

Creating Your Course Student Preview

The “Student Preview” feature in Blackboard is a way to approximate a student view of your course. The Student Preview mode feature provides you with the ability to easily see the course exactly how your students would see it. In fact, this tool creates a temporary student account for you to use while previewing. You can access content, assignments, tests, grades, and the discussion board exactly like your students do.

To access the feature, you will need to click on the small icon which resembles an eye highlighted here. The student preview icon will be at the top of every Blackboard course that you teach. Click on the icon to enter the Student Preview mode to view the course from the students’ perspective. You will know you are in Student Preview enabled because the entire time there will be an orange banner display indicating that the Student Preview mode is enabled.

For example, you can see My Grades and you can view the discussion board as a student. You can even take a test or submit an assignment as a student. Begin by selecting an assignment you have already created as an instructor. Check the instructions and other options to make sure they are the way you want them set up.

Next, try submitting some text to the assignment. To submit the assignment, begin by clicking on Write Submission and add some sample text in the textbox editor. You may also try attaching a document by browsing your computer or Content Collection. Click on Submit

The Review Submission History page will open up and you will see your student preview user confirmation number, your submitted text, etc. This is exactly what your students will see when they submit an assignment. When closing the Preview Mode, you are presented with several options. You can delete the preview user and all data, or keep the preview user and data generated as a student. This option will come up every time you attempt to exit the student preview mode, unless you selects the option to remember your choice and not ask again.

For this example, select Keep the preview user and all data and remember this Choice and do not ask me again. Click the Continue button. When returning to the Instructor mode, you can go to the Grade Center to actually view that assignment and grade it. After grading it you can go back in Student Preview mode and check your preview users’ grade in My Grades.

You may toggle between Student Preview mode and Instructor mode as often as necessary. The Student Preview tool is invaluable as a development and diagnostic tool- helping you to both craft the student experience more intimately, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise.