

## Help Students Learn Better by using new Grade Center tools in Blackboard 8.0

The new Grade Center, which will replace the Blackboard Gradebook starting May 6, 2008, includes numerous new tools that instructors can use to support improved student learning.

Add **comments for any grade** in the Grade Center to give students individual feedback.

Use the **integrated tool for Email** to contact any students who get a low grade on a quiz or exam.

Define **grading periods** such as Mid-term and Final Grade and move grade columns into the appropriate period. For each of your grading periods, create a new Calculated column for Weighted, Total, Average, or Minimum/Maximum, as you wish.

Define as many **grade schemas** (equivalency tables of letter grades and scores) as needed, for example, if you want to provide different grading curves for easier tests and harder tests.

Create **individual grade reports** that can be printed out and distributed to your students.

**Double-check the grade columns** that are hidden or displayed for students to see in *My Grades*.

**Exempt** a grade for an individual student or remove from calculations any column you want to exclude for the whole class.

Create **SmartViews** to see subsets of the class, such as Students for whom English is a second language or Students who transferred in late (or for different sections in a single course shell).

- \* Use the *Focus* option to monitor grade performance for an individual student.
- \* Use the *Group* option to create a customized SmartView for each section of students enrolled in a multi-section course shell (helpful if you work with TAs).
- \* Use the *Benchmark* option to pull information on students who scored below (or above) the benchmark number you specify for a test or other grade.
- \* Use the *Investigate* option to combine the three options above for a more sophisticated review of student performance, based on multiple criteria.

### Timesavers for you and your co-instructors or TAs

Find more options on the main spreadsheet view, and **click less** to find the options you want.

**Enter grades easily and quickly** on the Grade Center page, using only number pad and Enter.

See **any grade in two formats** (choose from score, percentage, letter grade, text, complete/incomplete, or any *grading schema* you've previously defined).

Keep grade columns narrow by using the **Display Name option** (15 characters maximum).

Set **frozen columns** (such as first and last names), allowing you to scroll and bring any column up next to these fixed columns (as in Excel) for easier and more accurate entry of grades.

See **fewer columns at any one time** by hiding a single column or moving unneeded columns into a different grading period.

Consult the **Grade History** to see when a grade was changed and by whom.