

# BLACKBOARD ROADMAP – MAY 2024

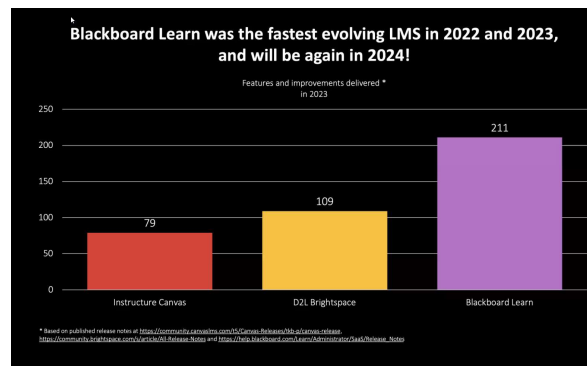
## UPDATES ARRIVING PRIOR TO FALL 2024 SEMESTER START

Blackboard's Ultra Course view has rapidly evolved since SHSU's adoption of Ultra Base Navigation in May of 2022. Anthology has tripled Ultra development resources and has continued to invest more into the product. All of this points to rapid development and deployment of features for Blackboard.

This quick report will highlight updates for Blackboard that will occur prior to the fall 2024 semester start in mid-August. These updates will be divided into the following categories:

- Instructional Design
- AI Design Assistant
- Assessment
- Grading
- Learning Paths and Mastery
- Collaboration and Active Learning
- Accessibility
- Base Navigation Enhancements
- Administrative Control and Organizational Choice

Blackboard Learn was the fastest evolving LMS in 2023 and Anthology projects that will do so again in 2024.

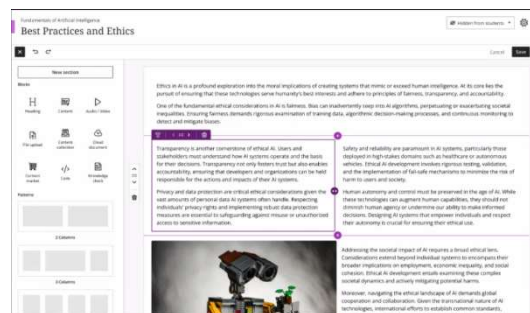


## BLACKBOARD UPDATES COMING IN THE NEXT 1-3 MONTHS

### INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

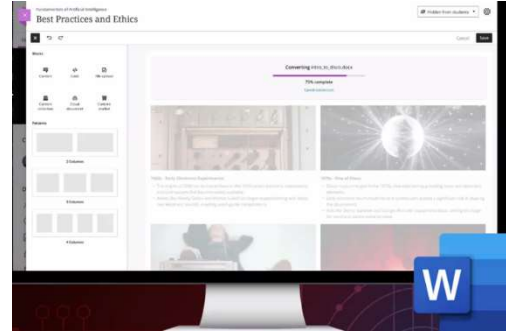
#### New Ultra Documents

- Create more advanced Ultra Document layouts for a richer and more accessible content experience.
- Advanced layouts automatically adjust to mobile devices
- Drag and drop blocks and rows
- Edit, undo/redo, and save options to increase efficiency.



## Convert File to Ultra Document

- Convert a file to a native Ultra Document
  - PDF
  - PowerPoint
  - Word
- Improve content accessibility & interactivity



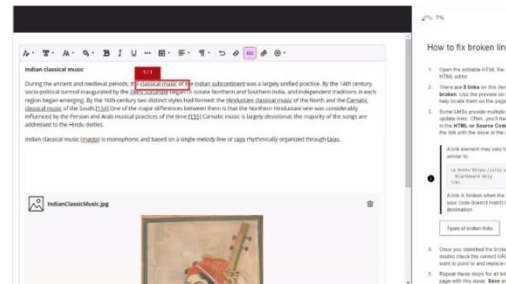
## Embedded Knowledge Checks

- Conduct a knowledge check within an Ultra Document
  - Multiple Choice
  - Automated correct/incorrect feedback
- Quick way to check students understanding and gain valuable insights
- Useful for students to self-assess and have just-in-time feedback in the context of the content.



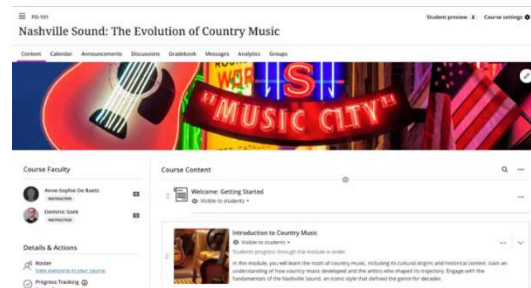
## Broken Link Checking (With Ally)

- Apply Ally's accessibility check to determine which links within WYSIWYG content are broken
- Provide feedback and guidance when the content linked is moved or removed



## Course Display – User Experience Improvements

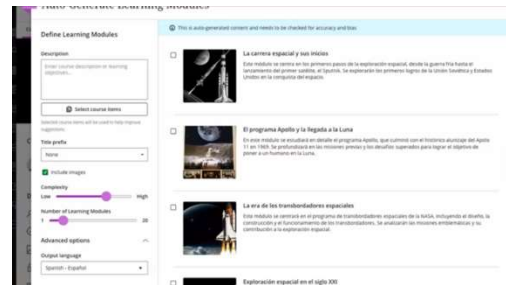
- Full screen course view returns emphasis to the course experience
- Removal of purple X and easy one click access to Base Navigation
- Consistent course header enhances the experience for all users with different device preferences, including mobile, & low vision users relying on increased zoom
- Extended display of course titles across all devices.



## AI DESIGN ASSISTANT

### Language Selection

- Allow instructors to explicitly select the desired output language
- Multiple languages can be used for context
- Outputs will be provided as per instructor's request



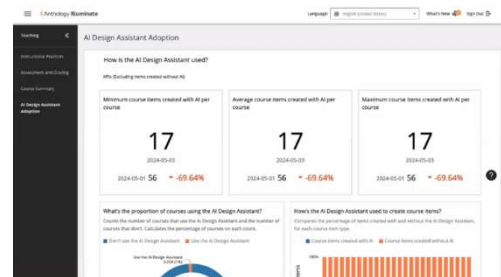
### Image Generation Improvements

- Continue to enhance advancements in AI to increase quality of the outputs
- Upgrading images generations to return high quality, higher resolution images
- Helps all students, but especially those who are more visual



### Usage Reporting (Illuminate)

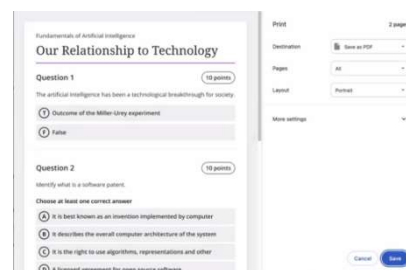
- Available Now: AI Status Indicator in CDM
- Out-of-the-box Illuminate report
- Provide institutions insight into the usage of Design Assistant
  - Which suggestions are being used most
  - Which subject areas are being used most
  - Which instructors are early adopters



## ASSESSMENT

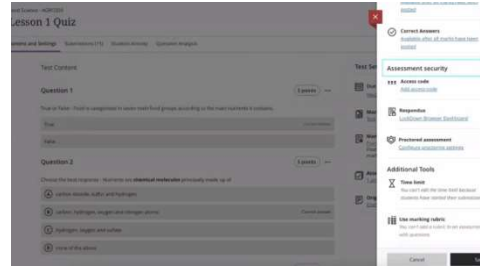
### Print Tests (1<sup>st</sup> phase in June)

- Print questions
- Enables instructors to print blank tests for offline exams or students with accommodations
- Includes option to save a blank test as a PDF for accreditation or archiving purposes
- Supporting printing of answer keys
- Support for printing question pools used in tests



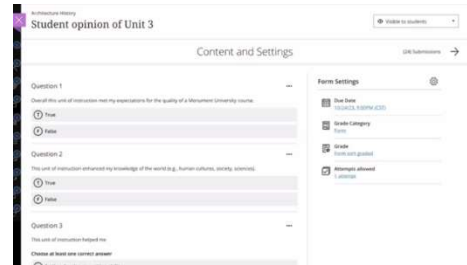
## Assessment IP Restrictions

- Additional assessment security options to support academic integrity
- IP address restriction to prevent students from submitting assessments from outside a specified location



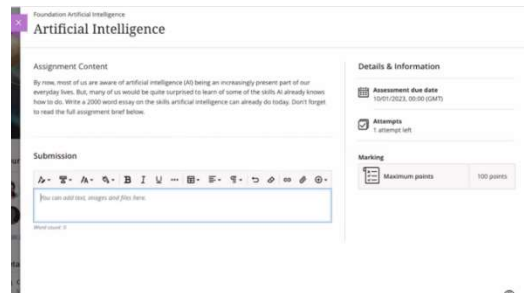
## Anonymous Form Submissions

- Support for anonymous Form responses
- Encourages student participation
- Helps elicit more detailed and honest feedback



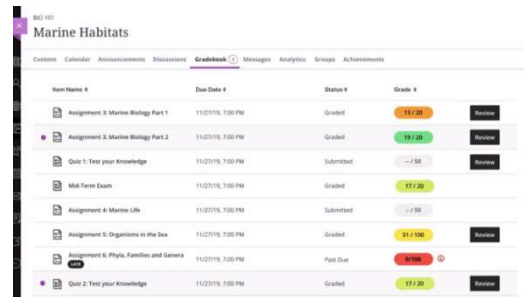
## New Assignment Tool

- Splitting of tests & assignments
- Improved workflow to ensure students have access to the instructions BEFORE an attempt is started
- Preventing blank attempts from being created
- Streamlined instructor authoring workflow
- Simplified assessment settings



## Improved Grade and Feedback Visibility

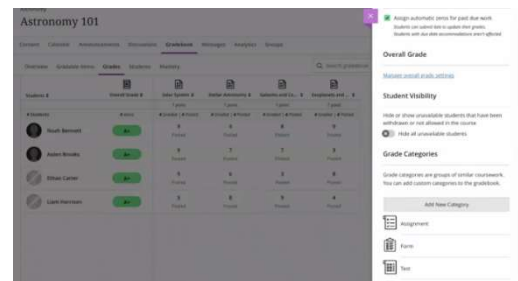
- Improved student visibility of new grades and feedback
- New grades count in the course navigation menu
- Assessment with new grades highlighted in the Gradebook



## GRADING

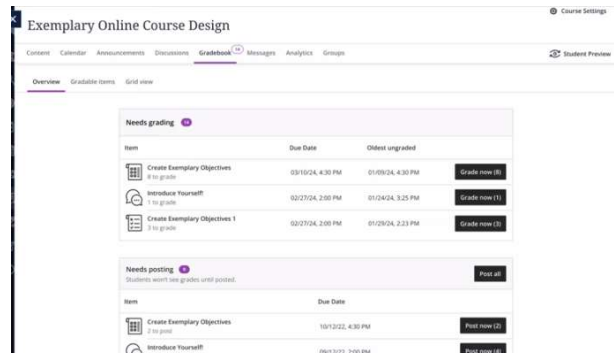
### Hide/Show Withdrawn Students in Gradebook

- Instructors will have ability to hide or show all withdrawn students in the gradebook
- More efficient overview of all current students in the class
- Access to information for withdrawn students for reporting purposes
- Withdrawn students will be hidden by default



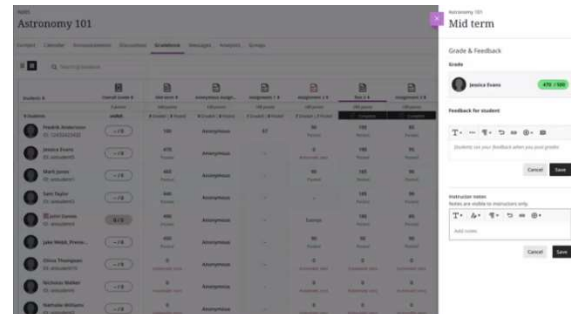
## Needs Grading Improvements

- Improved visibility of outstanding grading tasks through Gradebook Overview page
- Needs grading count in the top course navigation menu
- Take instructor to the grading interface with a single click for a more efficient workflow
- Easily understand outstanding grades to post



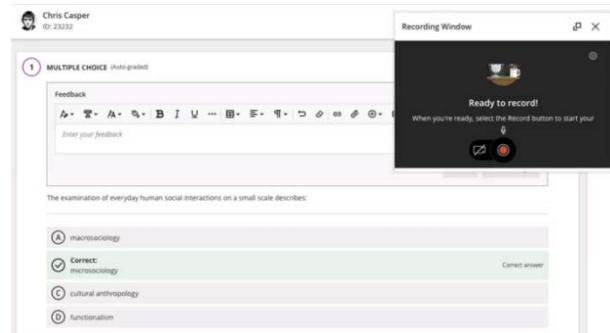
## Notes on Override Grades

- Providing instructors with the ability to document grade adjustments
- Part of the academic record and improves support for academic process



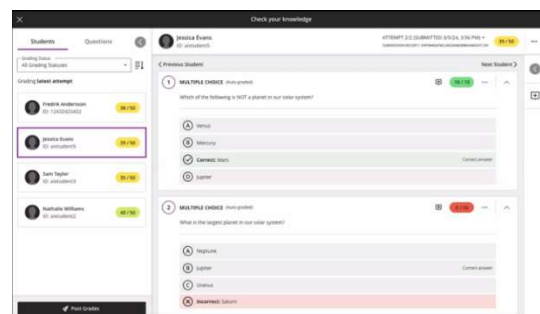
## Video Feedback Per Question

- Supporting audio and video feedback tool for question-level feedback in tests
- Providing students with more personalized feedback at the individual question level



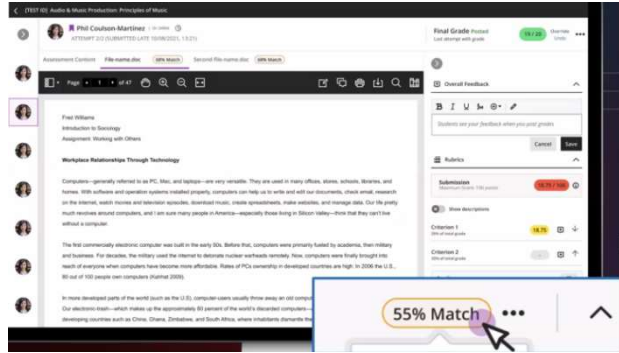
## Flexible Grading Workflow Improvements

- Continued usability and efficiency improvements based on user feedback
- Improved next / previous student and question navigation
- Filter out graded responses when grading by question for improved efficiency and task orientation



## Integrated Turnitin Similarity Scoring

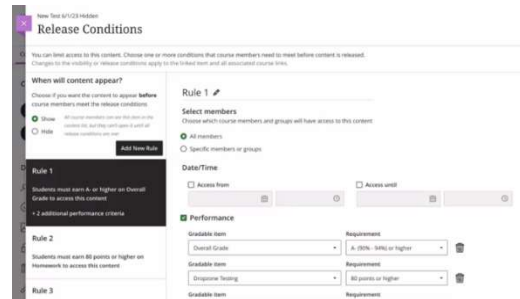
- Use Turnitin's originality checking within flexible grading
- Partnering with Turnitin and 1EdTech to drive new open standards
- General Release target on May 29, 2024



## LEARNING PATHS AND MASTERY

### Advanced Release Conditions

- Define more differentiated pathways for learners through expanded release conditions
- Supporting the combination of multiple release conditions
- Apply different rules to different learners



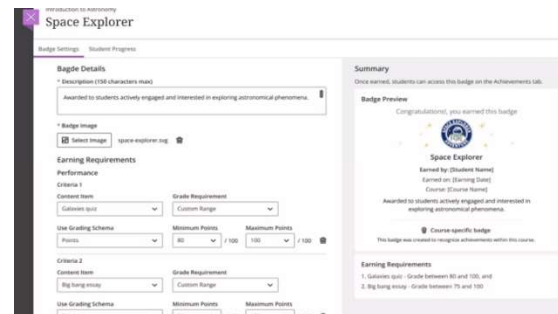
### Mastery Gradebook

- Learning outcome performance aggregated based on object alignment
- Aggregation of data points by goals across assessments, questions, and rubric criteria



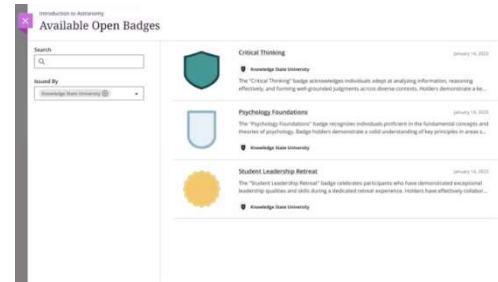
### Achievements

- Instructors can create Achievements and define awards criteria
- Criteria award Achievements automatically
- Students can see requirements and earn course badges



## Badges with Milestone (Requires Anthology Milestone)

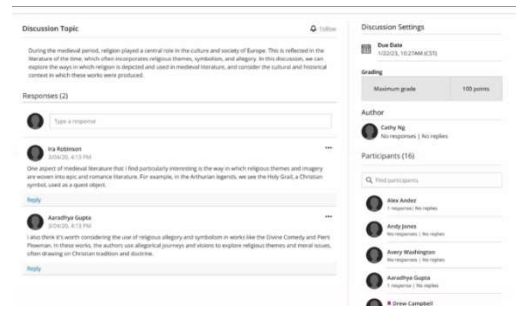
- Integration with Anthology Milestone so performance in Blackboard Learn can issue an institutional badge
- Publish a digital, verifiable portable badge with OpenBadges standard
- Students can showcase their achievements through Achievement Studio even after graduation or departure



## COLLABORATION AND ACTIVE LEARNING

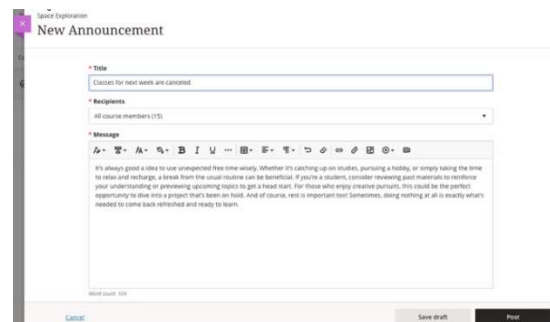
### Follow Discussions

- Discussion notifications to further encourage student engagement
- Follow important discussions or discussion student has participated in through clear notifications
- Clearer administrator settings and notification controls



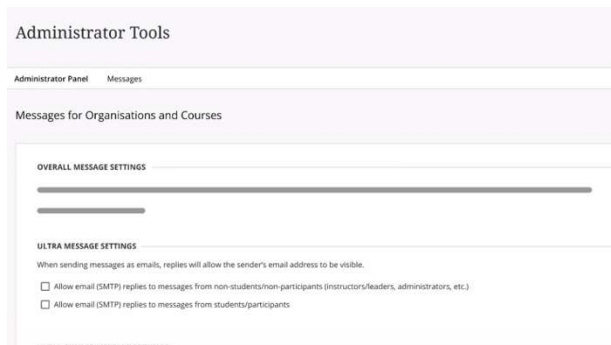
### Announcement Posting Enhancements

- Increased efficiency when working with announcements
- Ability to immediately post announcements during creation with a single click
- Scheduled announcements can be sent to email as a copy



### Reply from Email

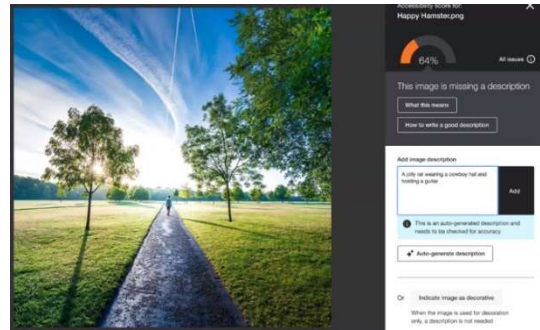
- Allow users to reply to notification and update emails
- Linked to the "Allow replies..." option for greater granularity of control



## ACCESSIBILITY (Requires Ally)

### Suggest Alternative Text for Images

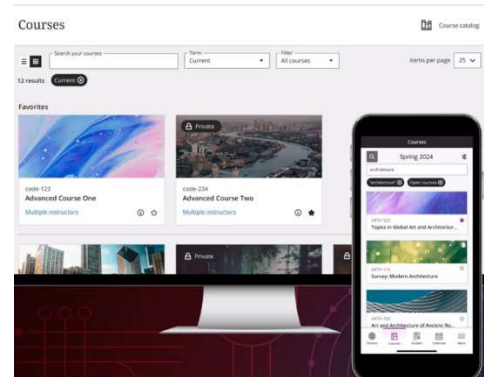
- Provide AI-driven alternative text suggestions for images within Ally's Instructor Feedback flow
- Help speed up content remediation process
- Instructor has full control to change or approve suggested ALT text
- Opt-in feature to allow institutional control



## BASE NAVIGATION ENHANCEMENTS

### Term Dropdowns

- New term dropdown selector for easy access to the required term on Course page
- Save user preferences
- Improved mobile app landing screens to support search and filtering, including improved term selector



## ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHOICE

### Student ID Privilege

- Better align to institutional data privacy policies
- New privilege determines which people can see Student IDs of students in courses based on their role
- Visibility of Student ID no longer requires permission to edit profile

