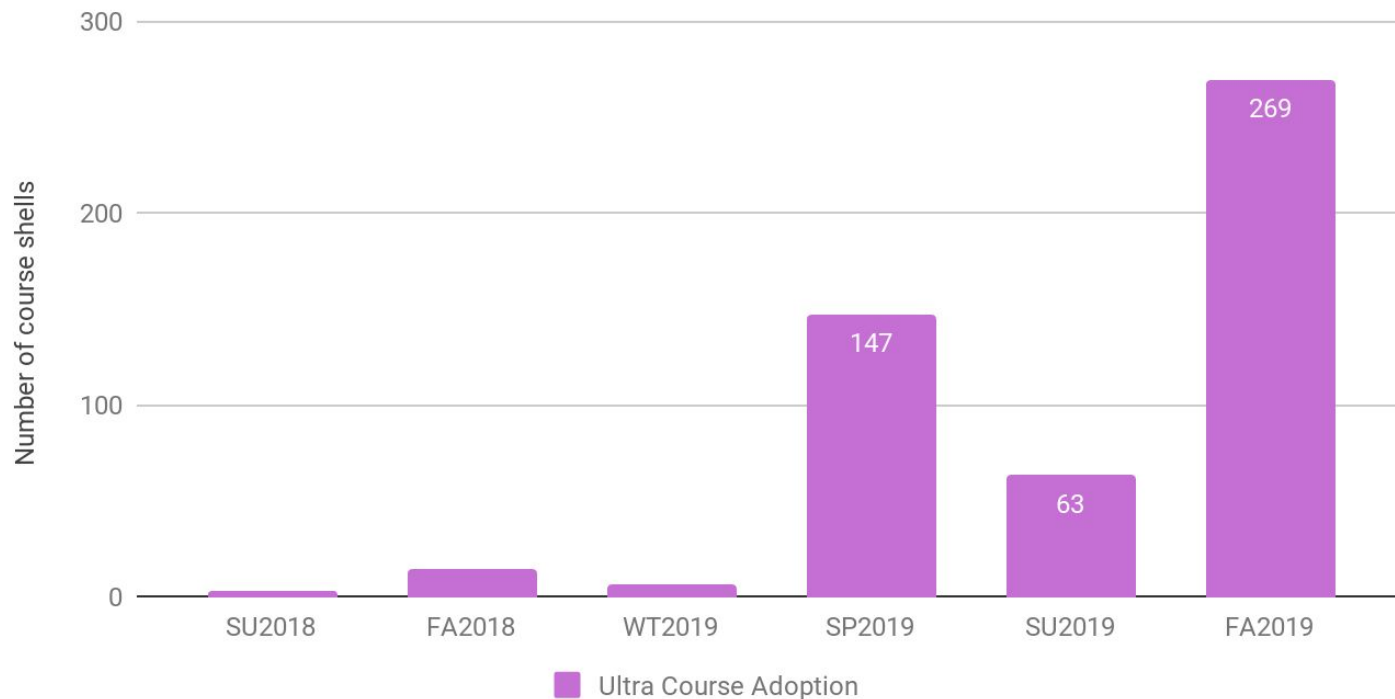
Specifically, DoIT and the Division of Professional Studies (DPS) are investing in four instructional technology positions to be on board by the start of summer, and recently purchased Blackboard's Ally software for improving accessibility. Also, DoIT will increase the number of Blackboard Ultra ambassadors from 15 to 32, and provide more opportunities for on-site and online training workshops, including "lessons learned" from colleagues who've already switched. Finally, DoIT and the Provost's Office are partnering to offer one-time, $100 stipends to all faculty who 1) attend or participate in any Ultra training, and 2) complete the process of migrating their existing course(s) by the new phased rollout summarized below, based on the "Blackboard Use by College" report (requires myUMBC login with ad\ before username):

Term Start	College/School/Division	SP19 Bb Courses *
Fall 2019	DPS, Erickson, SOWK, UAA	37, 22, 31, 28, respectively
Spring 2020	CNMS	150
Fall 2020	CoEIT	275
Spring 2021	CAHSS	831

To be clear, any faculty member from any college, school, department or division can switch to Ultra now -- as 145 courses have done this term already and since we piloted Ultra in Spring 2018. But within each organization above, DoIT will also focus on supporting each instructor based on a course's "archetype" of prior Blackboard usage at

Tracking Ultra adoption

Original Phased Rollout of Ultra by College

Announced April 2019

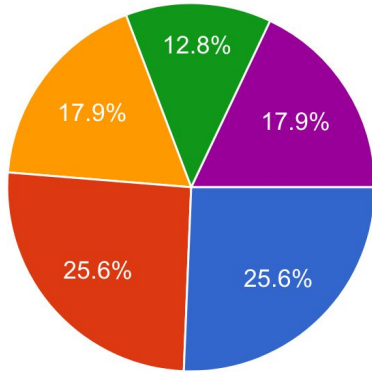| Targeted Term	College	FA2019 Ultra Adoption
FA2019	Social Work, Erickson, UAA, DPS	24.52%
SP2020	CNMS	2.97%
FA2020	COEIT	10.78%
SP2021	CAHSS	61.34%

What we're finding so far...

Successful Ultra adoption occurs in courses with:

➔ Simplified content structures (e.g., nested folders)

➔ Lower interaction or one-way communication

➔ Balanced use of assessments with minimal configuration requirements

➔ Reduced use of "bells & whistles" in an Original course
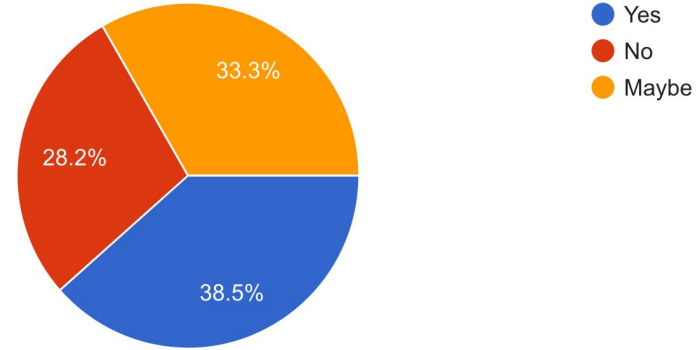
SP2019 Faculty Survey

How did Ultra compare with the original Blackboard course?
39 responses

- I liked it a lot.
- I liked it a little.
- I'm not sure yet how I feel about it.
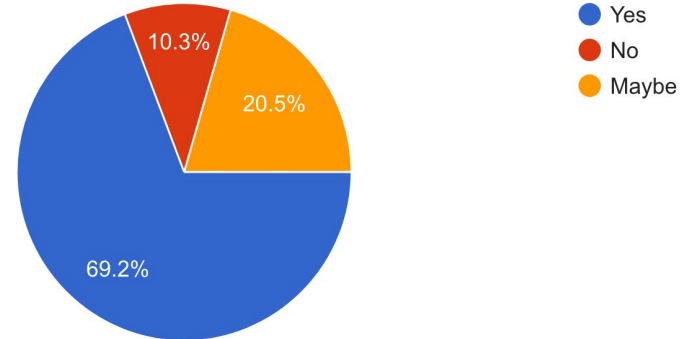- I'll get used to it.
- I didn't like it.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Would you use Ultra again in your course?
39 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

View full results

THINGS WE CAN WORK AROUND PENDING DEVELOPMENT

🔍in research
🚧in development
✔️completed
🧩workaround

Content
- ➜ Right to left text alignment (ARBC) 🚧
- ➜ Resizing / aligning images
- ➜ HTML embed 🔍
- ➜ Granular course copy: Rubrics & discussions 🚧

Engagement
- ➜ Journals (in development) 🚧
- ➜ Formatting announcements
- ➜ Lack of subject line in course messages 🔍🧩

Assessment & Grading
- ➜ ~~Random blocks~~ (called question pools) ✔️
- ➜ ~~Bulk download assignment (est Oct 2019)~~ ✔️
- ➜ Gradebook calculations (mix columns & categories) 🧩
- ➜ Sorting by First or Last name; high / low grades
- ➜ Primary / secondary instructor view (e.g., letter / percentage grades)
- ➜ Multiple attempts for Group Assignments
- ➜ Upload format for scantrons (need to add student ID) 🧩

Other third-party integrations
- ➜ Panopto 🚧 (available with some limitations)

THINGS THAT ARE DEAL BREAKERS

Group Management
- ➜ Batch enroll in Groups via CSV 🔍
- ➜ Link Group Sets to Assignments (Dec 2019) 🚧

Assessment & Grading
- ➜ ~~Import / export gradebook~~ ✔️
- ➜ ~~Decimal points on tests~~ (Sep 2019)
- ➜ Point-based rubrics / lack of half-point option
- ➜ Rubric evaluation report

Publisher integrations
- ➜ McGraw-Hill 🚧 (ready for testing)
- ➜ Pearson MyLab/Mastering 🚧(per vendor)
- ➜ WebAssign (FA2020) 🚧
- ➜ ~~Cengage~~ ✔️ (SU2019)
- ➜ ~~Wiley PLUS~~ ✔️ (SU2019)
- ➜ ~~ALEKS & Aplia, Macmillan, Norton~~ ✔️

Please see key FAQs:
"**What tools are available in Ultra courses?**"
"**What's New in the Ultra Experience?**"

Student Bb Use Always Highest in CNMS Courses

Term: Spring 2019   Course Status: All   View Report

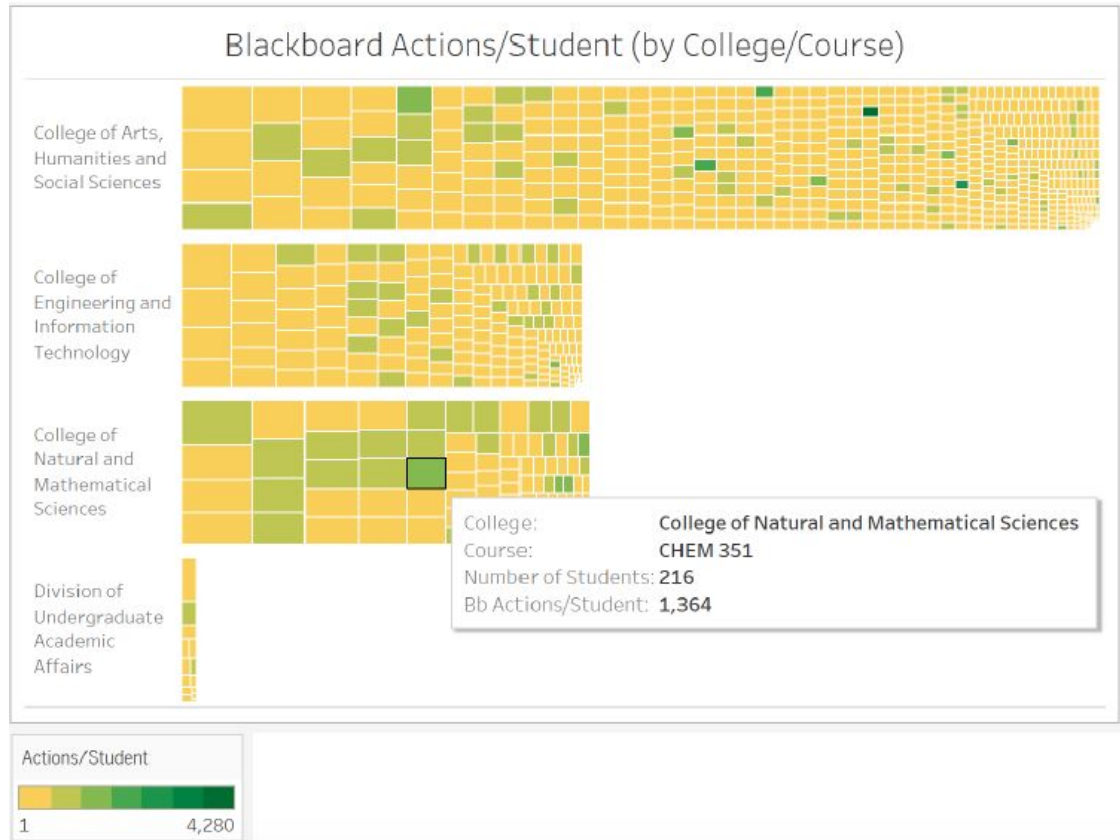|◁ ◁ 1 of 1 ▷ ▷| ↻ ← 100% 💾 🖨 [ ] Find | Next

COLLEGE	TOTAL LEARN COURSES	LEARN COURSES WITH STUDENTS	ACTIVE LEARN COURSES	LEARN COURSES USING GRADE CENTER	LEARN COURSES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	AVG COURSE ACCESSES PER STUDENT	AVG INTERACTIONS PER STUDENT	AVG MINUTES PER STUDENT	AVG SUBMISSIONS PER STUDENT
College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences	295	225 (76%)	157 (53%)	128 (43%)	147 (50%)	77.8	575.9	2937.2	12.1
College of Engineering and Information Technology	352	314 (89%)	287 (82%)	248 (70%)	256 (73%)	59.0	429.9	1752.7	9.1
The Erickson School	27	27 (100%)	22 (81%)	17 (63%)	19 (70%)	55.8	547.2	1879.6	17.8
Division of Undergraduate Academic Affairs	39	34 (87%)	28 (72%)	21 (54%)	28 (72%)	51.9	348.3	1664.3	10.6
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	1272	1086 (85%)	853 (67%)	668 (53%)	809 (64%)	46.5	360.3	1403.7	10.9
School of Social Work	36	36 (100%)	31 (86%)	28 (78%)	31 (86%)	46.3	272.6	1138.0	6.2
Provost / Academic Affairs	11	11 (100%)	11 (100%)	8 (73%)	11 (100%)	34.8	200.5	916.3	8.3
Division of Professional Studies	54	48 (89%)	37 (69%)	30 (56%)	42 (78%)	11.0	64.4	204.3	2.0
No SIS College Mapped	19	6 (32%)	3 (16%)	2 (11%)	4 (21%)	3.8	27.8	93.7	1.5
Organization	4	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)	3.4	64.8	94.6	3.5
Institutional Advancement	33	32 (97%)	9 (27%)	0 (0%)	5 (15%)	1.7	6.0	18.2	0.0
GRAND TOTAL	2142	1823 (85%)	1442 (67%)	1152 (54%)	1355 (63%)	54.7	411.3	1769.4	10.4

Why is CNMS Student Bb Use So High?

- The tree map shows all courses in each college (box size = number of students/course, SP19)
- **Greener box means more actions/student per course.**
- **CNMS has relatively more green boxes** due to CHEM, BIOL, PHYS **that use quizzes/assessments.**
- Other colleges have relatively fewer green courses as well as other courses that "weigh down" avg. number of actions/student.

Blackboard Actions/Student (by College/Course)

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Engineering and Information Technology

College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences

Division of Undergraduate Academic Affairs

College: College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences
Course: CHEM 351
Number of Students: 216
Bb Actions/Student: 1,364

Actions/Student
1   4,280

How Faculty Use an LMS

Literature & Practice

- *J. Campbell, 2007*
- *Dawson et al., 2008*
- *Macfadyen & Dawson, 2012*
- *Whitmer, 2012*
- *Fritz, 2013*
- *Fritz & Whitmer, 2017*

1. **User & Document Management**
   - Auto course creation and enrollment
   - Password-protected class & group space
   - Attach or Copy/Paste Documents, perhaps with expiration dates.

2. **Interactive Tools**
   - Announcements
   - Email, Messages
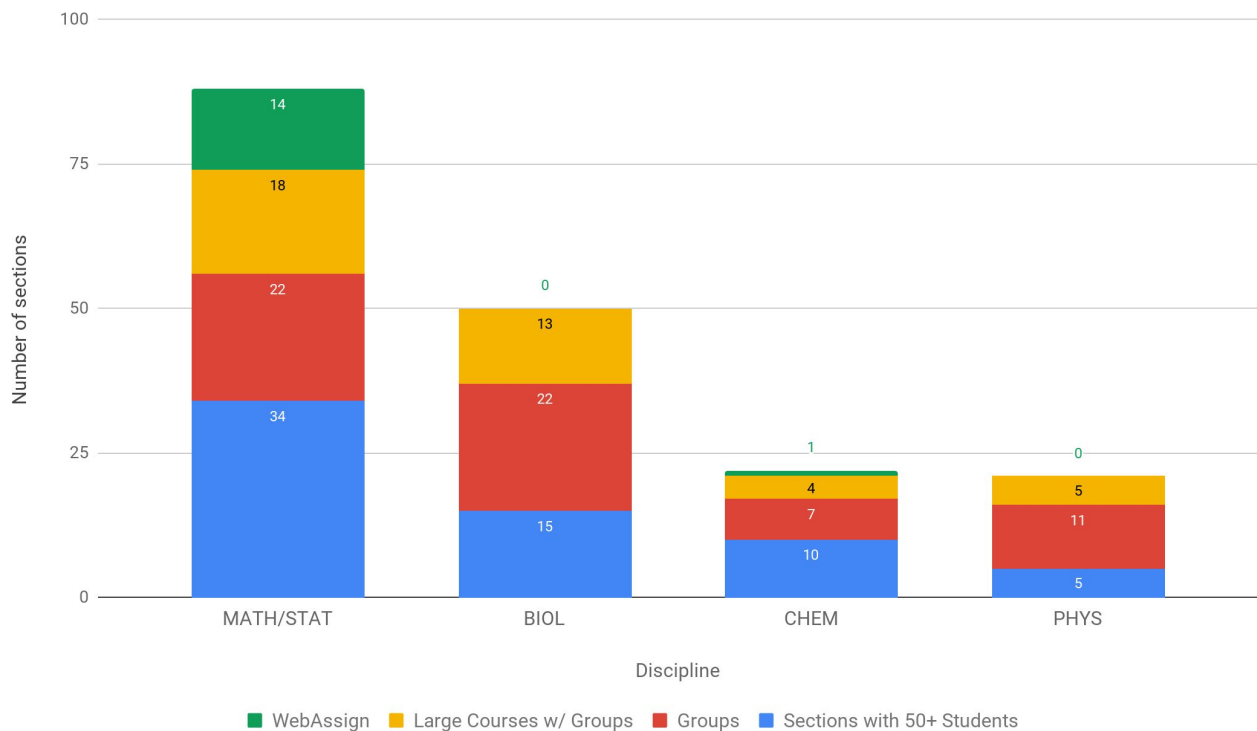   - Discussion & Chat

3. **Assessments**
   - Electronic assignment delivery & collection
   - Quizzing, surveys, online grade center.
   - Adaptive release of content based on prior action or grades.

CNMS tool analysis: SP2019

Discipline	50+ Students	Uses Groups	50+ Students Group Usage	Uses WebAssign	50+ Students Groups / WA
MATH/STAT	34	22	18	14	9
BIOL	15	22	13	0	0
CHEM	10	7	4	1	1
PHYS	5	11	5	0	0
Total Shells	*64*	*63*	*40*	*15*	*10*
Enrollments	*8153*	*6349*	*5884*	*2006*	*1395*

CNMS tool analysis: SP2019

Challenges to adopting Ultra in STEM / large courses

Group management

➔ Creating groups & enrolling students via CSV
➔ Smart views in gradebook

Third-party tools

➔ WebAssign (FA2020)
➔ Pearson Mastering / MyLab

Other: Conditional availability to release content & assessments

DoIT Focus for Ultra Rollout

FA2019	SP2020	FA2020	SP2021
	COEIT	COEIT	
SOWK, Erickson, UAA, DPS	SOWK, Erickson, UAA, DPS	CNMS	CNMS
Targeted Programs & Departments in CAHSS			
Instructor Opt-In			

Area of Focus