

Blackboard Learn Original and Ultra Experience Comparison: Base Navigation and Courses

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About this Document

Thanks for your interest in the Ultra Experience for Learn (base navigation and courses)! This document is designed to help Blackboard Learn clients who are considering adopting either aspect of the Ultra Experience (base navigation, courses) and want to understand its current and future state. Because this document is intended to be used as part of active discussions with Blackboard staff, it should not be shared outside of your institution.

More specifically, this document seeks to provide a broad overview of the *most common features* considered by institutions regarding the adoption of Learn Ultra. It should not be treated as an exhaustive list. However, if you have a question about something that is not included on this list, please reach out to your account executive and we are happy to answer any questions.

“Base Navigation” is used in this document to indicate a feature that manifests generally within the user experience outside of courses when the [Ultra Experience is enabled](#). Because some features manifest specifically inside courses, “Ultra Courses” is used to clarify this distinction. For your convenience, we have divided features that are related to Base Navigation and Ultra Courses into separate tables. Features that are in both will be listed in both tables.

All features that are currently available in Original Courses continue to be available with Base Navigation. If you desire to use both Original and Ultra courses, which we recommend as an option for phased Ultra course adoption, you do so on a course-by-course basis by leveraging the Dual Course Mode (also known as Instructor Choice).

Features are composed of many elements and are implemented with a specific user interface in both the Original and Ultra experiences. The “more info” link is provided as a convenience so that these details can be better understood. Please reach out to your Blackboard account executive to seek clarification as needed.

Regarding features that are not currently available in Learn Ultra, but are indicated as “planned,” we are happy to provide delivery date estimates, upon request. Please note that the future implementation of planned features in Learn Ultra (base navigation and courses) may differ from the current implementation in Learn Original (base navigation and courses).

For features that are not currently available in Ultra base navigation or Ultra courses, and are indicated as “not currently planned,” we welcome feedback that would change our current view about future inclusion.

Once again, thank you for your interest, and we look forward to partnering with you to better understand your desired workflows and uses cases and to help you with a plan for adopting Ultra base navigation and Ultra courses!

Original Course and Ultra Course Feature Comparison Table

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Achievements	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievements are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses. 	More
Adaptive Release ('Conditional Release' in Ultra)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date and time, force sequence (within Learning Modules) and performance-based release are available now in Ultra Courses Conditional release by users and groups now available in Ultra Courses 	More
Add a blank page	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blank pages are called Documents in Ultra. 	More
Add item or page	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Additional Attempts to students in specific Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is included in Ultra Courses Due date exceptions will be covered in a later release 	More
Ally	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional capabilities added recently. 	More
Announcements (Course Level)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text editor added to course announcements. Announcements can now be sent by email. Audio video content can now be added to announcements. Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses. 	More
Anonymous Grading	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anonymous Grading is available in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Assignments	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments are available in Ultra Courses 	More
Attendance	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn Ultra currently supports the attendance feature 	More
Audio/Video Feedback	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audio/Video feedback is available for assessments and announcements More areas are planned for inclusion in the future. 	More
Batch (Bulk) Edit	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available now in Ultra with a more streamlined workflow 	More

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Banner Image	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banner image now available in Ultra courses More capabilities planned 	
Blackboard Mobile App	Yes	Yes	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available now for Learn Ultra (formerly called Bb Student) 	More
Blogs	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blogs are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses. 	More
Bulk Download	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulk download of assessments is now available in Ultra 	More
Calculated Formula	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated Formula test type is now available in Ultra 	
Calculated Numeric	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated Numeric test now included in Ultra Course View 	
Calendar	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar is available now in Learn Ultra Links added to calendar 	More
Calendar - Export	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar - export is available now in Learn Ultra and will synch with the Learn calendar 8 times a day 	More
Calendar - Import	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar import is available now in Learn Ultra as a snapshot only Additional importing calendar options are planned 	More
Collaborate	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integration with Collaborate is available now in Ultra Courses Additional integration options are planned 	More
Contacts	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts are not currently planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Content Collection	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content Collection is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Content Editor	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Content Editor is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Course Builder Role	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Builder role is planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Course Link	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course links are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Course Messages	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Messages are available now in Learn Ultra More capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Course Reports	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Reports (“Student Activity” in Ultra Courses) are available now in Learn Ultra The exact details of the reports vary between Learn Original and Ultra courses 	More
Course Structures	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Structures are not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Course Surveys	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Surveys are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Course Themes	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Themes are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Date Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date Management (known as “Batch edit due dates” is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Decimal Points in Tests	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decimal points in tests is now supported in Ultra 	
Delegated Grading	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegated Grading is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Discussions	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Discussion Analysis	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Analysis is available in Ultra Courses 	More
Display one question at a time	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to display only one question at a time 	
Dropping grades	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now in Ultra Courses, users will be able to drop X grades within a category when using the overall grade calculation by categories. Exemptions coming in Ultra Course 	

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Email	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors may send Messages to students via Email (SMTP) Receiving notifications via Email (SMTP) is available in Ultra now. 	More
Embedded Insights	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded Insights are part of the Ultra Course View 	
Feature toggle	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admins have the option to turn on/off certain features for a limited time. 	More
Feedback controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to decide when to show the submission, grade, automated feedback and correct scores to students. 	
Files	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Files are available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Folders	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Folders are available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Glossary	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glossary is not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Goals	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals are available now in Ultra Courses Goal Reporting is planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Grade Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade Center (“Gradebook” in Ultra Courses) is available now in Ultra Courses Student list view of the Gradebook is available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Grade Center Search and Filter	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra Course view allows for quick searches and rapid filter options. Advanced filters are now included in Ultra Courses. 	More
Groups	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups are available now in Ultra Courses for Assignments, Tests, and Discussions. Hidden and visible group sets are now available at Ultra Courses Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Groups – Manual Enrollment	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual group enrollment is available in Ultra 	More
Groups – Random Enrollment	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random group enrollment is available in Ultra 	More

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Groups – Self-Enrollment	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-enrollment is available in Ultra 	More
Guest Access	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest role is planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	
Insert Item from Web	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra Courses natively embed videos from multiple websites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VidGrid Panopto FlipGrid SlideShare Prezi VoiceThread KhanAcademy Kaltura soundcloud spotify Genial.ly NearPod Quizlet Vimeo YouTube EdPuzzle H5P 	
Institution based cloud storage	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O365 and GSuite are supported currently 	More
Items	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items (“Documents” in Ultra Courses) are available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Item Analysis	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called Question analysis in Ultra and is more accessible in Ultra Courses 	More
Journals	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journals (graded and non-graded) are available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Learning Modules	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Modules are available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Lesson Plans	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson Plans are not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
LTI	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTI v1.3 is available now in Learn Ultra LTI Content Item Message is available now in Learn Ultra Additional LTI capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Mashup: Flickr	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flickr Mashup is not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Mashup: Slideshare	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slideshare Mashup is not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Mashup: YouTube	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integration with YouTube is available in Ultra Courses 	More
Microsoft teams classes	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration with Microsoft team classes. Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	
Observer Access	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Observer role is planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	
Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations are available now in Learn Ultra 	More
Office 365/G Suite Integration	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We plan to continue to deepen the Office 365/ G Suite integration over time 	
Parallel grading	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra parallel grading offers improved workflows Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Password protected assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access code functionality is now available on Ultra Courses. 	
Prevent late submissions	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to prevent late submissions. Ability to prevent students from starting a new submission after the due date. 	
Performance Dashboard	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Dashboard is not currently planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses, many of the use cases provided by the Performance Dashboard are accommodated via Embedded Analytics. 	More
Portfolio	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolios are available now in Learn Ultra Base Navigation Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Progress tracking	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called Review status in Original Students able to mark their progress inside Ultra Courses. Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Rich Text Editor (RTE)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Font, size and color options are now available. Tables are now available Ultra Course View does have a RTE. We do have plans to increase the functionality of this tool to include items such as: Emojis, code snippets, and more. 	
Rubrics	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubrics are available now in Ultra Courses Points-based rubrics available in Ultra Courses. Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Question Banks	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question banks can be created/imported in Ultra. 	More
Question Pools	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the replacement to Original's Random Blocks and Question Sets. 	More
Question Regrading	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question regrading is available in Ultra Courses 	
SafeAssign	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SafeAssign is available for Assignments and Essay questions in Tests in Ultra Courses 	More
SafeAssign Direct Submit	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SafeAssign Direct Submit is planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Score per Question	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score per question is available now in Ultra Courses 	
SCORM	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCORM is available now in Ultra Courses 	More
Self and Peer Assessment	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative peer assessment is now available in Ultra Courses. More capabilities planned in the future. 	More
Student Preview	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Preview in Ultra allows for a reset of the room to test multiple variables easily. 	More
Tasks	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasks are not currently planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More

Feature Name	In Original Course?	In Ultra Course?	More Planned for the Ultra Course?	Notes	More Info
Tests	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests are currently available in Ultra Courses. Types available are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Essay ○ Fill in the Blank ○ Matching ○ Multiple choice (single and multiple correct) ○ True/False ○ Calculated Formula • Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Tests – Additional Time	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in Ultra with options of 50%, 100%, and Unlimited 	More
Video Everywhere / Browse My YouTube Videos	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Everywhere, or Browse My YouTube Videos, is called Insert YouTube Video in Ultra Courses 	More
Web Link	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web Links (HTTP/HTTPS/LTI) are currently available in Ultra Courses 	More
Wikis	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wikis are not planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Ultra Extension Framework	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ultra Extension Framework is a new inclusion point for Blackboard Partners to infuse content into the Ultra System. 	
Unsubmitted Work Counts as Zero	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsubmitted work counts as zero is an Ultra only feature and is currently available • Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More

Original and Base Navigation Feature Comparison Table

Feature Name	In Original Navigation?	In Ultra Base Navigation?	More Planned for Ultra Base Navigation?	Notes	More Info
Activity Stream	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Stream is available as part of the Ultra Experience • Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion 	More

Announcements (System Level)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcements are available now in Ultra Base Navigation 	More
Branding	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Login page, base navigation logo and Color Selection customizations are available now URL branding is now available in Ultra 	More
Course Catalog	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course catalog for Original courses in an Ultra-enabled environment is supported Course catalog for Ultra courses is planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Content Collection	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content Collection is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Course Reports	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Reports (“Student Activity” in Ultra Courses) are available now in Learn Ultra The exact details of the reports vary between Learn Original and Ultra courses 	More
Embedded Insights	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded Insights are part of the Ultra Experience 	
Enterprise Surveys	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise Surveys are available now in Learn Ultra 	More
Guest Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited guest access is available when Ultra Base Navigation is turned on for Original course through the course catalog 	
Images to identify courses on course cards/tiles	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ultra experience allows for images to be added on a course card/tile for both Original and Ultra courses. This image will replace the banner image in Original courses if manually uploaded. Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Institution based cloud storage	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O365 and GSuite are supported currently 	More

Language Packs	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language Packs are available now in Learn Ultra Support for custom language packs is available now (“Localization” in Ultra Courses”) 	More
LTI	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTI v1.3 is available in Learn Ultra LTI Content Item Message is available now in Learn Ultra Additional LTI capabilities are planned for inclusion in Learn Ultra 	More
Messages: Read Only	Yes	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrators can choose whether students are able to create and reply to messages when base navigation has been turned on. New message indication in Base Navigation 	More
My Grades	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Grades (“Grades” in Learn Ultra) is available now in Learn Ultra 	More
Notifications	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifications are available now in Learn Ultra via the Activity Stream, email and Text/SMS. 	More
Observer Dashboard	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Observer Dashboard is planned for inclusion in Ultra Base Navigation A workaround is available for client who are using Original courses 	
Portfolio	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolios are available now in Learn Ultra Base Navigation 	More
Push Notifications to mobile	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is included as part of the move to the Ultra Experience 	
Retention Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention Center (at risk notifications, available in the Activity Stream) is available now in Learn Ultra Additional capabilities are planned for inclusion in Ultra Courses 	More
Rich Text Editor (RTE)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra Course View does have a RTE. We do have plans to increase the functionality of this tool to include items such as: Strikethrough, Text Alignment, Emoji, Tables, and more. 	

Tabs	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution Page is available Learn Ultra (“Tabs and Modules” replacement) 	More
User Profile	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avatar and other information available now • Pronouns and name pronunciation now available for Ultra Courses. 	More