

Getting Started - What is Blackboard?

Blackboard (Bb) is a course management system that Piedmont Virginia Community College (and all other VCCS colleges) that allows instructors to easily put their course material such as, the syllabus, handouts and exams on the Internet without needing to know web development. Bb also has an online grade book (Note: this is not integrated with SIS/PeopleSoft). Bb can be used for online, hybrid and face-to-face classes.

Who has access to Blackboard?

In order to log into Bb a user must be an active student, faculty, or staff member of PVCC. Logon at My PVCC - <http://pv.my.vccs.edu>.

All active faculty have course shells on Bb for that current semester. Course shells are created based on course listings in SIS/PeopleSoft. Semester specific courses remain on Bb for three semesters afterwards. It is recommended for faculty to archive their courses and Blackboard grade book on a regular basis.

All active students have access to only their registered Bb courses for the current semester. Student enrollments are generated by the college's Bb System Administer and based on the enrollment listing in SIS/PeopleSoft. Enrollments in Bb are updated two weeks before classes begin through that semester's Refund Date.

Where can PVCC faculty find Blackboard support?

The Center for Excellence in Instruction (CEI) is the point of contact for faculty and staffs' Bb or Distance Learning questions. It is located in room 719, through the Betty Sue Jessup Library. The CEI is open to the faculty and staff Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm. Visit the CEI's website at http://www.pvcc.edu/center_for_excellence/mission_statement.php.

Online training tutorials are posted at http://www.pvcc.edu/center_for_excellence/how_to_user_guides.php and the helpful Web-Course Checklist is at http://www.pvcc.edu/docs/bb_web_course_check_list.pdf.

PVCC's eLearning Specialist and Blackboard System Administer can be reached at bbsupport@pvcc.edu or by calling 434.961.5316.

Where can PVCC students find Blackboard support?

For logon information (setting passwords), students should view PVCC's Blackboard Support website at http://www.pvcc.edu/center_for_excellence/student.php and Frequently Asked Student Questions are at http://www.pvcc.edu/center_for_excellence/faq.php. PVCC's Distance Learning Orientation is online at http://www.pvcc.edu/center_for_excellence/orientation/.

Also visit the VCCS Help page at <http://bbhelp.vccs.edu/>, which lists technical requirements, some useful free downloads and more.

Students should email their Blackboard questions to bbsupport@pvcc.edu or call the Blackboard System Administer at 434.961.5316.