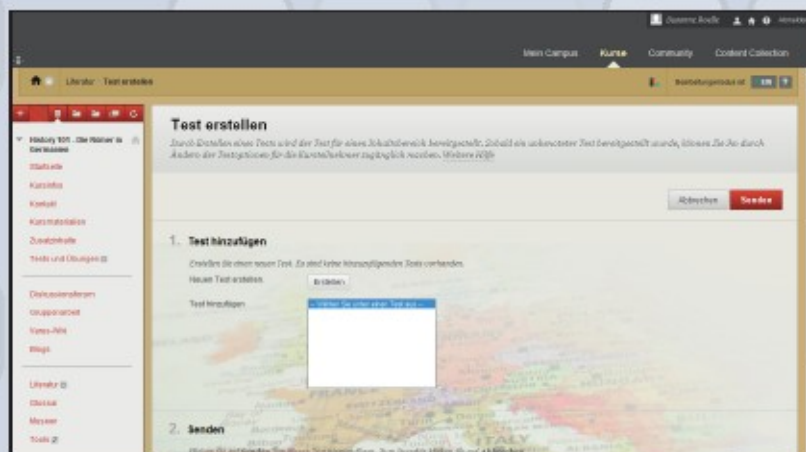


CATEGORY:

Learning Management System

TEST PRODUCT:

Blackboard Learn™  
from Blackboard



▲ Fast and easy to use: Blackboard Learn™

## Blackboard Learn™ under evaluation

High user-friendliness, appealing look and flexibility – all qualities that a Learning Management System (LMS) should have. We tested the LMS from Blackboard and there was much to discover.

► **An LMS must meet many requirements as there are many different user groups. This includes - in the classic sense - learners, teachers, and authors, although the latter often perform the same role.**

Thus, on the one hand, the system must be appealing and easy to use for the teacher, the teacher and the author must reach their goal quickly and also be able to create content with a good cost-benefit ratio. The LMS must ultimately generate added value, because no one implements an LMS merely for its own sake.

The social component of LMS is also becoming increasingly important, be it online collaboration, direct communication, organization of study groups, collaborative creation of content or simply the connection and integration of third-party platforms such as Facebook. While this is all very much in demand at universities, this aspect is still taking off within companies. Topics such as "Enterprise 2" and social media are, however, also becoming increasingly relevant there. The future security of an LMS thus also depends on the ability to recognize such trends.

Blackboard is an experienced provider that has already been active on the market for a long time. The commercial solution Blackboard

Learn is a comprehensive LMS with many features implemented not only for large and renowned universities, but also for businesses worldwide.

### Category: Technology

The technological aspect will only be touched upon briefly in the tests for LMS. Here we primarily tested the performance, or efficiency, of the LMS, whether it responds well to entries and whether it can be adapted easily for a business or an educational institution. Are features like an LDAP available and what is the hosting situation and general technological state of the LMS?

Here one must attest that that Blackboard Learn quite simply has, in all respects, what a modern LMS must have. The technical features such as scalability and adaptability achieved the same outstanding ratings as the administration did. Of the different LMS tested, the Blackboard Learn platform has shown itself to be especially user-friendly for teachers.

Blackboard Learn doesn't only rely on its own standards; rather, it is so flexible that, like a Lego brick, it can be integrated into a number of other systems and existing solutions.

**Category: User-related aspects**

Blackboard Learn impresses in particular with its author system and options for personalization. Communication works in both directions and collaborative use is also possible, Only a social learning component is lacking, but this is already in the planning stages, and as soon as it is on the market will round off the performance portfolio of the LMS.

Using Blackboard Learn is uncomplicated even for beginners, which not least is also a big advantage for the creation of learning content. Managing the content is thus also straightforward for those laymen among the teachers and students.

Content control is also an important user-related feature - it makes it possible for submitted texts to be searched for web content and possible plagiarism. For large educational institutions in particular this is a big advantage. For companies this would play more of a secondary role. With its layout and design, Blackboard Learn is among the most sophisticated systems. Nothing was left to chance with regards to window design and user interface, which already upon logging in indicates a high-quality rating. Using it as a learner here has also already found a high level of acceptance, as the presentation radiates quality.

Communication and collaboration at the level of "Social Learning" is already available with Blackboard Learn, although this is still in the development phase, and for this reason one can expect these important features to be implemented into the system in future.

**Conclusion**

Used in over 60 countries, Blackboard Learn is one of the most popular LMS in the international market. The level of internationalization is correspondingly high: The LMS fulfills the majority of language requirements that one could reasonably expect from an LMS in a globalized business world.

Viewed particularly critically by some of the user groups was the fact that an informal communication and social media interface was not available as the users would have liked. But on this point in particular, when asked, Blackboard stated that this was already in progress and would be available shortly.

**TEST REPORT**

Tested:  
**Blackboard Learn™  
 from Blackboard**

Category: **Learning Management System**

Rating	
Technology	
Administration	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Scalability	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Adaptability	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Hosting requirements	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Responsiveness	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Client system requirements	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Integration ability	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Performance "simultaneous users"	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Technological state	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Functionality & Features	
Communication	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Collaboration	<div style="width: 90%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Social learning possibilities	<div style="width: 85%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Social Web connection	<div style="width: 90%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Design of authoring tools	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Users	
Didactics	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Usability of authoring tools	<div style="width: 90%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Usability of general course creation	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Content management	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Complexity of use	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Internationality	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Efficiency	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Sense of significance	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Online help/documentation	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Support	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Look & feel	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>
Score	
Technology	100%
Features	85%
Users	92%
Total Result	
Grade: 1.4 (Very Good)	

Rating from 1.0 = very good to 6.0 = insufficient

