

Introducing Flexible Grading from Blackboard Learn

New interface available with August 2023 product release



Announcing a game-changing solution specifically designed to enhance the grading experience for instructors. Flexible Grading from Blackboard Learn empowers instructors with unprecedented flexibility and efficiency. This groundbreaking update enables grading by question or student and even mix-and-match approaches. The enhanced experience extends to assignment submissions, ensuring a comprehensive and cohesive grading journey.

Flexible Grading features:

- Grade by question or student
- Easily move between student attempts
- Keep track of your grading process
- View both the attempt and the final grade for each assessment
- Provide meaningful feedback with or without a rubric
- Grade inline using Blackboard Annotate
- Collapse side panels to obtain more screen real estate
- Post all grades when ready



Help us spread the word. This is one of the most common instructor workflows in Learn Ultra, and we want to make sure your faculty members are aware of this new experience before it's in production.

Redefines how instructors grade

The rigid grading choices imposed by most Learning Management Systems (LMS) create unnecessary barriers leading to fatigue and frustration. Blackboard Learn's Flexible Grading eliminates the labor-intensive and button-heavy interfaces that can be draining to deliver an enhanced experience that redefines how instructors grade.

Prioritizes efficiency

A grading experience that prioritizes intuition and efficiency. Blackboard Learn's new interface offers intuitive and streamlined navigation, eliminating artificial barriers and saving instructors time and effort as they move easily and seamlessly from student to student.

A grading journey tailored to instructors

Each instructor has a unique approach to grading. Blackboard Learn's Flexible Grading experience is designed to align with natural workflows, empowering instructors to grade more effectively than ever before. Task-oriented navigation focuses squarely on the submissions and questions waiting for instructors to grade.

Before the Flexible Grading experience:

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Learn grading interface for a course titled "Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence". The main header shows "AI Assignment - Week 1" and "2 of 35 GRADED". The instructor's name, "Annika Alvarsson", is visible. A purple box highlights the student name "Andy | Andrew Austen" with a right-pointing arrow. Below this, the submission details include "Attempt 2", "Submitted 10/3/19, 3:13 PM", and "Size: -". The "Submission receipt number" is shown as "100" with a minus sign. The "Final Grade" is "75 / 100" with a plus sign. The main content area shows a document viewer for "Class Topics.docx" with a blue notification bar stating: "The conversion process may have changed the spacing in this submission. You can still download the original file." The document text includes sections on ocean exploration and science, the history of ocean exploration, the beginnings of the universe, earth, and life, and global plate tectonics. On the right, a sidebar contains options for "Rubric", "Originality Report", and "Feedback". The "Feedback for student" section has a text input field with the placeholder "Students see your feedback when you post grades" and "Cancel" and "Save" buttons.

1

1. Carousel management to move back and forth through the list
2. Grading by student supported

After the Flexible Grading experience:

The screenshot displays a Blackboard LMS interface for grading a submission. The top header (labeled '2') includes the course name 'Audio & Music Production: Principles of Music', the instructor 'Phil Coulson-Martinez', and the submission status 'Final Grade Posted' with a score of '19 / 20'. The main content area (labeled '1') shows the student's submission, which includes a document viewer for 'File-name.doc' and a text-based assignment. The right-hand side features an 'Overall Feedback' section with a rich text editor, a 'Rubrics' section showing a 'Submission' score of 18.75 / 100, and a 'Show descriptions' section with a rubric table.

Criterion	Score	Weight
Criterion 1	18.75	25% of total grade
Criterion 2	-	25% of total grade
Criterion 3	-	25% of total grade

Rubric Legend:

Excellent	25
Satisfactory	18.75
Unsatisfactory	12.5
Poor	6.25

1. Easier grading flow from student to student

2. Smaller header gives more real estate to the grading area that includes an attempt switcher

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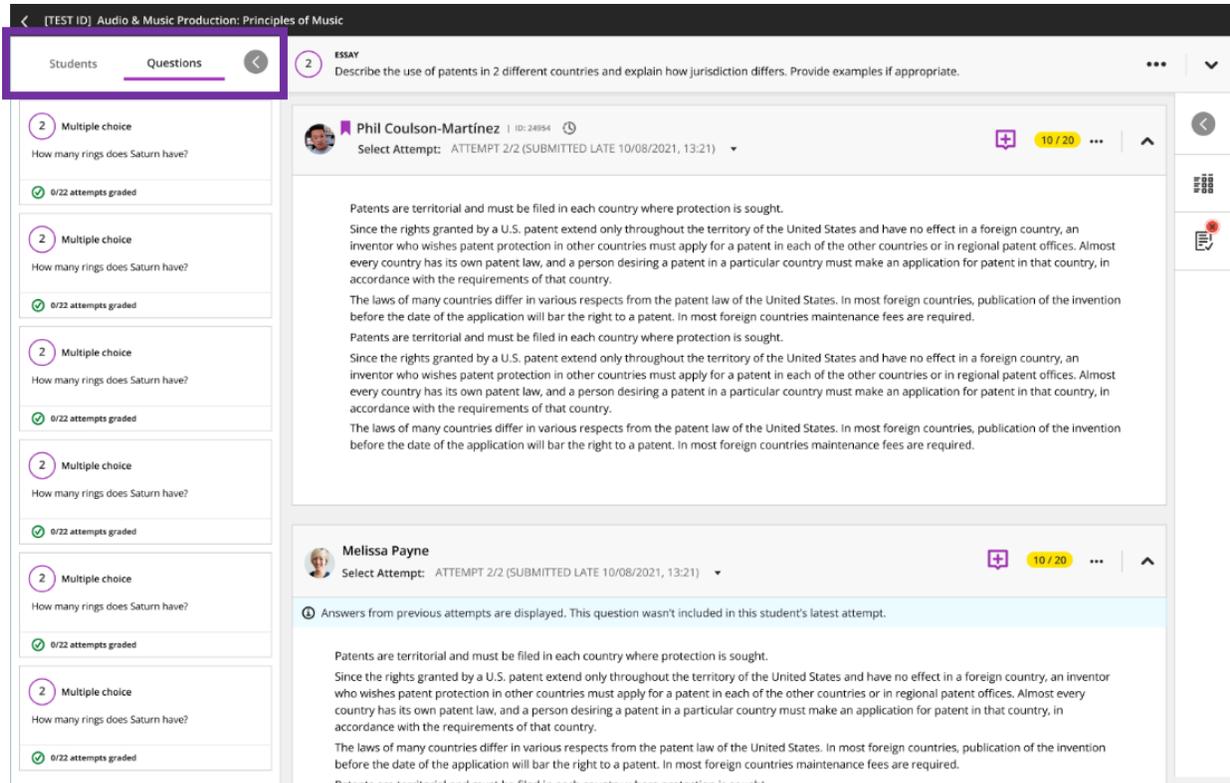
The screenshot displays a Blackboard assessment interface for 'Audio & Music Production: Principles of Music'. On the left, a 'Students' panel lists student names and their scores (100 / 200). A purple box labeled '3' highlights one student's entry. The main area shows a question titled '1 ESSAY' with a score of 19 / 20, highlighted by a purple box labeled '5'. Below it is a '2 MULTIPLE CHOICE' question with a score of 10 / 20. A purple box labeled '4' highlights a navigation arrow on the right side of the question area. At the top right, a 'Final Grade Posted' indicator shows 19 / 20, highlighted by a purple box labeled '6'. A purple box labeled '5' also highlights the attempt grade '19 / 20' in the top header area.

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4

- 3. Easier to post grades
- 4. Collapsible and expandable panels
- 5. Visible attempt grade
- 6. Visible assessment grade

5



5. Option of grading by question—easily toggleable to grading by student

Note: The new interface will be released behind an admin-facing feature flag and defaulted to ON. This means that Flexible Grading will be the default grading experience for individual student submissions BUT institutions will have the ability to turn it OFF if they prefer.

The Flexible Grading interface will evolve in the subsequent monthly releases to cover group submissions, anonymous grading, two grades per student, and peer review. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

[Bookmark the release notes page for all the latest updates and information.](#)



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