As the demand for technology-enhanced learning continues to grow, institutions are challenged to meet significantly higher standards for system reliability, user support and the quality of the online learning experience. The **Blackboard Learning System™ - Vista Enterprise License** is the only e-Learning platform specifically built to support mission-critical, enterprise-class e-Learning deployments across the extended academic enterprise. This robust platform is optimized for educational institutions that have multiple campuses or decentralized locations. The Blackboard Learning System provides a centralized e-Learning infrastructure while enabling autonomy and diverse operating procedures for separate organizations. This platform provides the “best of both worlds” for decentralized institutions.

**THE BLACKBOARD LEARNING SYSTEM - VISTA ENTERPRISE LICENSE CONSISTS OF:**

**Virtual Course Environment** for course preparation, delivery, and management  
**Community Manager** for supporting diverse operating groups on campus  
**Learning Object Manager** for distributing and reusing academic content  
**Blackboard PowerLinks® Kit** for software development  
**Blackboard PowerSight Kit®** for reporting

With the Blackboard Learning System, even the largest educational systems and consortia can reliably scale their e-Learning programs, create powerful efficiencies enterprise-wide and support the unique demands of diverse academic constituents.

**Virtual Course Environment**

The Blackboard Learning System includes a Virtual Course Environment built to support different teaching styles and learning needs. With an easy-to-use interface and a
complete set of efficient tools, the Blackboard Learning System is designed to be quickly adopted across an institution and provide immediate value to faculty as they prepare, deliver and manage their courses.

The Virtual Course Environment enables:

Easy Course Preparation
The Blackboard Learning System makes preparing for an upcoming term and putting course materials online easier than ever before. It is intuitive and easy to learn, allowing faculty to get up and running quickly; steering the focus on creating their content and learning activities. With a few simple clicks, instructors can post their syllabus, add course notes or set up discussion topics. Instructors also have instant access to an interactive student view to experience their course exactly as a student would.

Efficient Course Management
When course activity grows, faculty face the challenge of keeping pace with the volume of interactions that occur with students on a daily basis. With the Blackboard Learning System, instructors can easily engage with students, manage their assignment and assessment submissions and evaluate their performance. For example, from a single console instructors can easily survey student discussion posts, compare their participation with the class average and record grades. Faculty can also easily monitor which assessments have already been graded and which students have missed assignment deadlines. These capabilities save time and let instructors focus the majority of their efforts on the quality of student contributions.

Impact on Learning Outcomes
As e-Learning programs serve broader student populations, instructors encounter diverse learning styles and needs. Designed expressly to help instructors foster engaging, dynamic learning experiences, the Blackboard Learning System sets the standard in delivering innovative tools and enhancements to improve learning outcomes. Faculty can integrate course content and activities into topic-focused learning modules, or even deliver personalized content to meet students’ unique needs. This learning platform provides extensive support for group work, giving students and faculty the tools they need to communicate and collaborate effectively.

Community Manager
An educational institution consists of many different communities, such as colleges, schools, departments and programs, each with distinct needs and expectations of their e-Learning system. The Community Manager lets institutions organize their e-Learning approach to support these diverse communities cost-effectively. Communities can create their own learning object repositories, choose their own set of teaching and learning tools and manage their own portion of the system — all in keeping with their community identity and brand. Communities have the freedom to work au-
tonomously but still enjoy the support and reliability of a central e-Learning system. For example, an institution could enable the School of Business to display its own brand and use its own staff to administer its e-Learning initiatives. All the while, the School of Business would still run on the same system as the main undergraduate programs.

**Learning Object Manager**

Developing online content is undoubtedly the greatest e-Learning expense for an educational institution. The Learning Object Manager makes it more efficient for the entire academic enterprise to distribute and reuse academic content. Designed specifically for use with the Virtual Course Environment, the Learning Object Manager gives faculty and instructional designers exactly what they need to effectively manage content for their courses. For example, the History Department could create a learning object on Research Methods place it in a learning object repository, and make it available for every History instructor to use.

Whether an institution has large multi-section courses with a common set of assignments, collaborative online course development between multiple instructors or instructional designers, or an institutional learning object initiative; learning object management capabilities are necessary to efficiently support its programs.

**Blackboard PowerLinks® Kit**

With the Blackboard PowerLinks Kit for software development, institutions can fully integrate custom applications with the Blackboard Learning System as though they were natively part of the platform, creating a seamless experience for faculty and students. For example, with a Blackboard PowerLink to the Library system, instructors can include specific journal articles in their courses without prompting students to log in with a separate password.

The Blackboard PowerLinks Kit includes web services, Java interfaces and detailed documentation - providing a secure way to integrate extensions into the Blackboard Learning System environment. As institutions upgrade to newer versions of the Blackboard Learning System, their integration solutions are insulated so that they will continue to work over time. Developers can also share their work and consult with peers by participating in the Blackboard Developers Network.

**Blackboard PowerSight® Kit**

With the Blackboard PowerSight Kit for reporting, administrators can aggregate learning data and efficiently conduct analysis for institutional reporting purposes, such as research on learning effectiveness, e-Learning program planning or system growth planning. Administrators can use the roll-up reports provided by the Blackboard PowerSight Kit or export the raw tracking data to their favorite reporting packages for custom analysis. For example, administrators can analyze how learning tool usage varies in fully online courses versus technology-enhanced or hybrid courses, or which instructional activities are correlated with higher student retention rates.

**Support for Multiple Institutions**

The Blackboard Learning System is designed with the needs of the extended academic enterprise in mind. Institutions can configure
"e-Learning has become an important part of the learning environment at our University, taking on mission-critical status. With the Blackboard Learning System - Vista Enterprise License, we have a reliable architecture, proven enterprise capabilities, and a full suite of innovative teaching and learning tools to support the growing needs of our faculty, staff, and students."

-Lanny Arvan, Assistant CIO
Educational Technologies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Extended academic enterprises that wish to benefit from the reliability and cost savings of centralized e-Learning infrastructure can do so without constraining their operational flexibility or infringing upon the academic freedom of the institutions they serve. The Blackboard Learning System is uniquely designed to support multiple campuses, a variety of programs with different operating requirements and diverse faculties with varied approaches to e-Learning.

**Enterprise Technology Foundation**

With a state-of-the-art, multi-tier architecture, the Blackboard Learning System leverages the BEA WebLogic Enterprise Server, Oracle9i™ or Microsoft SQL Server databases, and the proven enterprise capabilities of Java™ 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE™) - technology that powers many of the world’s highest volume Web sites. Institutions rely on the Blackboard Learning System’s enterprise technology foundation to accommodate heavy traffic, ensure data integrity, optimize system performance, and facilitate rapid growth of their e-Learning deployments across large, multi-institution systems and consortia. The end result is an outstanding online experience for students, faculty and staff across the extended academic enterprise.