Enhancements in Outcomes Assessments
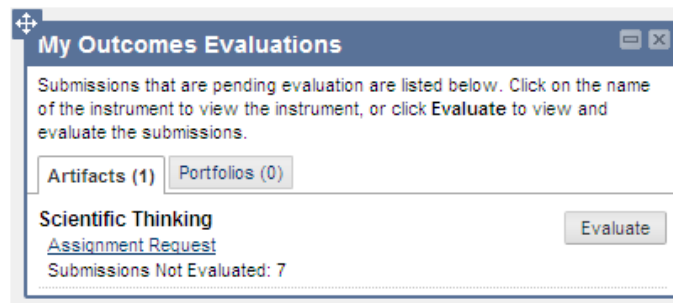# Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack 1

Blackboard learn⁺

Release Overview

Blackboard Learn™ 9.1 Service Pack 1 (SP1) includes enhancements to Outcomes Assesment that will result in a different and improved user experience for faculty and staff. Some enhancements are additive, meaning that a new feature was added that previously did not exist in the product. Once made aware of these additive enhancements, end users should be able to quickly use them in their assessment processes.

Also included in SP1 are some enhancements that change an existing capability or workflow, making it easier and more intuitive to use. However, end users who are accustomed to an earlier version of Outcomes Assessments will need some support and additional information to help them adjust to these changes. The purpose of this document is to make the transition to changes in Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP1 easier.

Instrument Evaluation Workflow

The workflow end users experience when evaluating learner submissions on an instrument such as an artifact template or ePortfolio include several enhancements. Users access submissions for instruments in the same ways as before, such as through the **My Outcomes Evaluations** module available on the Blackboard Learn My Institution page. Clicking **Evaluate** takes users to the Submissions page.

Submissions Page

Many changes have been made to the Submissions page to streamline the evaluation process.

1. **Search options are presented immediately, with more options for filtering the list.** These search options may be used to narrow down the list of submissions, which can be useful when multiple evaluators need to divide up the work of evaluating learner submissions based on some previously agreed upon method.

2. **Batch-select to efficiently evaluate multiple submissions.** This capability is intended to make it easier to select multiple specific submissions for evaluation; using this approach, especially in conjunction with the search options, can save evaluators time. The user may select one or more checkbox, and then click the Evaluate button in order to go to the Evaluate page for the first submission, and subsequent submissions.

3. **View the number of evaluations for each submission.** Multiple evaluations can be performed on a single submission. This informational column was added to clarify this fact, and provide easy access to previously completed evaluations.

4. **View the user who last evaluated the submission.** Because multiple evaluators may be working on the same list of instrument submissions, this informational column can help the evaluators, or the instrument administrator, communicate with the person responsible for the latest evaluation.

Evaluate Page

When a user clicks **Evaluate** or selects **Evaluate** from the contextual menu of an item, the Evaluate page is displayed. Changes to this page are significant. Informatin displayed on this page will vary based on the design of the instrument and and the current state of the submission, for example if it was previously evaluated.

1. **Streamlined, one-page view for the learner's submission information, artifacts, and rubrics.** This page has been substantially redesigned to make the process of reviewing and evaluating submissions more efficient. The biggest change is the side-by-side page layout, with easier access to the artifacts and rubrics.

2. **Submission information redesigned.** All of the submission information from previous versions is still present, but its "footprint" on the page is greatly reduced. Associated Standards, Objectives, and Goals have their own tab.

3. **Artifacts are immediately accessible.** For artifact templates, artifacts attached by learners are provided as links, saving an extra click.

4. **Evaluation Submission pane.** The various options related to the evaluation of a submission have been consolidated and presented in an Evaluate Submission panel. Clicking Evaluate next to a rubric takes the user to the rubric itself for evaluation. When multiple rubrics are provided for the instrument, each will be displayed here. In addition, General Comments and Publish options are presented.

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1. **Expand, minimize, or rearrange the rubric with a click.** These buttons control how the Evaluate Submission panel is sized and positioned on the page. Options include minimizing, expanding, and repositioning.

2. **Click to score.** This is unchanged from earlier versions, but clicking the option button for a particular descriptor will enter a score for the given criterion.

3. **Scroll to complete and submit the evaluation.** The rubric that is included for evaluation will typically be long enough to require scrolling to actually submit the scores entered by the evaluator.

After submitting an evlauation, the screen will refresh and display a confirmation message. Click **View Next** to quickly access the next submission.

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