UCD Teaching & Learning

Blended Module Design in Blackboard

Call for Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are invited from module coordinators for the purpose of re-designing one of their modules, with the support of a cross-disciplinary group, into a blended format for delivery in the academic session 2013/14.

The submission deadline is 22 February 2013

Blended Module Design in Bb

The objective of this pilot project is to (re)design a sample of UCD modules which will use a ‘blend’ of online and face-to-face learning opportunities to achieve active student learning while still being efficient (more efficient) for staff. The redesign process will be guided by a set of overarching teaching and learning principles for the blended learning environment (Appendix 1) and will adopt the new Bb default structure and associated content guidelines (Appendix 2).

This project is part of a wider initiative, led by UCD T&L, which aims to enhance student learning experience through more effective and efficient use of the Bb environment. The focus is on supporting significant numbers of academic staff to implement basic good module design within Bb for on-campus students and in so doing, become more familiar with Bb functionality, navigation and tools.

Key Benefits of blended module design for staff and students

- Active student learning and engagement is sustained throughout the module through coherent sequencing of face-to-face, out-of-class and on-line activities and resources
- Greater efficiency in the use of staff and students’ time will be achieved through re-balancing student effort hours between: face-to-face class contact; specified learning activities (online or out of class) and autonomous student learning
- Simple (low tech) functionalities already available within Bb will be utilised to increase opportunities for (low stakes) formative assessment; peer learning; student self-monitoring; and feedback to students
- Through this initiative a number of UCD case-studies of good practice will be developed and dissemination.
Criteria for participation

Expressions of interest are invited from module coordinators to join a cross-disciplinary group for the purpose of re-designing one of their modules into a blended format for delivery in the academic session 2013/14.

The following criteria will apply:

- The module to be re-designed will be at undergraduate level and delivered to an on-campus audience.
- The module will be delivered to a large class (in excess of 150 students).
- The module coordinator will be available to work as part of a cross-disciplinary group and participate in a small number of group workshops/training sessions over a period of approximately one year (March 2013 to March 2014). It is estimated that the series of four workshops will be convened as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic/ Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2, 2012/13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Initial Blended Module Design Workshop (pre-module descriptor deadline)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exploring Blackboard Options: Group Discussion/Wikis/Blogs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assessment FOR Learning opportunities: On-line MCQ's/Peer-Self Assessment/Assessing for participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1, 2013/14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Evaluating, monitoring and disseminating the module outcomes</td>
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</tbody>
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- The module coordinator will embrace the objective of the project, i.e. (re)design their module using a ‘blend’ of online and face-to-face learning opportunities to achieve active student learning while still being efficient for staff.
- Participating module coordinators will receive support and training through the workshops series and individual sessions (if necessary).
- As this is a pilot project the design and implementation process will be evaluated and disseminated.

Enquires may be directed to:
aine.galvin@ucd.ie (extn. 8595) or geraldine.m.oneill@ucd.ie (extn. 8575)

1 These are subject to change as the project evolves