

Using Learning Units in Blackboard

Blackboard Learning Units enable the instructor to set a structured path for progressing through the content within a course. Instructors will find that the development of self-paced learning is intuitive with Blackboard Learning Units. Students can now access content, including assessments, in a sequential order. The instructor may either allow students to access content nonlinearly within a Learning Unit or enforce a sequential path.

Learning Units may be added to any content area with the exception of Announcements, Staff Information, and External Links. Students access Learning Units by clicking on a link within the content area. Once added, a Learning Unit can be modified like any other item within a content area.

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The steps involved are

- create the learning unit
- add files to the learning unit (similar to adding files to folders or items)
- select options for the learning unit

1. Create Learning Unit:

Within a content area (Course Information, Course Documents, Assignments, Projects, etc.), select **Add Learning Unit**.

Course Information



Current Location: Course Information

Title, describe and set options for the learning unit as you would any document or folder.

Learning Unit Information	
Name:	Select a name from the drop-down list.
Or, specify your own name:	Enter a name for the folder if one of the provided names is not suitable.
Choose color of name:	Click Pick to select color for the Learning Unit name display. Blackboard 5 allows the instructor to select from 216 different colors to customize the color of the name.
Text:	Enter a description of the Learning Unit. Select a text type for the description from the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smart Text: Automatically recognizes a hot link if it is the first thing entered in the text box or if it preceded by a single space. The benefit of smart text is that it recognizes the Enter key as a paragraph tag. Smart text accepts HTML tags as well. Smart Text will also prompt to load images if an image source text is used when adding smart text as part of a content item.• Plain text: Displays text as written.• HTML: Displays text as coded using HTML tags.
Options	

Do you want to enforce sequential viewing of the Learning Unit?	Click Yes and students will view the Learning Unit in the order listed. Students will not be able to advance to a page without having viewed the previous page. Click No and students will be able to view the pages in the Learning Unit in any order simply by navigating through the contents.
Do you want the Learning Unit to open in a new window?	Select Yes to have the Learning Unit open as a new, separate window. Select No to have the Learning Unit open on the same window.
Choose Date Restrictions	Check Display After and Display Until then select the range of dates that the Learning Unit will appear. Select dates using the drop-down lists or click on the icon for a calendar interface. To display the Learning Unit from a date forward, check Display After and select a date but do not check Display Until . To display the Learning Unit from the current date until a future date, check Display Until and select a date but do not check Display After .
Do you want to make the Learning Unit visible:	Click Yes or No to indicate whether or not the Learning Unit is to be available to students. Instructors and staff members can still access the information in the folder by going through the Instructor Control Panel.

2. Add Documents to the Learning Unit

The Learning Unit now appears in the list of content items. Open it, as you would a folder, and you have the choice of adding files or items.



Course Information



Current Location: First Unit

[[Top](#)] : First Unit, CONTENTS

Folder empty

- Items added to a Learning Unit appear much the same as content appears within a course content area. Text can be entered or supplemented with attached files. Attached files will, by default, open via a link displayed with the item. Image, audio, and video files can be set to display within the item and packaged files can be unpacked and displayed when the link is clicked.
- Files added to a Learning Unit open as a page within the Learning Unit. Adding files allows students to view content as a slideshow, without having to click a link to open content.

3. Select Options

2 Options

Do you want to make the Learning Unit visible: Yes No

Do you want to enforce sequential viewing of the Learning Unit? Yes No

Do you want the Learning Unit to open in a new window? Yes No

Select Date(s) of Availability

Display After

Dec 20 2001 

05 35 AM

Display Until

Dec 20 2001 

05 35 AM

- Use **enforce** sequential viewing to require students to follow the path you have set.
- Use **open in a new window** to have content appear in a new window
- Use **Select Date(s)** to set when the unit will appear and disappear.