

SAKAI PILOT STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

November 2010

62% response rate (42 out of 68 students responded)

1. Please rate your level of computer expertise.

- Basic 8 Responses
- Intermediate 23 Responses
- Advanced 11 Responses

2. What is your level of experience with fully online courses?

- This is my first semester taking an online course 9 Responses
- Before taking this class, I had taken 1-2 courses online 16 Responses
- Before taking this class, I had taken 3 or more courses online 17 Responses

3. Including courses you are taking this semester, what learning management systems have you used as a student, here at Durham Tech or at other institutions?

- Blackboard 41 Responses
- Sakai 27 Responses
- Moodle 4 Responses
- Other - *specify below* 3 Responses
 - Coursecompass.com
 - ConnectMail
 - SAM

4. Did your instructor this semester seem comfortable using Sakai as a learning platform for the course?

- Yes 38 Responses
- No 3 Responses

7. How would you rate Sakai for its effectiveness as a learning tool?

- Excellent 13 Responses 32%
- Above average 10 Responses 24%
- Average 16 Responses 39%
- Below Average 2 Responses 5%
- Unacceptable 0 Responses

8. If you have also used Blackboard, how would you rate Bb's effectiveness as a learning tool?

- Excellent 12 Responses 29%
- Above average 16 Responses 38%
- Average 13 Responses 31%
- Below average 1 Response 2%
- Unacceptable 0 Responses
- Not applicable / I haven't used Blackboard 0 Responses

	Very easy to use		Easy to use		Somewhat difficult to use		Difficult to use		Did not use
5. Rate Sakai's overall ease of use	11	26%	22	52%	6	14%	3	7%	0
6. Rate the ease-of-use of Sakai features:									
Announcements	20	49%	15	37%	5	12%	1	2%	1
Calendar	14	42%	15	45%	3	9%	1	3%	9
Lessons	15	37%	21	51%	3	7%	2	5%	1
Taking tests or quizzes	19	45%	15	36%	7	17%	1	2%	0
Submitting assignments	16	38%	19	45%	7	17%	0	0%	0
Viewing grades	19	45%	15	36%	6	14%	2	5%	0
Forums	13	38%	14	41%	5	15%	2	6%	8
Messages	11	33%	13	39%	5	15%	4	12%	9
Sending emails	11	33%	13	39%	7	21%	2	6%	9
Wikis	8	38%	7	33%	4	19%	2	10%	20
Student/Instructor Profiles	10	33%	14	47%	5	17%	1	3%	12
<i>Note: Percentages in question 6 exclude students who reported they "did not use" the tool.</i>									

9. What do you like about Sakai?

- Navigation was very easy
- It was different from what I was accustomed to, in a good way.
- Self-explanatory and easy to navigate.
- It's easy to use. The announcements are there when I needed it. The teachers are very helpful.
- Nothing
- EASY TO USE
- To be quite honest there's not really anything that stands out that I like or dislike.
- It is a very convenient and user friendly tool that was very stable and reliable.
- Easy to navigate. Helps you look back on past assignments for studying. Easier to understand how assignments are weighted than black board.
- at first i didn't like it, but then my instructor showed me how and i asked a few questions and now it's not bad.
- Can track assignments easily. Faster and more up to date than blackboard.

- I really liked the ease of use with Sakai when compared to Blackboard. I didn't have to search as much to get to where I wanted to go. Granted, I was only using Sakai for one course, which probably made the ease of use just that much more prevalent, but I still feel that it's a better tool than Blackboard. I was pleasantly surprised.
- What I like about Sakai is how it have everything right there. For example, it has the email, your homework and lessons. It have everything there not separate or different accounts to get to your lessons or email or whatever. Everything is right there for where you need to go to. Only one account or user name and password the Sakai have.
- Nothing but the fact it's useful for my course.
- Easy to see the weekly lessons.
- The only thing I liked about Sakai was the ease of downloading homework and submitting it to the instructor.
- Nice layout.
- I liked that it was easy to email my teacher.
- Easy and user friendly
- Receiving an email confirmation that assignments were successfully submitted.
- I like how your classes are made as tabs above for easy access. I liked how sakai had a home page for you. That way you have one calendar for all your classes instead of different ones on different pages.
- As soon as you log in your new assignments and announcements are the first thing you see.
- its faily easy to understand
- I can see who else is online same time as me.
- nothing
- There is a very calm and open appearance to it compared to blackboard. The calendar was great to be able to visually see when assignments were due. The Wiki was neat to use. I have never used one before, but it was easy to figure out.
- I think it is fairly easy to use and has many more useful functions then Blackboard does. The transition from Blackboard to Sakai was very easy.
- it's more integrated with social media.
- Ease to use.
- I like that I can see who is logged in the same time as me.
- I especially like how the main screen has your courses listed across the top and has the main announcement page for sakai in general.
- not much
- I like how everything on Sakai is better organized and easier to understand and find compared to Blackboard.
- The message board.

10. What changes would you suggest to make Sakai better?

- I don't have a suggestion as to how, but having the scoring system on the tests/quizzes to recognize correct answers in different forms. If the answer wasn't exactly like the answer key, the answer would be counted wrong. Even if the instructor goes back later and changes it to correct it can be very disheartening to see your grade before the change, and kind of negates having the instant grade.
- The course button needs to be towards the middle of the first page, not hidden up top.

- No suggestions at this time.
- I would not use it.
- It's not necessarily that I would change anything. It's just you get used to using one form and to switch it isn't convenient. When one of your classes is using blackboard and the other is Sakai and you have to different usernames and passwords.
- NONE.
- It's hard to say what I would change without making it seem more like blackboard.
- Works fine as is.
- Have assignments due box on home page for all classes.
- i'm not very good at putting things into words when i need to. like now. maybe in the assignment submitting section they could put instructions on how to submit more than 1 file for an assignment. that was hard to figure out on my own and a few times i ended up e-mailing my teacher the addition files that i didn't know how to attach.
- I would have liked to try to use the site with more than one course because I feel I would have been able to give better feedback. I don't have any suggestions of how to improve the site with only one course. I like Sakai much better than Blackboard.
- Well, really right now, not anything. I just need to learn more about it because it is so simple and easy to use, once anyone can get use to it. I like it.
- Less indirect options and more direct options like Blackboard!
- It would be better to show all test questions on the tests like the worksheets. The you could look back without going back through every question to get back to the beginning.
- I really didn't like using Sakai. I was very familiar with Blackboard and wished to use it again.
- I would change he test format to where you dont have to always hit the go back button, to recheck your answers.
- Make it more appealing to the eye
- the sending of emails through messages is a little tricky just because I never know if everyone got the emails or not and I have personally nevered received emails through the messenger even when someone said they sent me one.
- make the navigation a little easier to understand.
- No
- the teacher orientations of this should have been more detailed. The grading of the assignments were terrible.
- Some of the things are tricky. For example if you go to Assignments and select Lecture Assignment 2. You have to click the little refresh button next to assignments to go back to the list of assignments.
- The only thing I had a problem with was using the course tools. Knowing where to look for assignments was a bit confusing at first because you have the 'Lessons', 'Resources', and 'Assignments' tools. I felt like the info in those sections should all be one place. It took a couple of weeks for me to figure out where I needed to go to get all of the info I needed for a week of work.
- make it faster, more user friendly. and is there a chat feature like facebook has? it should have that so that you can chat with your classmates if you have questions. also, make it easier for professors to use. my professor seemed to be struggling somewhat with implementing lessons and tests this semester.
- none
- Not sure.

- there is really not anything I especially dislike. It all seems very easy to navigate and I have had no problems with the server and layout.
- Can not right click misspelled words in forum posts to spell check.
- Communicating through email or messaging others online is difficult to understand and complete.
- Do not use case grader or let it be extra credit.

11. Like many colleges, Durham Tech is in the process of evaluating whether to continue using Blackboard or to change to a different tool, such as Sakai, for all classes. What do you recommend?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| • Stay on Blackboard | 14 Responses | 33% |
| • Change to Sakai | 25 Responses | 60% |
| • Other - <i>specify below</i> | 3 Responses | 7% |
- They are both good systems.
 - I would like for it to change to Sakai because as I had mentioned, everything is right there, just one account not using or having many accounts to remember in user name or password.
 - PLEASE keep Blackboard, because it's so much easier to understand and faster to use..I can attach more than one file at a time with it too!! PLEASE!!
 - Use both, having the option doesn't hurt
 - I don't care whatever is fine.
 - I do actually prefer Blackboard, but if Sakai really does save a lot of money then Durham Tech should definitely switch.
 - It is easier and give you more information.

12. Provide any additional comments in the box below. (optional)

- It needs more hours of orientation
- blackboard is barebones but tried and true. Sakai has more features but may need some tweaking to get it to be excellent. I do, however, like a more modern, socially integrated learning tool, such as what Sakai can be.
- Blackboard was easier to review my personal grades and my submitted assignments.
- Having taken several classes online, what I have noticed most is the inconsistency in how Instructors use Blackboard. Some of the instructors have utilized it far better than others. My personal opinion is that regardless of which platform is selected, Instructors should be trained to use it. From a student perspective, the effectiveness is directly related to how well an Instructor uses it. An example is late posting of assignments because an instructor "thought" it was set correctly, but it wasn't. I can only speak for myself, but I treat an online class the same as if attending in a classroom and schedule my time accordingly. When assignments are not posted as scheduled, it impacts my schedule. I also think if an Instructor has not ever taken an online class, they should be required to audit an online class outside of their department to get a better understanding of how to best teach and communicate online. Charlene West has been the best online instructor I have taken a class with thus far.
- I like sakai it is more user friendly.
- I love Blackboard!
- I really do not have much to say is that I like Sakai and hope it will be more popular used in schools.

- I think durham tech should still with blackboard because It's simple. And everyone is comfortable with it. It's stressful enough with classes, I personally didn't like having to learn a new website on top of homework and studying.
- I think it might need a little adjustment, but over all I liked using Sakai rather than Blackboard.
- if it broke dont fix it I like blackboard. What is the point of doing an assignment and the teacher still has to grade it over. The sakai is not user friendly. You have to search everywhere to find what you are looking for so I really like blackboard
- It may be sakai or it could just be the instructor. There has been quite a few issues on grading and the layout that continuously had to be brought up to the instructor.
- Sakai was more difficult to use than other programs plus the unfair grading due to the instructors inability to properly use the program in itself.