D2L's Brightspace: Choose Your Migration Method

Quick Summary:

Faculty have three options to migrate their course content from Blackboard to D2L's Brightspace. Use this document to learn about the pros and cons of each choice and make an informed decision. To learn more about the steps to take for each option, please see Migration at a Glance.

Option 1: Build from Scratch

Building from scratch means you will request a sandbox course site in Brightspace and build your content from the ground up. You may choose to copy and paste text from your Blackboard course site.

Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Take advantage of tools unique to Brightspace.	Most time-consuming method.
Opportunity to practice Brightspace tools and gain a deeper understanding of how Brightspace works.	Steepest learning curve.
Avoid Blackboard artifacts.	
Gives you the most control over how your content is displayed.	
Opportunity to look at your course through a critical lens and make updates.	
Can migrate at any time.	

This method is perfect if you:

- Have the time to build from scratch.
- Consider yourself tech-savvy.
- Are invested in learning all the intricacies of Brightspace.
- Are already familiar with Brightspace.
- Have courses that are mostly content from textbook publishers or other third-party tools (these will need to be set up manually in Brightspace regardless of the method you choose).

Option 2: K-16 Solutions

Tri-C has contracted K-16 Solutions to help with the migration to Brightspace. With this option, faculty will clean up their course content in a specially titled Blackboard sandbox, and K-16 will migrate the content to Brightspace.

Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Least time-consuming method.	Strict deadlines for migration each semester; migration will take 2-4 weeks from the deadlines listed below.
K-16 will fix some of the cleanup that might be required if you export/import the course yourself (see option 3).	Less control over how your content migrates.
Many course elements with no direct Brightspace counterpart will migrate with functionality. (Examples: Blogs, journals, etc.)	Limited opportunity to practice building in Brightspace.

This method is perfect if you:

- Have a course that is image heavy.
- Have a course with a large quantity of content built in Blackboard.
- Are short on time.
- Have numerous courses/versions of courses that need to be migrated.
- Consider yourself less tech-savvy

Important Deadlines:

K-16 will migrate content on the following dates:

- Summer 2024: April 28, 2024
- Fall 2024: July 24, 2024
- Spring 2025: November 24, 2024

If you choose K-16 solutions, we recommend migrating content one semester earlier than when you plan to teach in Brightspace to allow time to clean up your courses. Learn how your content will translate with K-16 Solutions.

Option 3: Export/Import Yourself

With this option, faculty will need to manually export a course package from Blackboard and import it into Brightspace.

Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Can migrate any time.	May result in text formatting and image transfer errors, requiring significant cleanup in Brightspace.
Your course will be saved on your computer until you choose to delete it.	Limited opportunity to practice building in Brightspace.
Cleaning up content will help you familiarize yourself with Brightspace.	Least amount of control over how your content migrates.
	Course elements with no direct Brightspace counterpart may not migrate functionally.

This method is perfect if you:

- Have a course with limited content and few images.
- Have lots of test questions that you don't want to retype*.
- Want to invest a moderate amount of time into learning Brightspace tools through cleaning up your content.

*If your primary concern is rebuilding all of your tests, you could build most of your course from scratch (option 1) and use the export/import process for tests only. This will migrate your tests and test questions, and you would simply need to deploy each test in the appropriate Brightspace module.

Need Help?

The Instructional Design Team and OLAT are here to support you! To ensure you receive support in a timely manner, contact the correct person/department. Please see our helpful flowchart for more details.