Reusing Your Blackboard Course Site

An overview of copying Blackboard sites and performing course maintenance for a new semester

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New to Blackboard? New to ODU?

Learn how to edit (and copy) your course sites in CLT’s Blackboard workshops. Online and in-person workshops are offered.

Register at clt.odu.edu or call 757-683-3172.
Before You Copy

More often than not, instructors copy content into their new Blackboard site from a prior semester. (New sites are blank, except for default settings.) You must then update and clean out the copied content.

Course copying duplicates materials and menus though, so it's best to remove the new site's default menu, to prevent having two versions.

1. Log into Blackboard ([www.blackboard.odu.edu](http://www.blackboard.odu.edu))
2. Go to My ODU Courses
3. Open your new course site (e.g., 201820_SPRING...)
4. Set Edit Mode to ON (upper right menu)

Delete Default Course Menu Links (New Site)

1. Go to the Course Menu
2. Leave Home Page as is
3. Click a link's options arrow (hover for the arrow to appear)
4. Select Delete
5. Click Delete this menu item
6. Click Delete, when prompted again

Repeat these steps for the remaining unneeded menu items.

Reference: [Course Menu](http://www.blackboard.odu.edu)

Copy Your Old Course Site

Perform the Course Copy process in your prior Blackboard site:

1. Open your old course site (e.g., 201720_SPRING...)
2. Go to Control Panel
3. Expand Packages and Utilities
4. Select Course Copy
5. On the Copy Course page, go to Select Copy Options
6. By Destination Course ID, click Browse
7. Locate your new course on the Courses pop-up
8. Click Submit
9. Under Select Course Materials, click Select All
10. (Optional) uncheck Announcements, unless you will reuse the previous term's announcements
11. Under Discussion Board, select “Include only the forums, with no starter posts” to prevent copying old student posts
12. Click Submit

You will receive a confirmation email when copying is complete. This may take up to 24 hours. Do not submit duplicate Course Copy requests while waiting, or your site will end up with twice the content.

Reference: Copy Courses

Teaching Multiple Sections?

You can Course Copy into one section, prepare everything, then copy the new site into other sections—this saves time and effort.

Update Your New Course Site

Confirm the content, menus, assignments, and tools copied correctly into your new Blackboard site. Then update the settings for the new term, as applicable:

- Verify menus and links work
- Adjust Date Management AND
  - Verify content and tools aren’t hidden from students
  - Change Assignment due dates
  - Change Test/Quiz due dates
  - Change Announcements availability (or delete/add them)
- Clear prior student activity from Discussion Boards, Groups, Blogs, or Wikis
- Update SafeAssign, Respondus Lockdown Browser, or other tools
- Clean out the Grade Center

Adjust Date Management (Availability/Due Dates)

1. Open your new course site (e.g., 201820_SPRING...)
2. Go to Control Panel
3. Expand Course Tools
4. Click Date Management
5. Under SELECT DATE ADJUSTMENT OPTION, select “List All Dates For Review”
6. Click Start
7. When Date Management Progress displays 100%, click Next
8. Review all Due, Starts, and Ends availability dates
9. Click the Edit Dates icon (pencil) to choose new dates/times
10. Click the Submit icon (green checkmark)

NOTE: If you can’t edit availability from Date Management, go to the assignment or item itself and set Display After, Display Until, etc.

Reference: Date Management


Linking to PLE?

Update the PLE links in the Course Menu every term. (CLT provides the new links.) Click on each menu item’s Options arrow, then select Web Link to edit it.

Also, please notify CLT if the START HERE link in your online course is out-of-date.
If You Copied These Blackboard Tools...

### Clear the Discussion Board
If you chose "Include starter posts for each thread in each forum (anonymized)" during Course Copy, delete old student posts from discussion forums.
Reference: Manage Old Discussion Posts (College of DuPage)

**NOTE:** Clear out Blogs, Wikis, and Group discussions, as well.

### Fix Respondus LockDown Browser (online tests)
1. Go to Control Panel
2. Expand Course Tools
3. Click Respondus LockDown Browser
4. Review the list of tests
5. Click **Fix It** by tests displaying "error"
6. Exit the Dashboard
Reference: Respondus Lockdown Browser

### Synchronize SafeAssign (online papers)
1. Go to Control Panel
2. Expand Course Tools
3. Click SafeAssign
4. Click SafeAssign Items
5. Click **Synchronize this course** (in the upper right)
Reference: Use SafeAssign in Assignments

### Clean Out the Grade Center
1. Go to Control Panel
2. Expand Grade Center
3. Click Full Grade Center
Remove unneeded or duplicate columns:
1. Go to Manage
2. Select Column Organization
3. Delete duplicate “Total” and “Weighted Total” columns (keep the copied, configured ones)
4. Delete or Hide unused assignments, tests, etc.
5. Click **Submit**
Reference: Grade Columns

### Using Calculated Grades?
Confirm your Total or Weighted Total columns are correctly configured. Organize assignments and columns into Categories for easier management, too.
Also, set which Total or Weighted Total displays to students:
1. Go to the column
2. Click its Options arrow
3. Select **Set as External Grade**
4. (green checkmark appears)
Reference: Calculate Grades
Make Your Site Available to Students

Release your course site several weeks or days before the semester, so that students can order textbooks and prepare for the course's technology requirements well before the first class or activity.

Select the lock icon (upper right menu) to make the course visible, or:

1. Go to Control Panel
2. Expand Customization
3. Click Properties
4. Change Make Course Available to “Yes”
5. Click Submit

Export/Backup Your Blackboard Sites

ODU can't recover deleted Blackboard sites or content. For your records, export the prepared course site at the beginning and end of the semester!

Reference: Export and Archive Courses

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