

Fact Sheet on Durham Tech's Learning Management System

Blackboard Usage at Durham Tech

Curriculum	<i>Fall 2009</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 245 instructor users• 622 sections with Bb sites (85% of all sections)• 5,130 student users (94% of all students)
Adult HS / Basic Skills	<i>Fall 2009</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 instructor users• 9 classes with Bb sites• 84 student users
Con Ed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 instructor users• 1,040 student users per year <p>Used for Durham/Duke Police training (590 students per year) and for a variety of other Con Ed online, hybrid, and web-supplemented offerings such as Medical Coding, Nurse Aid, EMS, GRE/GMAT Prep, computer classes, etc (450 students per year).</p>

- Durham Tech is currently using Blackboard version 8.0.

Financial Considerations

- Since 2006, Durham Tech's annual Blackboard license has been paid for by the NC Community College System (NCCCS).
- The annual cost for Blackboard for Durham Tech alone is about \$40,000 for 2009-10 and \$44,000 for 2010-11.
- The current contract between the NCCCS and Blackboard ends 6/30/2011. We do not know if the NCCCS will continue to fund Blackboard after that date.
- Therefore, starting 7/1/2011, Durham Tech may need to pay \$50,000 per year or more for our Blackboard license.

Alternatives to Blackboard

- Many educational institutions are migrating to non-proprietary "open source" LMSs.
- There are two major open source LMSs available: Moodle and Sakai
- Four NC community colleges have migrated completely to Moodle: Guilford Tech, Blue Ridge, Southeastern, and Isothermal.
- Several other NC community colleges are in the process of migrating to Moodle (e.g. Surry and Pitt). Others have chosen to remain on Blackboard (Fayetteville Tech) or are undecided (Wake Tech, CPCC).
- Several universities in the UNC system have announced plans to migrate to Moodle (e.g. NCSU, UNC-A, UNC-Charlotte). ASU is currently on Moodle.

- UNC-Chapel Hill recently completed a pilot of Sakai and has announced plans to continue funding and expanding use of Sakai.

Migration Considerations

- If Durham Tech chooses to move from Blackboard to another product, a full transition is expected to take two years.
- The main concerns LMS migration poses for faculty are the time and effort required (1) to learn a new system and (2) to convert existing course content to the new system.
- The main concerns for instructional technologies staff include (1) providing the training/support and coordination needed for a transition, (2) integration with Colleague, and (3) redeveloping all training/support materials for faculty and students.
- To facilitate a phased-in migration, the college would run two LMSs temporarily. Durham Tech cannot support two LMSs long term.
- Open source software itself is free of charge. However, significant funds would be required for initial training, consulting, customization, Colleague integration, on-going top-level support, servers, add-on tools, etc. Faculty time to re-train and convert course content is also a considerable cost.