

# Blackboard 9.1 Upgrade Faculty Frequently Asked Transitional Questions

## Why are we upgrading to Blackboard 9.1?

There are several reasons. First, operational support for Blackboard (Bb) 8 ends January 2013, so Roosevelt will have to move/upgrade to a new Learning Management System very soon. Upgrading to Bb 9.1 enables us to move to a new, more robust system with advanced features that include dragand-drop functionality, more streamlined navigation and additional communication tools for faculty and students.

### When is Blackboard 9.1 going "live"?

Blackboard 9.1 will be installed on December 22nd and available to <u>ALL</u> faculty on December 23rd. Blackboard will be down and unavailable for faculty and students during the upgrade time. Course files and content currently in Blackboard 8 will be transferred (from 2009-present) over to the new version during this migration. RUOnline will also keep an archive of *fully* online courses (Section 98) in the event that we ever need to retrieve old course data. All Spring 2012 courses will be taught using Blackboard 9.1.

### What types of training will be offered and when?

Training sessions will be offered (while not required, encouraged) throughout the upcoming months to help you make the transition easily. Three types of training will be offered:

- RUOnline certification: focuses on Bb 9.1 basics and Online Teaching Pedagogy. Dates are currently listed on the RUOnline website at <a href="http://www.roosevelt.edu/RUOnline/Faculty/BbTraining.aspx">http://www.roosevelt.edu/RUOnline/Faculty/BbTraining.aspx</a>
- Tutorials focusing on what's new and getting started in Bb9.1 will be available soon on the RUOnline website including videos. The training materials will be viewable from our website at any time.
- Face to face workshops offered at both our campuses (Chicago and Schaumburg) focusing on "What's New in Blackboard" as well as specific areas of new and improved features.



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I am already Roosevelt certified to teach and develop online courses; am I required to get recertified on Bb 9.1?

No. However, Roosevelt certified and experienced faculty are strongly encouraged to attend at least one of the three types of training (fully online, face-to-face, tutorials) to learn about the changes and improvements in Bb 9.1, and to prepare for the upcoming Spring 2012 semester when all courses will be taught using Bb 9.1.

### Will student training be available?

Yes. RUOnline offers training for students via fully online and face-to-face on both campuses as well as student tutorials will be made available just in time for Spring. Fully online sessions are offered weekly and face to face training is offered monthly throughout the year and more frequently at the beginning of each semester (including some Saturdays and evening sessions). Training dates and times are located on the RUOnline website, <a href="http://training.ruonline.us/student\_training.html">http://training.ruonline.us/student\_training.html</a> and materials will also be available soon on our website specifically for students.



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#### When can I get access to Bb 9.1?

A test server (sandbox) is available to faculty who are currently interested. This sandbox mirrors what the live production site will look like. Register for training today via our website or contact one of the Blackboard Administrators, Kristin Broadwell, <a href="mailto:kbroadwell@roosevelt.edu">kbroadwell@roosevelt.edu</a> or Lynette Washington, <a href="mailto:kwashington@roosevelt.edu">kwashington@roosevelt.edu</a>. We encourage all faculty to utilize the sandbox in Bb 9.1 as doing so will help you prepare for the Spring semester when all courses will be taught in Bb 9.1.

#### Will I be able to copy my current sites to Bb 9.1?

RUOnline will work closely with Blackboard to move the courses over during the migration in December. Instructors may also export their content from Blackboard 8 and import it into Blackboard 9.1 after the migration is completed. We also strongly encourage you to archive your courses now, in the event that something gets lost, you will maintain a copy of your courses.

Instructions on exporting, importing and archiving courses can be found by viewing our current tutorials on our website <a href="http://training.ruonline.us/index.htm">http://training.ruonline.us/index.htm</a>. For additional assistance contact Lynette Washington (lwashington@roosevelt.edu).

## Will all of my content and URLS copy to Bb 9.1?

Yes. After the migration, and prior to the start of the semester, you will want to go through your courses and check to make sure everything is there.

### Can I teach courses in Bb 9.1 before Spring 2012?

No. Student information from Banner will not be integrated with Blackboard 9.1 until December. The sandboxes in the testing version of Bb 9.1 are temporary sites that will eventually be removed.