

Blackboard – Updates – January 2019

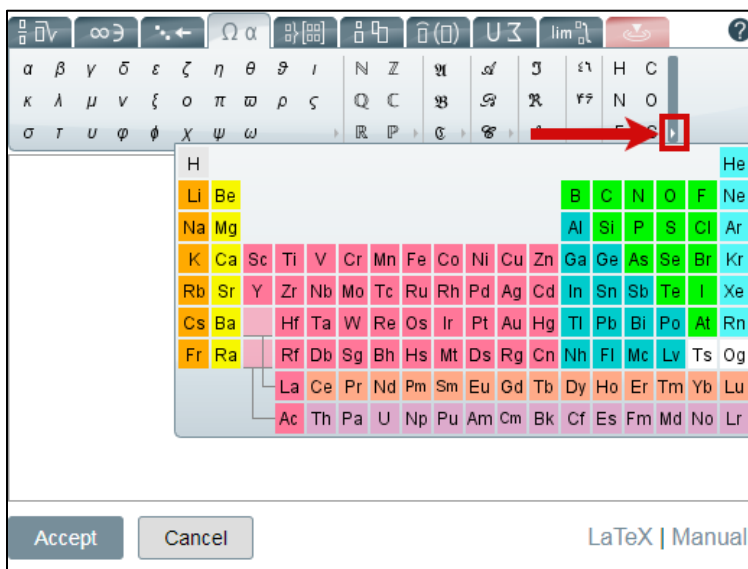
New Feature – Chemistry Notation

The math editor found in the Content Editor has been updated to a newer version of WIRIS. This version now adds tools specific to chemistry including an embedded periodic table. Follow the steps below to view the math editor.

1. From the content editor, select the **Launch Math Editor** icon.



2. The WIRIS window will appear. Select the **Greek and Letters** tab (the fourth tab from the left), and then choose the **arrow** at the end of the toolbar. The periodic table will appear.



New Feature – Course Availability Status

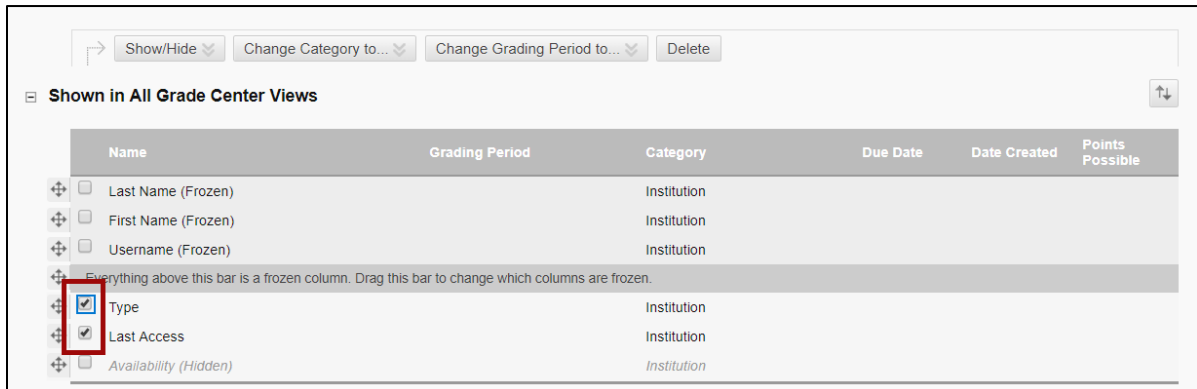
Now there is an option to change the course availability from the main home page. At the top, in the management area, select the **Make Unavailable** icon (padlock) next to the *Edit Mode* toggle. **Note:** Some instructors may not have access to this feature, therefore will not see the padlock icon.



New Feature – Grade Center Cleanup

Instructors can now cleanup their gradebook by deleting multiple columns at once.

1. Navigate to the Gradebook.
2. Select **Manage**, then **Column Organization**.
3. Select the **columns** to delete by selecting the **checkboxes** next to the column names as shown below.



4. Select Delete.

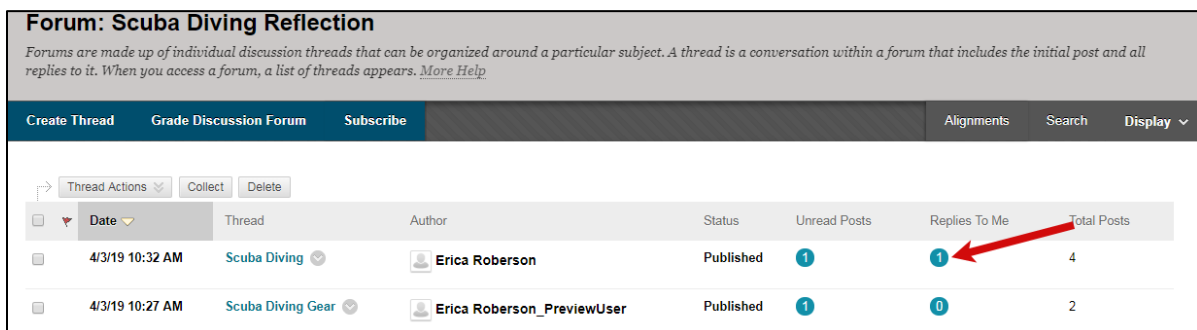
Note:

- Selected manual and calculated columns are removed completely.
- Selected columns associated with gradable items are cleared of attempt and grade data but remain in the Grade Center.

New Feature – Discussion Board “Replies to Me”

Participants can now filter by *Replies to Me* to only see new replies from others made to the participants thread.

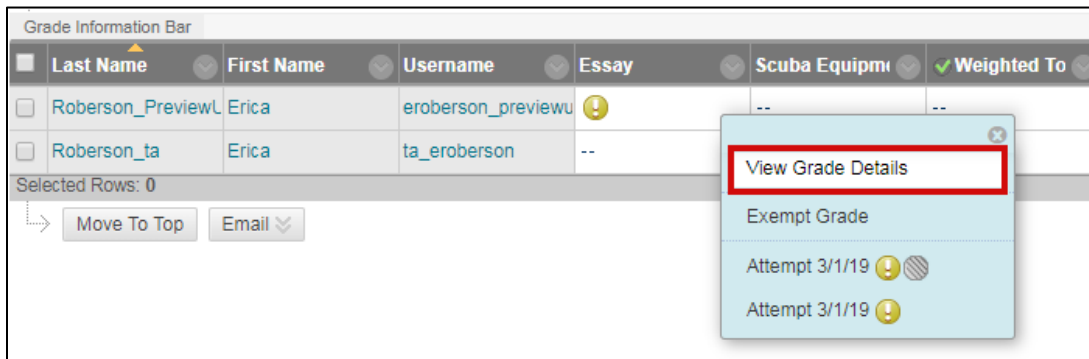
1. Navigate to a discussion forum and locate a thread.
2. Select the number in the **Replies To Me** column.
3. All new posts that were made by others to the participants thread will appear.



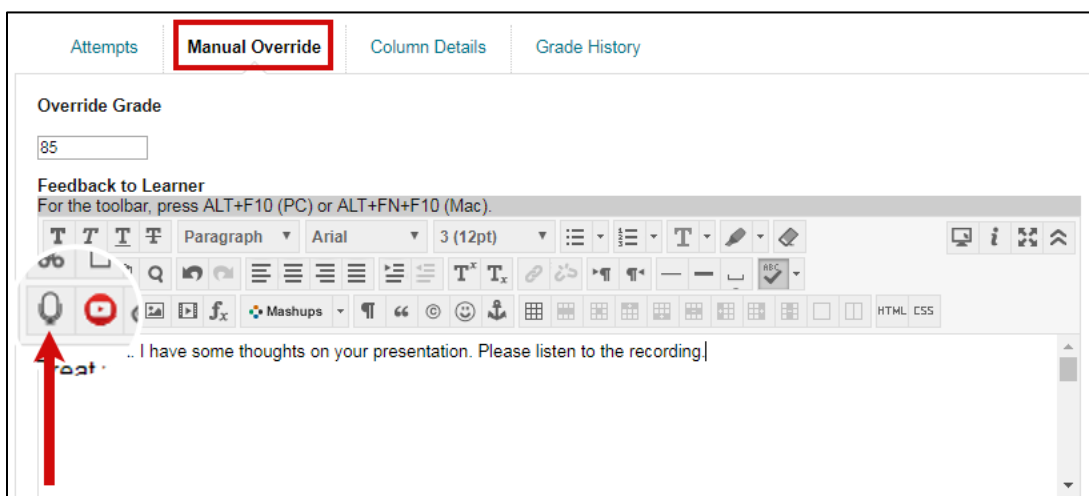
New Feature – Recording Feedback

An instructor or grader can now create personalized feedback recordings for individual assessment attempts or manual gradebook items. Each recording can be up to five minutes long and can be both a video and audio.

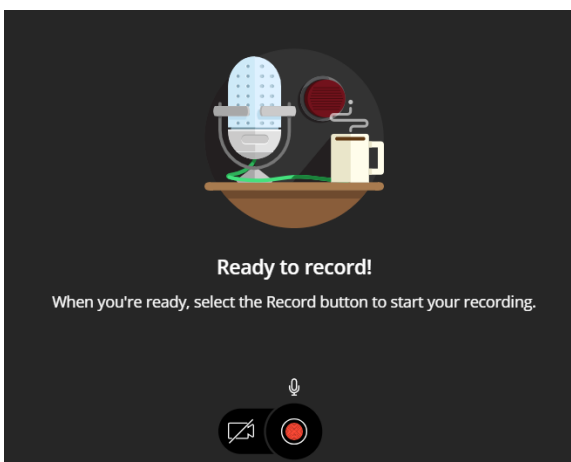
1. Navigate to the *Grade Details* page.



2. Select the *Manual Override* tab.
3. Select the **microphone icon** in the last row of the editor.



4. In the window that opens, select the **record** button to capture audio. To capture video and audio, select the camera icon before selecting record.



5. After completing the recording, change the name and enter alternative text for the recording.
6. Select the **Insert Recording** button.

Your recording will be lost if you close the window before it saves.

Feedback to Student_Essay Assignment
00 : 21

*Recording Name
Feedback to Student_Essay Assignment

*Alternative Text
Audio recording provides feedback to the student regarding the Essay assignment.

Insert Recording

7. Select **Save** on the *Manual Override* tab.

New Feature – Attendance

Attendance has now been added to Blackboard as a course tool. By default, the Attendance tool is disabled. The attendance column provides the overall attendance score in the gradebook, where it can be included in the student’s overall grade. Keep in mind that as soon as instructors select the **Attendance** from *Course Tools*, an attendance column is automatically added to the gradebook. This column cannot be deleted, but instructors have the option to hide the column.

Note: Instructors should not copy *Grade Center Columns and Settings* from a course with an attendance column, into an existing course with an attendance column. This will add another attendance column to the existing course’s Grade Center.

Follow the steps below to access attendance:

1. From the *Control Panel*, select **Course Tools** → **Attendance**.
2. The *Settings* panel will open.
3. From here, instructors can change the default percentage for “Late” in the *Grading Schema* section, and/or the default for “Grade using”.

Attendance Settings

Grade Schema

Present	100	%
Late	50	%
Absent	0	%

Grade using

Points
Letter
Points
Percentage

- If changes were made to the *Settings* panel, select **Save**. Otherwise, close the panel.
- At this point, an attendance column will appear in the Grade Center.

Last Name	First Name	Username	Weighted To	Essay	Scuba Equipm	Reflection	Test	Attendance
Roberson_Preview	Erica	eroberson_previewu	85.00%	85.00	--	⚠	⚠	--
Roberson_ta	Erica	ta_eroberson	--	--	--	⚠	--	--

Follow the steps below to enter attendance:

- From the *Control Panel*, select **Course Tools** → **Attendance**.
- Attendance will open in Meeting view for the current day. Select *Overall* view to see several meetings and overall course statistics. **Note:** Attendance can be marked in either view.
- In Meeting view, for each student, select the block for Present, Late, Absent, or Excused.
- To mark all students, present or absent, select the **column header**.

The screenshot shows the 'Attendance' page for 'ERoberson_Test Course'. The page title is 'Attendance' and it indicates 'Today Posted'. The table has columns for 'Student', 'Today', 'Present', 'Late', 'Absent', and 'Excused'. A red arrow points to the 'Today' column header. A dropdown menu is open for the 'Today' column, showing options: 'Mark all present' (checked), 'Mark all absent', 'Clear marks', 'Exempt meeting', 'Edit meeting', and 'Delete meeting'. The 'Mark all present' and 'Mark all absent' options are highlighted with a red box.

New Feature – Clear MC Selection

Students can now clear out a selection from multiple-choice questions. They will be able to avoid penalty when an initial selection has been made and negative points are associated with answer choices. To clear out a selection, the student should locate the radio button for the selected answer, then select the radio button again to clear the answer choice.

Browser Support – Post Update

There are browser limitations for Edge, Safari, and IE (*1) in regard to the updates addressed previously.

- Recording Feedback feature for grading assessments does not work.
- Playing a recording will work.
- Microsoft and Apple both plan on supporting creating recordings in the future (timeline is unknown).