SFU will upgrade to Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack 9 in early May, 2013. This guide will highlight changes to the system interface and select new features.

1. Course to Course Navigation

Instructors and students can move between courses by selecting from a simple drop down located above the course menu area rather than having to return to the My Courses list. When moving this way, the context is maintained, e.g. move from the Grade Center in one course directly to the Grade Center in another.

2. Home Button

Instructors and students can use the Home button to quickly return to the course entry point from anywhere in the course.

3. Course Menu Add Menu Item Option

The order of the options in the Course Menu Add Item menu has changed, and some have been renamed. The Module Page and Course Link items have been moved. The word “create” has been removed from each option. Course Link has replaced the previous “Create External Link.”

4. Collapse Course Menu Behavior

The course menu has been modified to only retain its collapsed state for the duration of the user session and on a per-course basis. When a user enters a course for the first time in a given login session, the menu will be expanded. If the user collapses the menu, it will stay collapsed for that course only, until either the user expands the menu again, or until the session ends.

5. Course Item Controls (Context Menus and Re-order Controls)

Context menus, those small dropdown menus to the right of items, and re-order arrows, are not visible unless you mouse-over the item you wish to control. This also affects the Collapse/Expand sidebar feature. To view the tab which controls this feature, you must mouse over the vertical divider between the Content Panel and the left sidebar.
6. CONTENT AREA MENU BUTTONS HAVE NEW LOOK

BB Learn 9.1 SP7

BB Learn 9.1 SP9

7. FOLDER TITLE NOT UNDERLINED

Although the title of a folder is no longer underlined, when the user mouses over the item, the cursor changes to a pointing finger to indicate that it is linked.

8. AUTOMATIC REGRADING

You are now able regrade a test in several ways automatically: (1) delete a test question and possible points earned, (2) change point values of questions for one or several questions and have the grade be automatically recalculated for all submissions, or (3) change the correct answer choice of a question, which will regrade all attempts of existing submissions. Notification will be sent to the instructor and optionally to the students who are impacted by the change. Once a test has been deployed and completed by at least one student, the Regrading option becomes available.

a. Select Course Management > Control Panel > Course Tools > Tests, Surveys, and Pools > Tests > select Edit for the desired test to access the Test Canvas.

b. Choose Delete and Regrade to completely remove a problematic test question from a test and re-calculate student grades OR Update and Regrade to replace the point value for a question with a newly assigned point value.

9. NEGATIVE MARKING

Apply negative point values for incorrect answers to multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, and hot spot assessment question types. To set this option up:

a. Turn on the partial credit and negative scores option in the Questions Settings menu within the Test Canvas.

b. While editing a test question, under Options, select Allow Partial Credit, and Allow Negative Scores for Incorrect Answers.

c. Underneath each answer option that will receive negative points; enter the Partial Credit Percentage as a negative number.
10. Rubrics Update:

The interactive rubrics now include a Percent Range option which allows a single rubric to work with any assignment where the scores are calculated as a percentage of the item being graded. Select Course Management > Control Panel > Course Tools > Rubrics > Create Rubric. Select a Percent Range rubric from the Rubric Type drop-down menu.

The user then enters the Rubric Percentage ranges, identifying the point range possible for any given criteria and achievement level. During the grading process, the instructor selects the desired percentage level for a particular achievement level and the system calculates the points earned by multiplying the weight x achievement percentage x item points.

11. Course Themes:

Select from a variety of color schemes and background images to add visual interest to the course using Course Themes. Course Themes adds a background image to the course display and changes the color of the user interface within the course, including the Course Menu, buttons, and controls. Instructors can apply one of the available themes to match their design preferences and teaching methods. Themes do not affect course content and can be changed at any time.

Course Themes can be accessed via the Change Course Theme color wheel icon located next to the Edit Mode switch.

12. Course Reports

Course Reports now include four new reporting options found in the Control Panel > Evaluation > Course Reports. Select the report to be run, access its context menu, select Run. Reports can be downloaded in html, pdf, Word, and Excel formats. New reports include:

a. Course Activity Overview provides overall activity within a single course, sorted by student and date. Data includes the total and average time spent per user and the total amount of activity the user had in the course.

b. Course Coverage Report provides goals coverage information for items that have been aligned.

c. Course Performance provides per-course performance against a selected set of goals.

d. Student Overview for Single Course provides an individual student’s activity within a course, sorted by date. Data includes the total overall time the student spent in the course as well as detailed information about the student’s activity, such as which items and Content Areas the student accessed and the time spent on each.