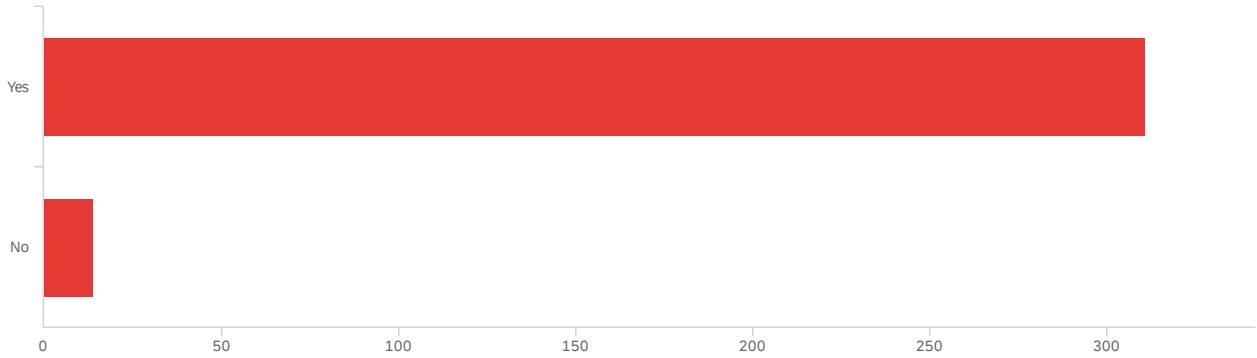


Summary Report

Blackboard Usage Survey 2019

November 16, 2020 6:13 PM CST

AQ1 - Have you used Blackboard as part of your teaching in the last 3 years?

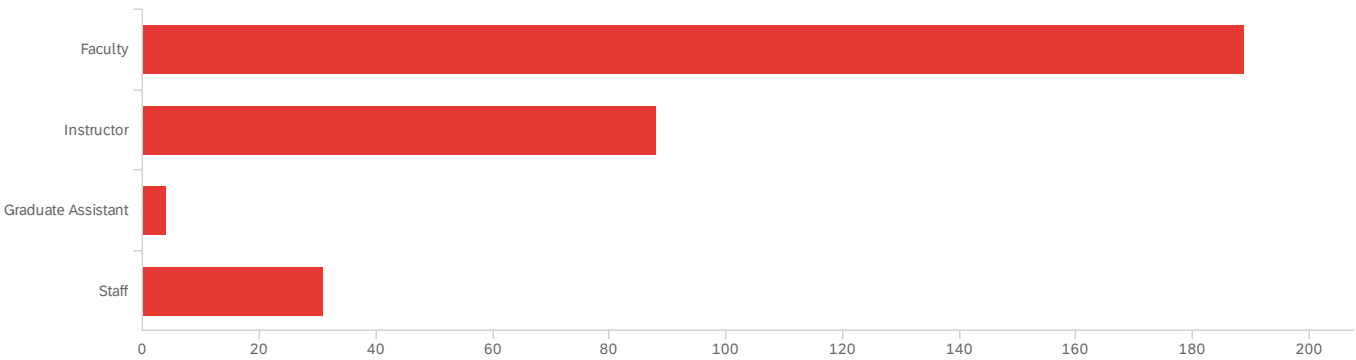


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	95.69% 311
2	No	4.31% 14

325

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

DQ1 - What is your role at NIU?

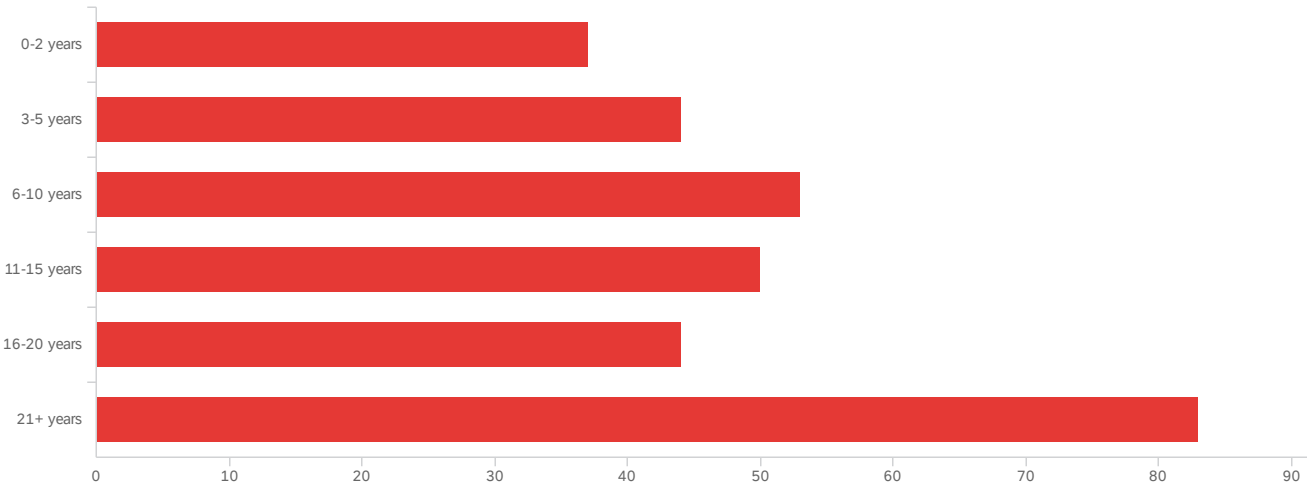


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Faculty	60.58% 189
2	Instructor	28.21% 88
3	Graduate Assistant	1.28% 4
4	Staff	9.94% 31

312

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

DQ3 - How many years have you been teaching?

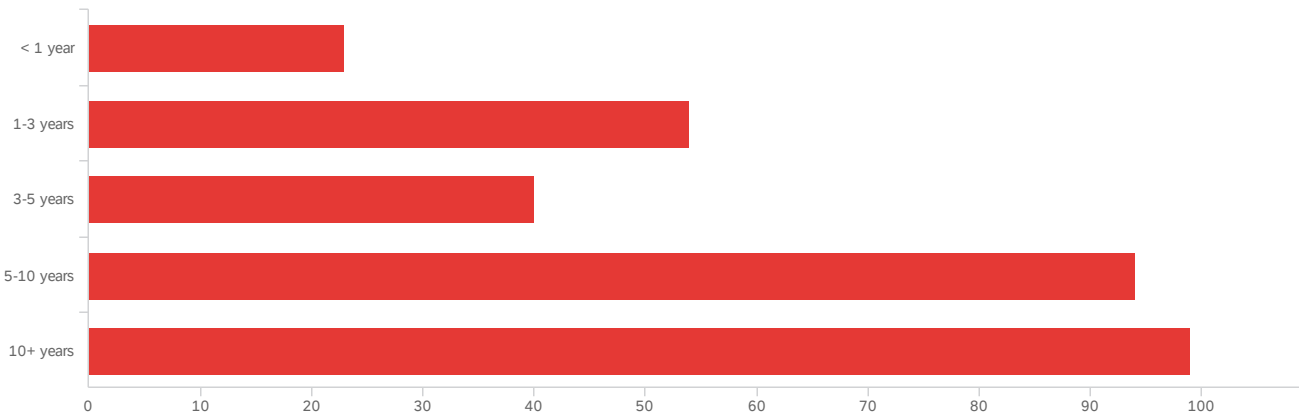


#	Field	Choice Count
1	0-2 years	11.90% 37
2	3-5 years	14.15% 44
3	6-10 years	17.04% 53
4	11-15 years	16.08% 50
5	16-20 years	14.15% 44
6	21+ years	26.69% 83

311

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

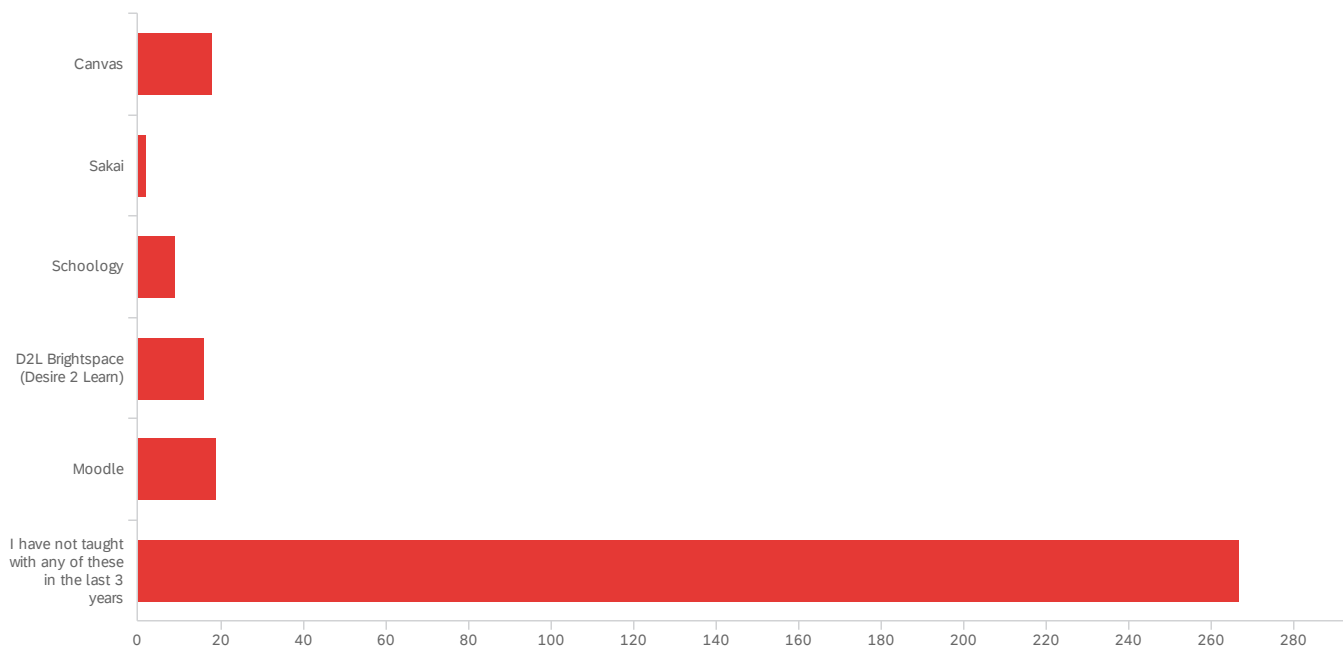
AQ1A - How long have you been teaching with Blackboard?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	< 1 year	7.42% 23
2	1-3 years	17.42% 54
3	3-5 years	12.90% 40
4	5-10 years	30.32% 94
5	10+ years	31.94% 99
		310

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

AQ2 - Have you taught with any of these learning management systems in the last 3 years? (select all that apply)

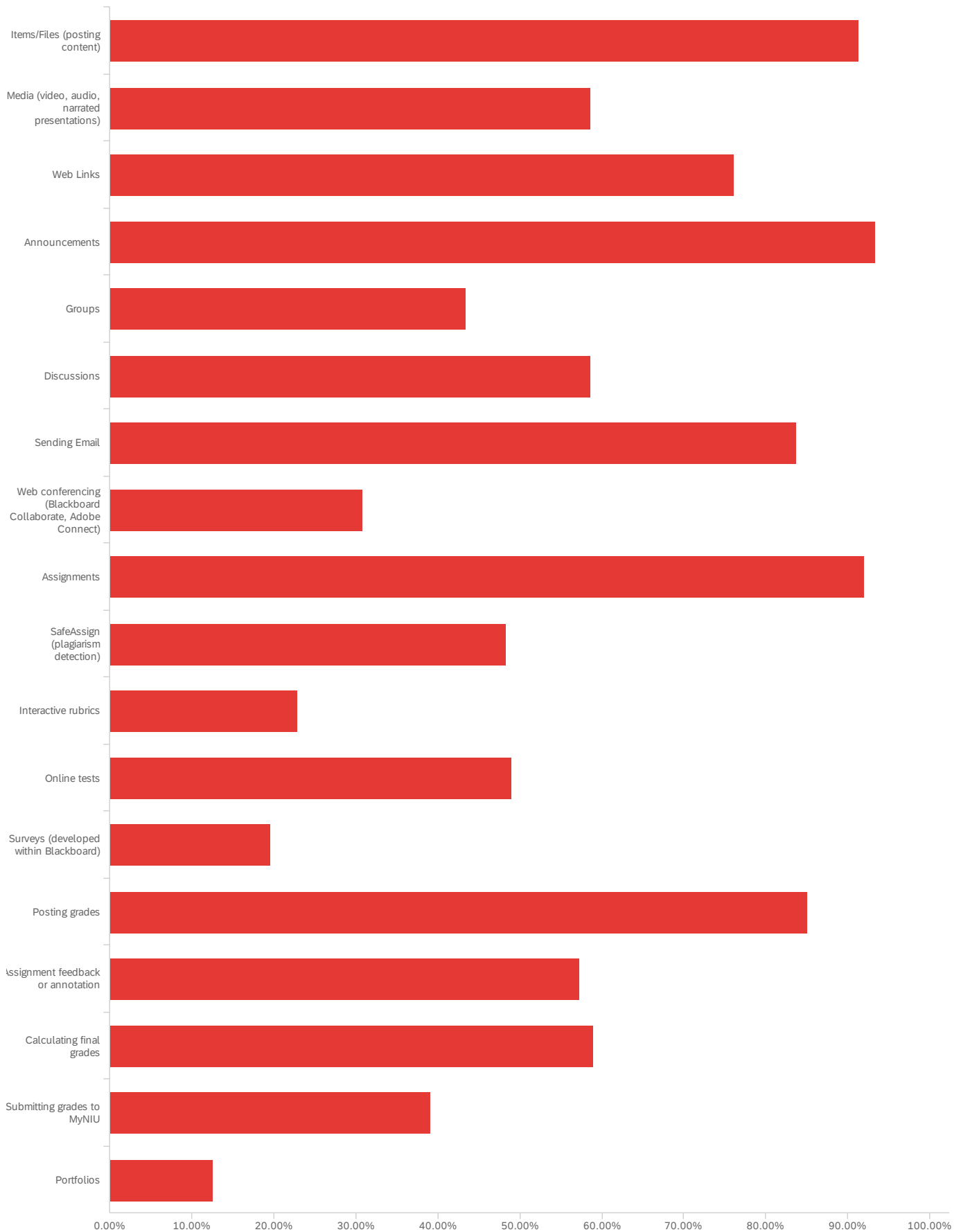


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Canvas	5.44% 18
2	Sakai	0.60% 2
3	Schoology	2.72% 9
4	D2L Brightspace (Desire 2 Learn)	4.83% 16
5	Moodle	5.74% 19
7	I have not taught with any of these in the last 3 years	80.66% 267

331

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

AQ5 - A learning management system can serve a wide range of functions to support teaching and learning. Which of the following have you used in Blackboard to support your teaching in the last three years? (Select all that apply)



Field

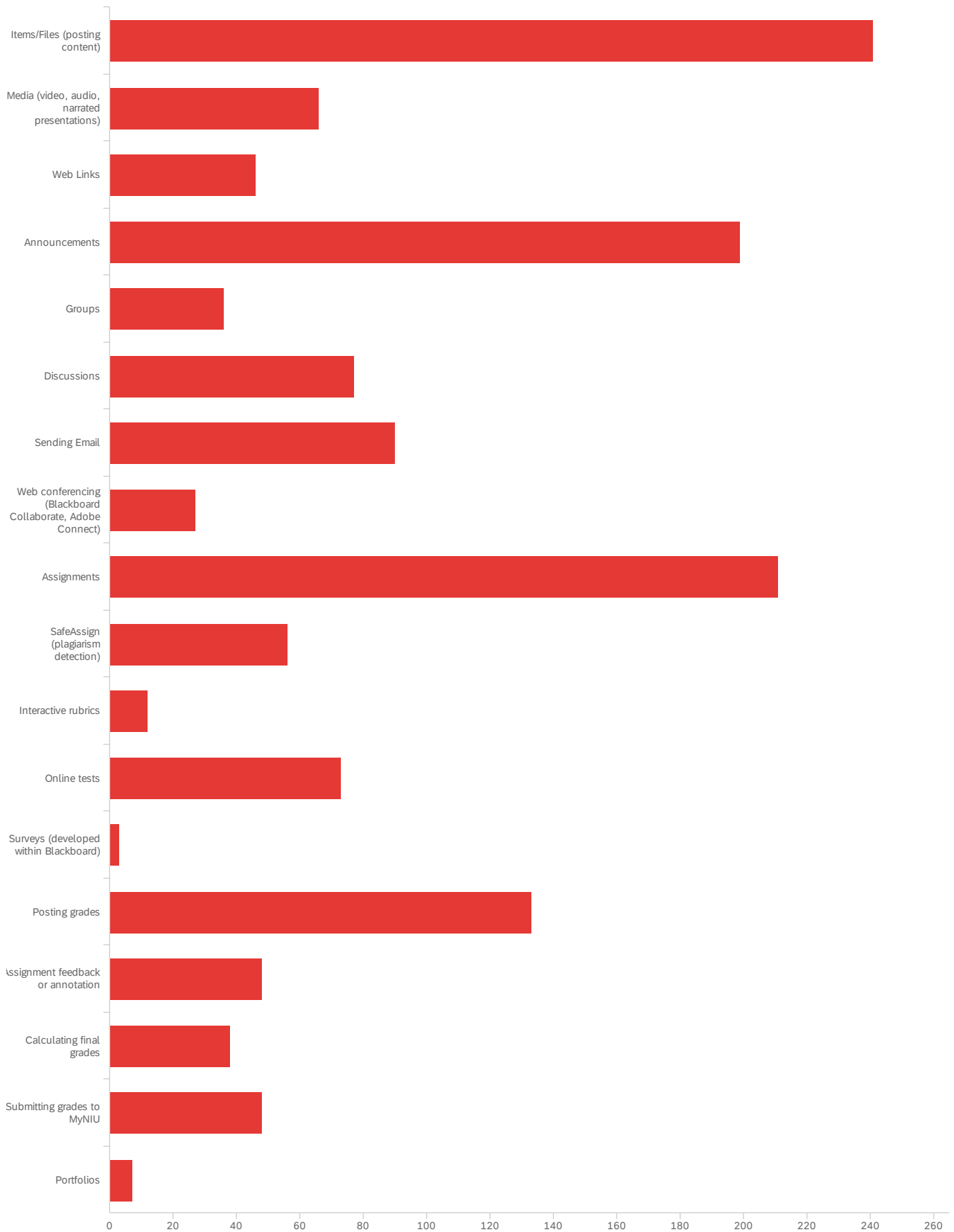
Choice Count

Field	Choice Count
Items/Files (posting content)	91.39% 276
Media (video, audio, narrated presentations)	58.61% 177
Web Links	76.16% 230
Announcements	93.38% 282
Groups	43.38% 131
Discussions	58.61% 177
Sending Email	83.77% 253
Web conferencing (Blackboard Collaborate, Adobe Connect)	30.79% 93
Assignments	92.05% 278
SafeAssign (plagiarism detection)	48.34% 146
Interactive rubrics	22.85% 69
Online tests	49.01% 148
Surveys (developed within Blackboard)	19.54% 59
Posting grades	85.10% 257
Assignment feedback or annotation	57.28% 173
Calculating final grades	58.94% 178
Submitting grades to MyNIU	39.07% 118
Portfolios	12.58% 38

302

Showing rows 1 - 19 of 19

AQ6 - Which features are most important for your teaching? Select up to 5.



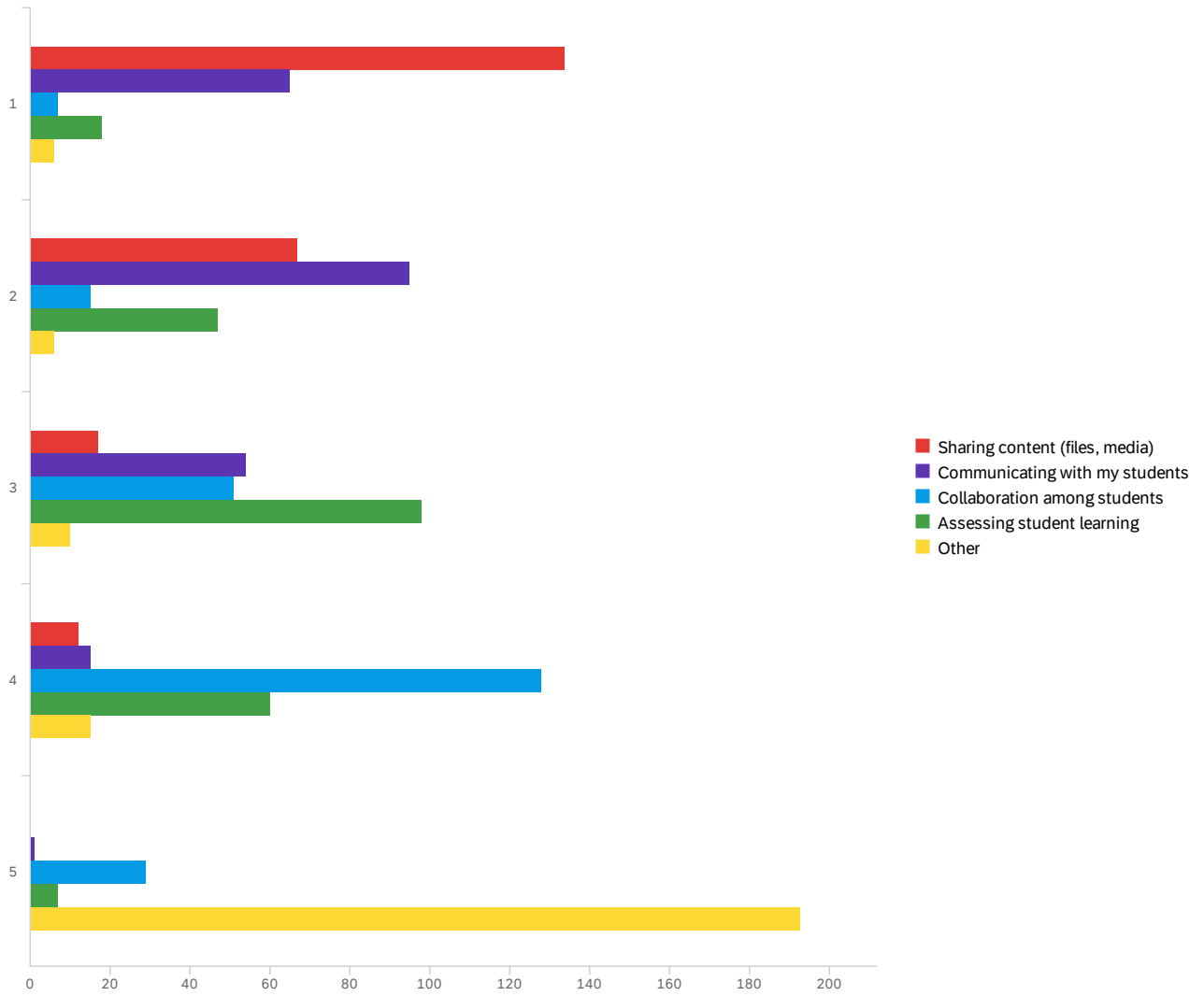
#	Field	Choice Count
1	Items/Files (posting content)	17.08% 241
2	Media (video, audio, narrated presentations)	4.68% 66
3	Web Links	3.26% 46
4	Announcements	14.10% 199
5	Groups	2.55% 36
6	Discussions	5.46% 77
7	Sending Email	6.38% 90
8	Web conferencing (Blackboard Collaborate, Adobe Connect)	1.91% 27
9	Assignments	14.95% 211
10	SafeAssign (plagiarism detection)	3.97% 56
11	Interactive rubrics	0.85% 12
12	Online tests	5.17% 73
13	Surveys (developed within Blackboard)	0.21% 3
14	Posting grades	9.43% 133
15	Assignment feedback or annotation	3.40% 48
16	Calculating final grades	2.69% 38
17	Submitting grades to MyNIU	3.40% 48
18	Portfolios	0.50% 7

1411

Showing rows 1 - 19 of 19

AQ7 - Considering functions as opposed to specific tools, rank the following aspects of

Blackboard according to how important they are to your teaching.

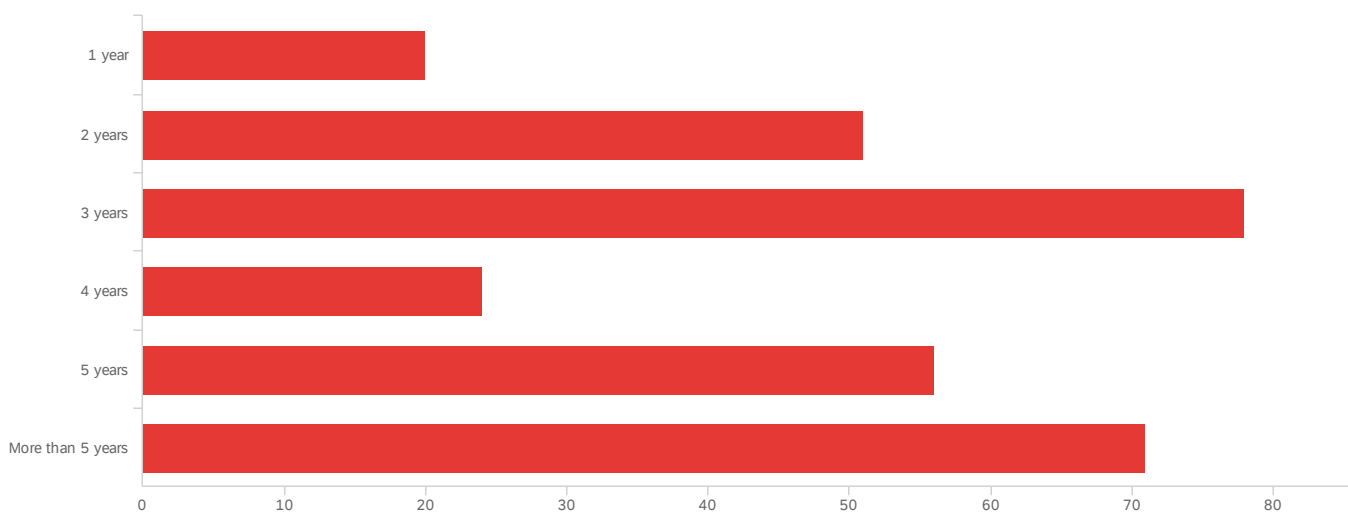


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Sharing content (files, media)	1.00	4.00	1.60	0.84	0.70	230
2	Communicating with my students	1.00	5.00	2.10	0.90	0.81	230
3	Collaboration among students	1.00	5.00	3.68	0.88	0.78	230
4	Assessing student learning	1.00	5.00	2.96	0.95	0.90	230
5	Other	1.00	5.00	4.67	0.88	0.78	230

#	Field	1		2		3		4		5		Total
1	Sharing content (files, media)	58.26%	134	29.13%	67	7.39%	17	5.22%	12	0.00%	0	230
2	Communicating with my students	28.26%	65	41.30%	95	23.48%	54	6.52%	15	0.43%	1	230
3	Collaboration among students	3.04%	7	6.52%	15	22.17%	51	55.65%	128	12.61%	29	230
4	Assessing student learning	7.83%	18	20.43%	47	42.61%	98	26.09%	60	3.04%	7	230
5	Other	2.61%	6	2.61%	6	4.35%	10	6.52%	15	83.91%	193	230

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

AQ8 - How long do you want or need to retain old courses in Blackboard for purposes of retrieving assessment data or conducting course copies? Keep in mind: courses must be kept for a minimum of one year due to grade appeal procedures and courses can be exported from the system for long-term storage of course materials, and imported again when needed.

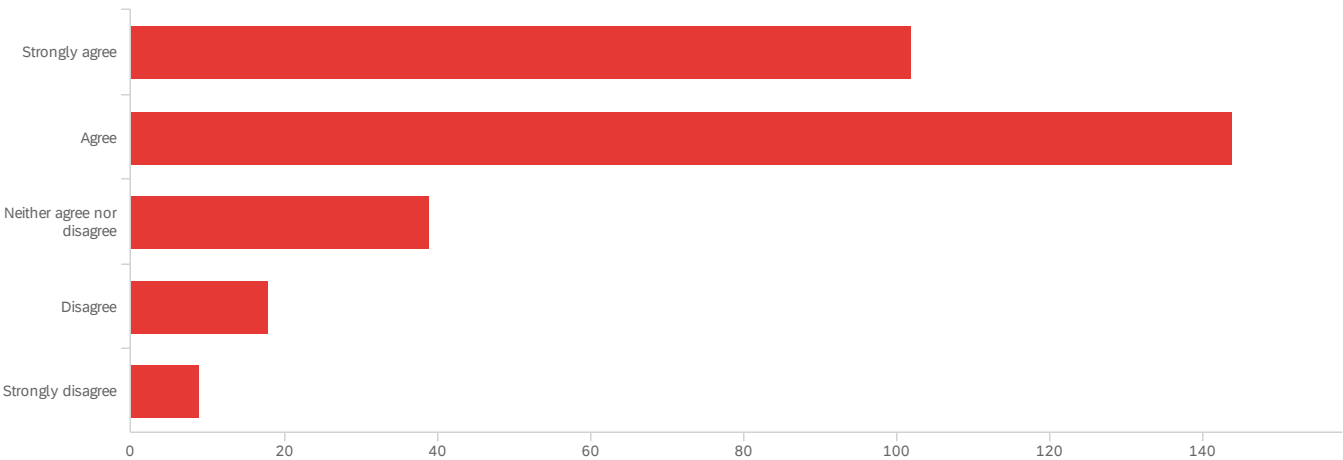


#	Field	Choice Count
1	1 year	6.67% 20
2	2 years	17.00% 51
3	3 years	26.00% 78
11	4 years	8.00% 24
12	5 years	18.67% 56
13	More than 5 years	23.67% 71

300

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

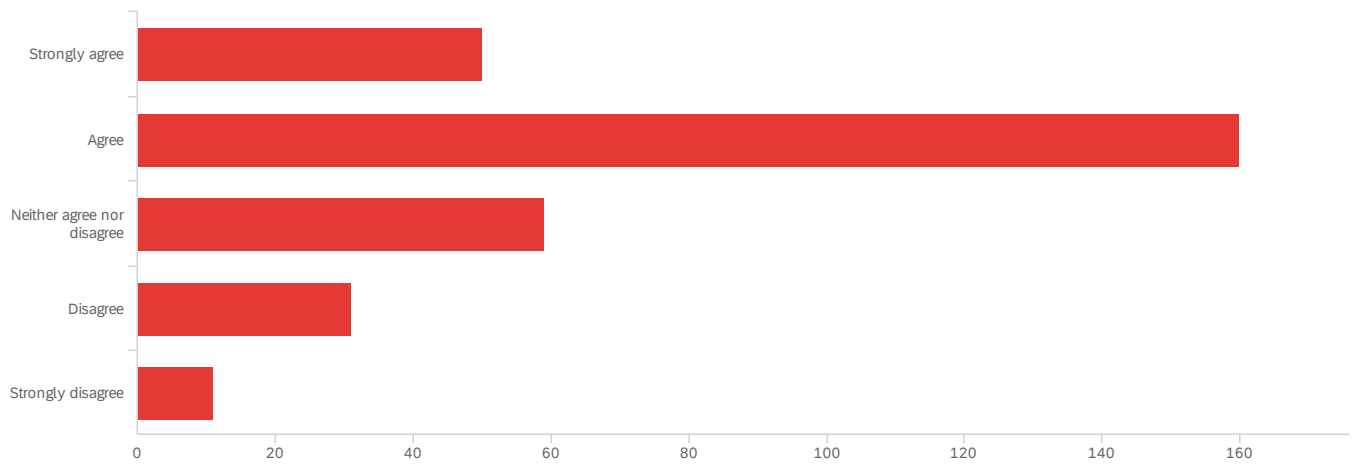
ATT1 - I have a generally favorable attitude toward using Blackboard



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	32.69% 102
2	Agree	46.15% 144
3	Neither agree nor disagree	12.50% 39
4	Disagree	5.77% 18
5	Strongly disagree	2.88% 9
		312

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

ATT2 - I find Blackboard to be easy to use

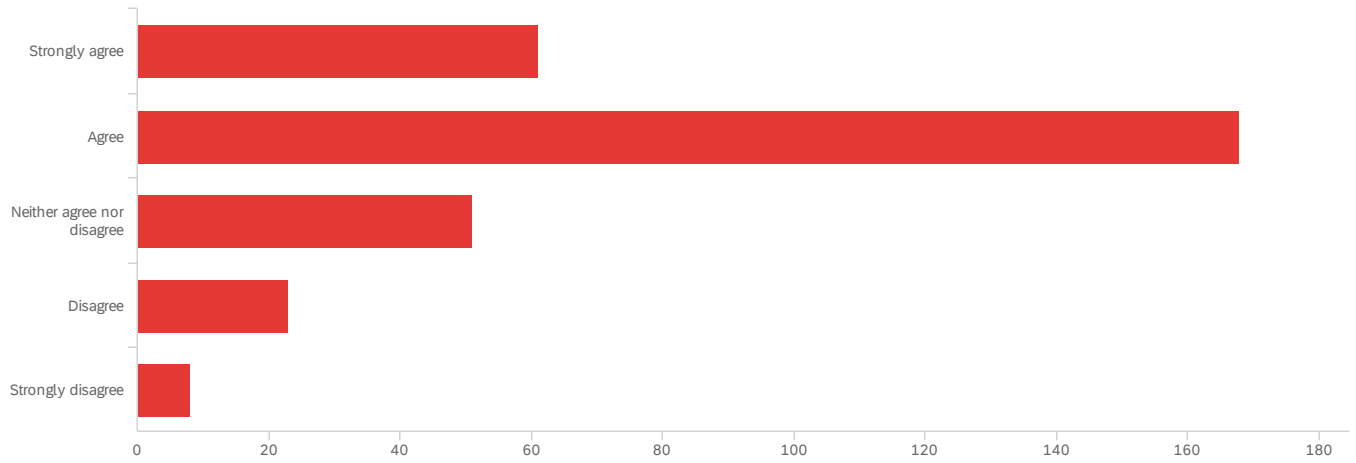


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	16.08% 50
2	Agree	51.45% 160
3	Neither agree nor disagree	18.97% 59
4	Disagree	9.97% 31
5	Strongly disagree	3.54% 11
		311

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

ATT3 - I find that Blackboard has the features and functionality that I need to teach

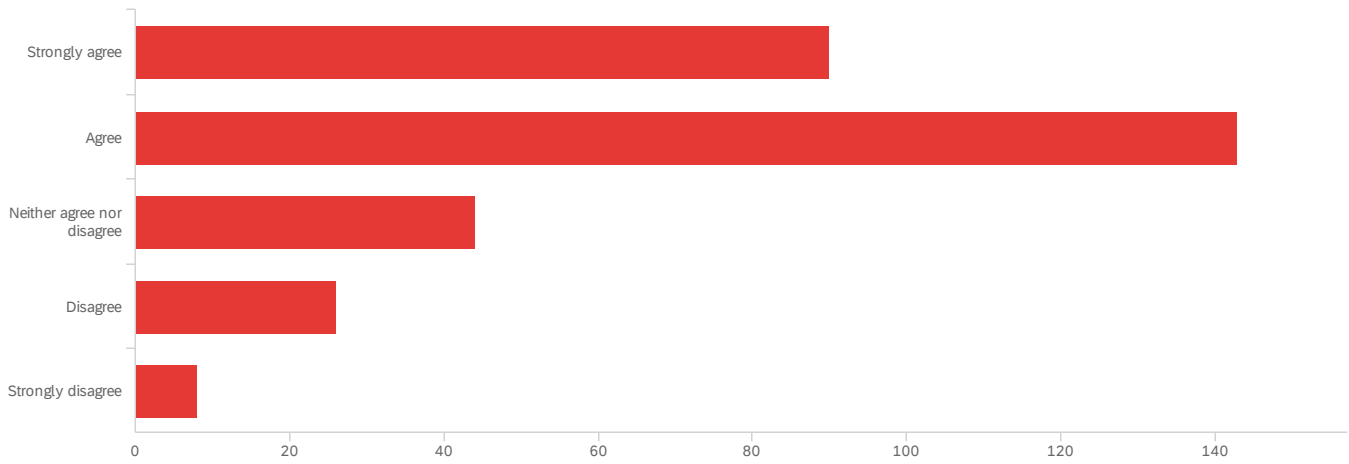
effectively



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	19.61% 61
2	Agree	54.02% 168
3	Neither agree nor disagree	16.40% 51
4	Disagree	7.40% 23
5	Strongly disagree	2.57% 8
		311

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

ATT4 - Using Blackboard increases my efficiency when teaching

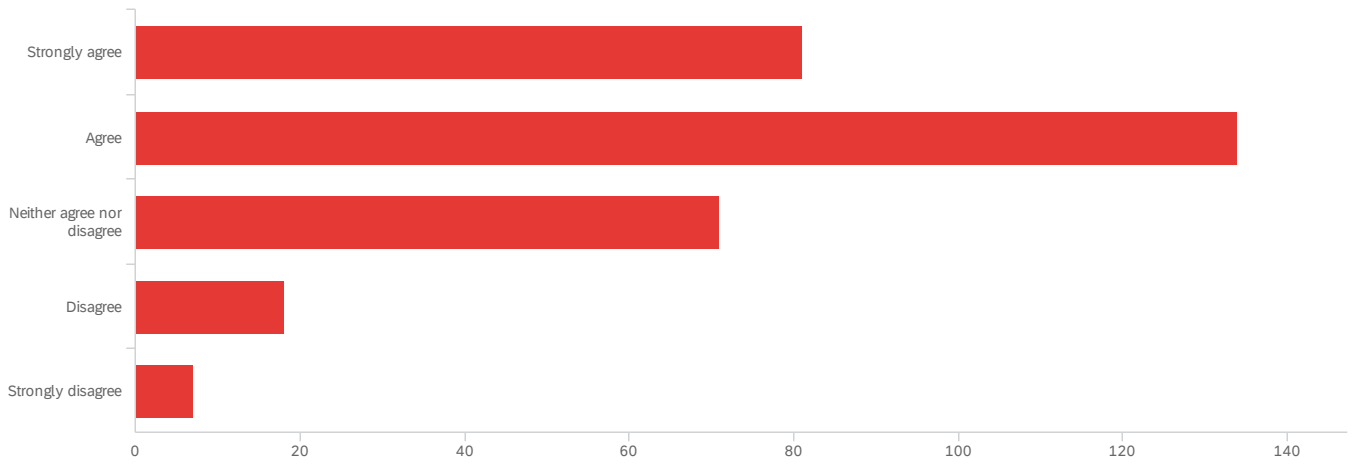


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Using Blackboard increases my efficiency when teaching	1.00	5.00	2.10	0.99	0.99	311

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	28.94% 90
2	Agree	45.98% 143
3	Neither agree nor disagree	14.15% 44
4	Disagree	8.36% 26
5	Strongly disagree	2.57% 8
		311

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

ATT5 - Using Blackboard enhances my teaching effectiveness

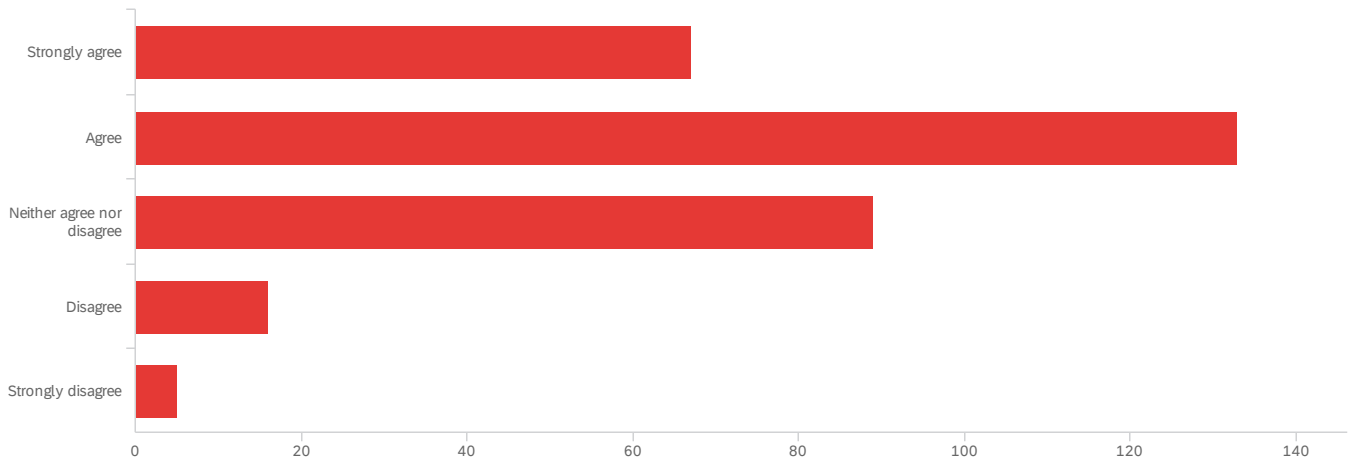


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Using Blackboard enhances my teaching effectiveness	1.00	5.00	2.15	0.95	0.90	311

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	26.05% 81
2	Agree	43.09% 134
3	Neither agree nor disagree	22.83% 71
4	Disagree	5.79% 18
5	Strongly disagree	2.25% 7
		311

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

ATT6 - Blackboard helps students to be more successful in their courses



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Blackboard helps students to be more successful in their courses	1.00	5.00	2.22	0.90	0.81	310

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	21.61% 67
2	Agree	42.90% 133
3	Neither agree nor disagree	28.71% 89
4	Disagree	5.16% 16
5	Strongly disagree	1.61% 5
		310

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

SQ2 - What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in

Blackboard, if any?

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

Can't think of any.

annotating images, drawing on top of images that I provide and allowing them to submit their annotated images. This seems to be available in the whiteboard function on collaborate, but not in an asynchronous format. I've found the final grade weighting option very frustrating and unreliable. It is not intuitive and misleads students.

Capacity for clicker response in-class testing.

Blackboard is not stable. Every semester recently I have students who have tech problems with blackboard. For example, they submitted the assignment, but blackboard doesn't have it.

I would like more flexibility in the self and peer assessment tool

I would like to have more control over videos developed in Voicethread. I occasionally want to re-use videos and find that it is often next to impossible to do so.

The ability to mark up/comment/edit written assignments has poor functionality. Something closer to Microsoft Word's Review functions would be much preferred.

Better editing (deleting) of no longer wanted Announcements Better editing in the Grade Center, like, changing point values for multiple columns of the same category in Column Organization. I WANT for lecture sections to have the recitation sections automatically grouped like they are with a Master course. When a student registers in MyNIU, they should only pick a recitation section (Like B102) with a required Lecture (B100) that everyone attends.

too numerous to mention but well documented in emails with Facdev staff

None

I used the blog feature once and it was from 1910; could use an updated blog feature. I used the mash=up several times, but students don't know how to compress their files. Could use a feature that automatically condenses files. I never reset a test, but I would if I could give the student just the questions they had left before their laptop died. I would like a feature where they can't take a screenshot. I would also like a feature where they verify identity before a test, e.g., facial recognition or entering a number. Safeassign is great, but I found it doesn't always give me the original source. Number one problem is there is too much info in the "groups" area and students can't find their group discussion board. Would like to have less visuals when they open the group. Also, wish it would automatically start a reply so I didn't have to go in and start one for each forum. Number 2 problem is ITS keeps telling us not to use force quit when a test times out; however, this is a very important feature. If someone went 20 minutes over, I don't want to have to go back through them all to see (assume all taking at a different time).

The ability to delete 90% of the crap listed on the left and side. I need assessments, grades, and creating pools and tests. I want to hide everything else.

Why can't I DROP files into folders? It's insane? Why is it so many steps? In general find the interface non-intuitive. I tried to stream a class during the cold in January and got so intimidated I just skipped it. The instructional videos are pretty good but the functionality is just so antiquated

Easier gradebook manipulation.

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

Blackboard is a fine tool, but I have worked with Canvas and Sakai in the past, which are just so much more user-friendly. I like that students can calculate the grades they need on assignments in order to achieve goals (Canvas). And the use of modules (also Canvas). I think the organization makes more sense in Canvas and Sakai. Blackboard is not particularly bad in any aspect. I just prefer other interfaces that I have used.

the grade calculation options are limited, need to have the option to enter a customized formula for the final grade calculation.

Do not like current discussion boards; they are clunky. Prefer school-type discussion boards. Like the integration of VT into BB but graded components and links to specific VT has been less reliable during the course of this semester.

I don't know much about the program but I imagine that it may need something like a digital mailbox in which students can "deposit" assignments digitally instead of turning them in printed out.

I really need a way to have timed assignments. What I want to do is make an assignment available for students they will only be able to be submitted within 2 hours after they download it, for example. Also, I would like a way to create multiple assignments at the same time.

Interactive polling that can be done live in-class / in-lectures

Grading has been funky this term. IDK why it is different

There is a feature I've missed after switching from Canvas at my previous university... I cannot remember what it is, but will email if I remember.

Editing announcements and other items in Bb should be more like editing in MS Word. It is not and it's terrible and frustrating.

N/A

I recently had an issue - I wanted a GROUP submission of a fill-in-the blank type assignment that I could assign points to the individual items and therefore easily grade. I set it up as a test, but found that I could not have a group submission. Even setting up the groups and including this in the submission as an exception, it did not work. I do not know of any other way to achieve what I wanted. Also, another problem is in the grade center, when offering say eight different assignment options of which the students must do five, when setting this up I request that the three lowest grades are dropped. The way this all works out for the students is that they do not get their accurate grade to date until they have completed all of their five choices. This is more of a minor annoyance, but it is hard for students to not get their accurate grade to date.

Better adaptive release. Better way to calculate grades and make online tests

A picture roster. We have that in myNIU, but it would be great to import that into blackboard as well.

Blackboard is good for the basic functions of teaching such as uploading articles, videos, and tracking grades. The functionality of Blackboard as space where I can develop lectures and post to Blackboard is cumbersome. The UI is boring and challenging to change. For students who use technology in their everyday lives and are visually stimulated, Blackboard falls VERY flat.

I'm still having trouble with the students hearing me in Collaborate in a synch session, so I have to phone in for them to hear me, thus I have both computer and phone going to make the audio work right. They can hear each other and me, but I can't hear them.

Math typing, statistical software

There may be the feature I want but I have not figured out the feature that students can start discussion among themselves on Blackboard.

Since BB does not allow real time interaction and polling I do not use it for my teaching. Also, BB is not linked to publishers as well as the interactive technology I use, so it duplicates my efforts.

Online chat. Students should be able to see when their classmates are online and have those informal communications.

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

integration of content collection into onedrive

One component of Blackboard that is integrated in almost all features of Blackboard is the "Editor". This is the most inefficient, poorly designed, unreliable, [and the list can go on] tool I have ever used. Blackboard has a stand that this tool isn't their and it is an open source tool. However, in software industry this argument isn't valid. If we are paying for the LMS, then they should fix this tool, unless their engineers are not proficient to fix it. I don't mind wasting my time and energy on this editor if Blackboard was free. However, we pay an arm and a leg to use this LMS; so things need to work. Another common recommendation from Blackboard is that don't use this browser and use that browser, etc. I am sorry, if you website officially support a browsers, then please don't say that this feature doesn't work well with Chrome so use Edge or vice versa. I hope that they can fix their Editor and it would make my life and teaching a lot more efficient.

I do not teach

Things needed are available.

The ability to save comments for assignment rubrics and to audio record feedback. Anything that can help to increase the speed and efficiency of grading while still being able to provide individualized feedback to students as needed. More ease of individualizing assignments, or setting up different due dates for different students, particularly for split level classes that include both undergraduate and graduate students.

N/A

When I try to make a column for letter grades, the percentages do not line up with NIU's scale. I can't figure out how to align them. Many students have asked for something on the homepage that says "DUE: XX" Even though I utilize the due date on assignments, students have to look back to the syllabus or email me 1,000 times to find out. D2L platform does this quite nicely!

Announcements and content sharing.

Have two windows open at once

Some of the integration to different tools (e.g., VoiceThread, Adobe Connect) don't work consistently, which makes it difficult to use them for teaching. A scheduling tool for office hours, such as calendly, would be helpful.

Drag and drop content

I wish there was a feature to track student attendance in my classes.

easy way to take attendance; a way for students to submit essay revisions via Safe Assign but not have it "count" as a separate grade column in Blackboard

I've worked with Blackboard before and this university's system is just terrible. I can't work with and it negatively impacts my students learning. Please, I beg you, upgrade.

Rubrics are available, but functionality is limited.

More ability and space to post video material that is not on Youtube.

I miss the crocodoc feature that allowed you to markup papers/assignments more.

Desktop sharing Video editing App development Interactive testing based on algorithmic analysis Android interactivity for instructors Video scenario testing

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

Determining whether and when students access features in Blackboard. Moodle had that capability - you could see where students went in the course site and when they were there. For example, I could see whether a student accessed lecture notes. When they would fail a test, I would know that they didn't 'attend' the lecture and so had no argument about their grade.

The calendar feature could use automatic reminders for assignments or other assessments that are due.

There are no real features or functions not available, it is just the poor design of Blackboard in relation to finding what is needed and then using it.

A designated tool to easily create sign up sheets for student meetings at specific times. You can create one in a Wiki but it is a clunky way to go about it.

The current tools need to be easier and more intuitive.

I think the course layout could use some modernization. If you teach online and use a weekly module structure, then the clicking back and forth to see the next item can get students lost in knowing what needs attention. A checklist of completed items and to do items would be great! Also, it could be easier for students to see their current grade - or even their grades aggregated across all courses without having to drill-down course by course.

In calculating final grades, allow a prof to drop, say, the lowest 2 (or 3, or...) quiz grades. I can drop the lowest single quiz grade in Excel, which is what I now use. Choosing how many to drop would be helpful.

Not sure. I do have one criticism of BB. I find the interface for grading uploaded assignments very clumsy and limiting.

Ability to send blind copy emails.

There needs to be a decent and simple attendance system. Also, cutting and pasting into the Blackboard interface is frustrating the way it reformats things or even changes them after hitting enter or saving messages. I have wasted hours of my life trying to trick it to not reformat things. There also could be more ways to customize it aesthetically. I do appreciate that things are being done to continually improve it.

proper display of current grade; easy retrieval of all of the student scores - click on their name rather than having to generate a report; better mobile app

Blackboard should have a much better system for adding comments to submitted papers. That is there should be a system, such as Track Changes in Word, by which one can easily post comments on written assignments.

On the spot, I cannot think of any. However, in the past two years I have searched the Internet for how to do something on Bb and have found that what I was wanting to accomplish was available but only on Bb Ultra. Because of that, I am looking forward to the next version.

If the grading system were capable of more sophisticated math, I would use it for grading. I currently have to move grades from BB to a spreadsheet to calculate grades. I head up a class with many instructors, and we use BB for quizzes, content, and announcements. We all find BB to be buggy and inconsistent. I wish it were a more solid platform so we could use it more effectively.

Adding a grade column such as a quiz and being able to set a future date for when the assessment will be added into the gradebook points.

Would love the ready ability to upload recorded responses to student work. Possible in the current version, but the one-step "press the microphone icon and record a response" would be fabulous. Students find these responses very effective because they are so personal and individual, and they tend to them closely. An easy conference scheduling tool would be great, as well. I currently use (and pay for) Sign-Up Genius and post the link to Bboard. Works great, but those features (automated reminders, students responsible for updating, changing, or cancelling appointments, etc.) would be welcome.

I would like to be able to use my stylus on my tablet or 2 in 1 computer to edit and annotate as I would a hard copy with a pen. This is high on my list of desired features.

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

I'd like to see more options within the assessment (test) creation tools. Otherwise, I love Blackboard and can't imagine teaching without it!!

I wish Collaborate was easier to use.

It's not so much which features are or aren't available, because Blackboard checks most of the boxes on available features. The discussion board, for example, is something I abandoned using because its structure is not particularly intuitive, user-friendly or consistent with where the market is with regard to the structure of asynchronous communication tools. The content provision tools, assessment tools, document markup tools, etc. are all competitive with what I've seen in other systems.

I cannot use it to do proper calculations. I cannot put up negative numbers/scores or use 'equations' such as 'take this number (number of times student attended) and SUBTRACT it from the total number of classes possible, for example. . It is very restrictive in what it thinks people want to do for grading. I cannot 'copy' a column but have to recreate the same stuff for each almost identical assignment or grading column. (So, I have to still use my spreadsheets) . It is SLOW SLOW everytime switching back and forth between stuff. When I create items and their descriptions, I cannot see the other items, so if I haven't already copied over the olde decription, I have a hard time keeping consistent 'how' I describe assignments. (#1? #01? title before number, number before title? Sometime in the past, I knew how to upload my spreadsheet numbers (since I to blackboard, but haven't regained that skill and it isn't shown anywhere clearly.

Do you have a feature that would make students want to read their assignments, make them understand complex concepts, and actually care about the papers they write? That would be awesome!

Some templates for creating assignments. I wish there was a 'save style' feature so that elements like rubrics selected, unlimited attempts, and other features that I have to change EVERYTIME could be reduced. Additionally, the grading feature appears to have a bug associated with the web browser being used. Previously Firefox had no difficulty grading and moving onto the next submission. Recently, I've been grading in Firefox and it boots me out and I am unable to login to BB. When switching to Chrome as a browser, there may be instances where I am in "Needs Grading" progressing through only to end up somehow in the Gradebook after a submission. While the prior versions were quite robust, something has changed in the past 12 months.

Rearranging or building content differently.

Losing the previous feedback features when we changed to Box was horrible. The current ability to provide feedback on student work is so minimal it is ridiculous. this is the number one thing that needs to be upgraded. We need to be able to highlight work, in various colors, and make comments on selections in a variety of ways.

Would like to incorporate, within Blackboard, a policy to drop, for example, each student's lowest 2 homework or quiz scores while still displaying all scores. This may in fact already be possible but I find instructions within Blackboard to be opaque.

too hard to figure out what's where

Many of Blackboard's features are clunky and dated. For example, I consistently have a problem with students posting assignments in the comment box rather than assignment text box because the comment box is more visible to them, but makes grading in a tiny box on the side impossible.

Grading has been difficult on iOS. I can provide comments easily, but awarding group grades has been challenging for me.

I wish the rubrics were more flexible - as far as I understand, each part of the rubric can only be one specific amount of points. For example, I would like to have a range of 8-10, but it only allows the point value of 10 in the interactive rubric.

I don't know what other options would even be available.

Occasionally Blackboard does not work on some web servers. I have seen it fail using Firefox and my students have had it fail, most recently using Chrome. I keep 3 browsers on my devices so one always works.

Not sure this counts as "need for teaching", but I do online quizzes with THREE answer options and it offers 4+ as default. I have to manually delete one answer option for every question I generate and it is very tedious. A bit more flexibility would be helpful - or a way to define my own default settings.

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

Canvas is more user friendly, intuitive, and easier for students to navigate. Nothing about Blackboard is easy. It is difficult to function only using BB. The notification system is horrible, marking grades is difficult, changing grades does not work after an initial grade is posted and students resubmit.

I need fewer possible uses and an assistant to do all the Blackboard work. If that's not possible, I need to consult with someone to determine what features would be useful for my classes and I need training at *my* convenience.

i do not like the BB grading annotation system after it changed a couple of years ago. It does not meet my needs now and so must download assignments to grade them to give them extensive feedback. I would like to be able to print a test in a more succinct format. It takes PAGES to do it. Formatting font and spacing in tests, postings, etc. is difficult.

functionality with Excel

The commenting function on submitted work has become quite limited.

Ability for a 3rd party attendance tracking system to integrate into Blackboard's attendance tool; Assignment grading tools using Box.net are very limited and clunky at best

Students cannot see their attendance record and I would them to be able to see it.

Adding media files is very difficult. Also collaborate seems unnecessarily difficult. I think more faculty would be willing to teach on line if this were easier to use.

A real portfolio tool. Taking a snapshot every time you share the eport isn't consistent with eportfolio pedagogy

Integration with Lynda courses, Grading all of 1 test essay question for the entire class and the grading all of the 2 question for the entire class, then 3rd etc

Comments made on student assignments in the box" need to appear when the file is downloaded.

None of these is hugely important, but if BB is looking for things to improve: 1. making a course from a previous semester available to a single student who is making up an Incomplete (without other students getting notifications) 2. an easier way to insert an image in an answer or in feedback on an online quiz 3. being able to reorder the files that I have added to an item would be handy 4. being able to cut and paste from one test to another, so that I don't have to go into the copied-from test and delete.

Blackboard is way too clunky and I cannot make a clean, easy-to-use course page for my students without a lot of work. Canvas is a superior course management system.

1. The ability to do online grading of writing assignments in a detailed way without downloading the document. 2. AI assistance in grading short answer items like some new software like Pack Back does. 3. Easy one-on-one conferences like Zoom does. This is useful for Online courses for scheduling unlike Collaborate. Skype can do this, but it would be nice to be building in to the Blackboard package. 4. The Discussion features are cumbersome when you have multiple assignments across the semester. It is hard to keep track of the threads if you have two projects going on simultaneously. 5. As a textbook author, I have been told that Blackboard charges very high fees to integrate textbooks through course cartridges. They don't play well with some of the smaller publishers. 6. I have seen few true innovations in Blackboard since it was first implemented here. NIU does a better job with delivering it, but there is not a lot of integration with the products of more innovative companies. 7. In very large courses some features like discussion groups are very hard to manage on Blackboard. 8. It would be nice if student photos would be present in the gradebook like they are on MyNIU. 9. Students need to be able to go back and access courses on Blackboard for years after they have graduated. The window of access is too narrow. 10. Students with incompletes are a big problem when the requirements are posted on Blackboard. This wastes lots of my time. 11. Blackboard is not set up to deal with real class, interactive assignments that can happen in real time with emerging class feedback. You can't compare the results of one group brainstorming to another in real time. GroupSystems has had this capability for a long, long time. Overall, Blackboard is just okay. It is the necessary evil that we happen to have here. It has new advantages for administrators that have few advantages for professors and students. There are still times it just fails in the classroom now that it is online, but this happened even before when it was on our servers. I believe this is a case where those who administer it see so many advantages from the administration side that they really don't come to the classroom and see it in action or do more in-depth interviews with faculty. My colleagues at other universities who have switched from Blackboard to Canvas seem to like it better. I just don't think Blackboard is ready for the online movement of courses here at NIU.

What features or functions that you need for teaching are not available in...

Hierarchical/ collapsible gradebook items & views, variable assignment due date

It would be great to see student images when grading

Grading functionality is horrible. We need highlighting and in-text writing. Students should IMMEDIATELY see our comments, not have to click on comment bubbles. They do not read all of them. Also, we need to get rid of authentication. I have several students locked out because they have new phones, lost their phones, or do not have a cell phone.

Collaborate does not allow full class or group view of participants at the same time

Blackboard is lousy for discussion forums. I use Piazza instead. Because Blackboard is so lousy for discussion forums, I use Piazza for everything except recording grades.

lock down

Weight total grade calculation is not flexible. Do not have "drag and drop" feature to upload files. Do not have user progress status for every file

Easier design for navigating pages, identifying when new content is added by students on the discussion board.

If announcements can be set to be sent out at a selected date and time, that would make regular notification process easier.

An easy way to grade and return documents using writing tools such as an Apple Pen rather than having to type short comments.

none

Sometimes, when I try to grade assignments on Blackboard at home, the comments feature does not work

downloading tests and quizzes into the assessment system (rather than putting them in manually)

Availability to videotape lectures right in Blackboard so that they are more clear for students than transferring in videos made elsewhere.

Drag and drop, copy and paste photos, videos and links. Text and format editing is horrible, it should be upgraded as early as possible. Not easy to write Math. Doesn't load quite well on mobile devices.

Currently, I'm satisfied with what's available. I don't particularly like the grading features but haven't made use of them so it's not a problem.

Total access to all NIU course materials, for anyone, anytime, anywhere.

graded homework, you have to make it a test just found out that there is an Attendance function, which, now that I looked at it, is not at all intuitive

End of Report

