



MOBILE LEARN 4.0

Recommended Practices for Mobile-Friendly Courses: Mobile Learn Tools

3rd of 4 guides

August 12, 2013

Recommended Practices for Mobile-Friendly Courses: Mobile Learn Tools

Blackboard Mobile Learn™ version 4.0 is designed to provide students with instant access to their courses via their mobile devices. The recommended practices from this document will ensure the content you publish in the Blackboard Learn environment will integrate well with Mobile Learn. The following information will also create a more enjoyable student experience, providing maximum access to course materials for students on mobile devices.

Please note the terminology used throughout this guide: We refer to the Blackboard Learn desktop website as “Web Learn” and the mobile application as “Mobile Learn.”

Mobile Learn Tools

Tool Availability

It’s important to make sure that all of your desired tools (i.e. Discussions, Groups, Announcements, etc.) are displayed in Web Learn as well as Mobile Learn. Tool Availability settings can be modified in two places on Web Learn:

How-to

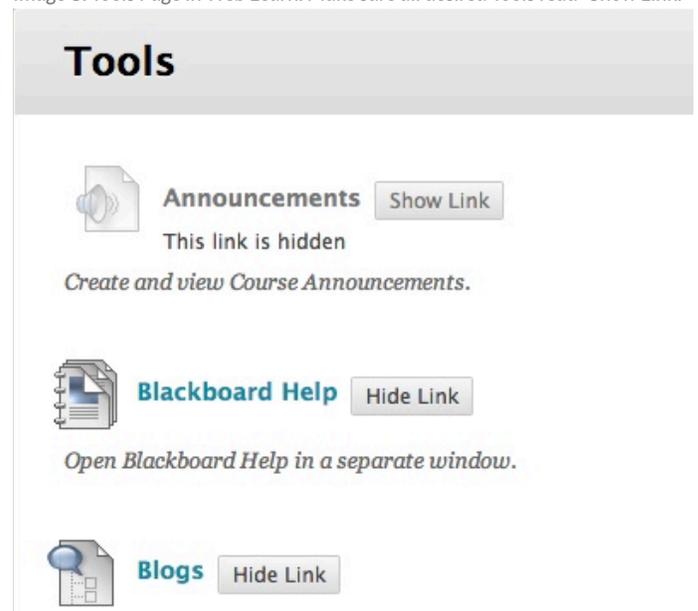
- Adjust your Tool settings under the *Control Panel > Customization > Tool Availability*
- If your school is running Blackboard Learn software older than Service Pack 12, then you must also adjust your Tool availability settings in the Tools page (See Image 8) in addition to the Control Panel. These two pages must reflect the same settings in order for your Tools to appear in Mobile.

Note: You can figure out what software version your institution is running by contacting your campus IT Helpdesk, or reaching out to the Blackboard mobile support team at help@blackboardmobile.com. You can email us either through your desktop or the “Help” button in the app.

- If you do not see a link to the Tools page in the course menu on Web Learn, try going through these additional steps:

1. Navigate to the Blackboard website and select a course
2. Add a Tool Link by clicking the add symbol from the top of the main menu
3. Name the Tool Link (i.e. “Tools Page”) and choose “Tools Area” as the Type
4. Click on the Tools Link when it appears in the menu
5. Find the Tools you wish to show in the app and click “Show Link”

Image 8. Tools Page in Web Learn. Make sure all desired Tools read “Show Link.”



Tools Available in Mobile Learn

The following tools are available in Mobile Learn and translate well to a mobile device:

- Announcements
- Blogs & Journals
- Content
- Dashboard
- Discussions
- Grades
- Groups
- Mobile Tests
- Organizations
- Roster
- Tasks

Below, we discuss the usefulness and recommended mobile-friendly practices of some of these tools. If you'd like additional information on how to use each of these tools, check out the "How the app works" section in the Mobile Learn Resource Center (help.blackboardmobile.com).

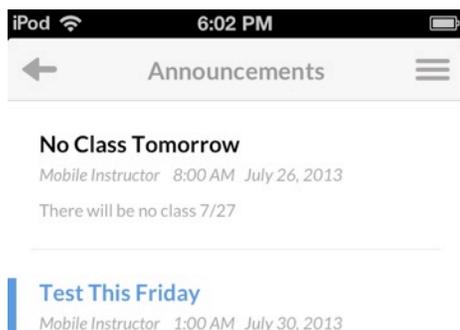
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Announcements feature is a key communication tool that can be checked on the go by students and updated on the go by instructors.

Mobile Friendly Practice:

Students will receive a push notification for every announcement you post, providing you with instant communication with your course. Try posting a reminder about items to prepare for class.

Note: Push notifications must be enabled by your institution in order for students to receive them.



DISCUSSIONS, BLOGS, JOURNALS, & GROUPS

These tools offer a real opportunity to encourage collaborative learning, reflection, and discussion among students, wherever they may be.

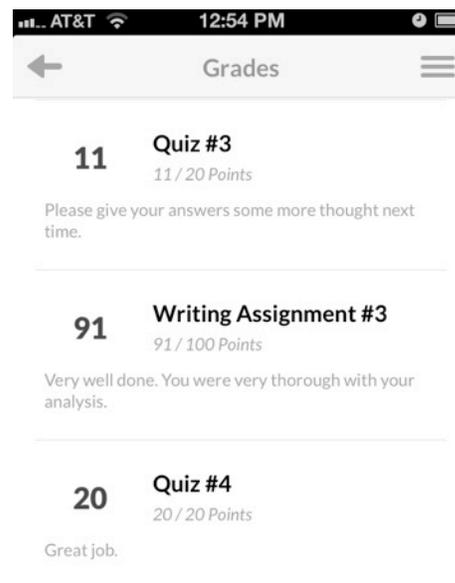
Mobile Friendly Practices:

- Depending on the subject matter, you may want to take advantage of mobile learning and consider using these tools "in the field," outside the traditional lecture/classroom environment.
- Add new threads to a discussion forum you created from your device and reply to your students.

GRADES

Students can easily track their progress by logging into Mobile Learn and viewing their grades. Any feedback left under "Feedback to User" in the Grade Center is displayed below the grade in the app.

Note: The app does not currently support Grade Center functionality to input and view student grades; however, we understand it is needed for instructors to leverage the app. The Grade Center is currently in development for future releases.



MOBILE TESTS

Tests can be created in the Content area under the Assessments menu on Web Learn.

Mobile Friendly Practice:

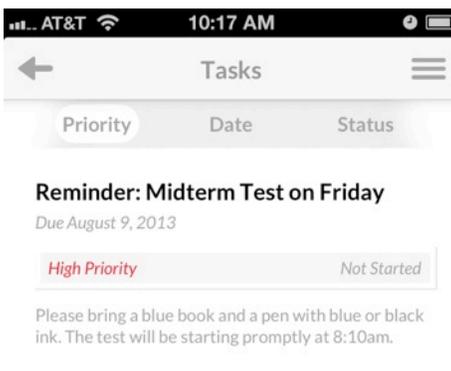
Choose to build a “Mobile Compatible Test” under this menu. This tool provides you with a list of questions that are all compatible with Mobile Learn. If you stray from this list, your test will be inaccessible through mobile.

Note: Mobile compatible tests can be taken either on a computer OR a mobile device.

- Mobile compatible question types:
- Calculated Numeric
- Fill-In-Multiple-Blanks
- File Response
- Hot Spot
- Multiple Choice
- Short Answer
- True/False

TASKS

Use the Tasks tool in your course to help students stay organized. Once you set up a list of tasks and corresponding priority for your students to complete, they can view and update the status of them through their mobile device.



Have feedback for making this document more useful to you? Submit your suggestions at help@blackboardmobile.com.