

# Brightspace Descriptions

## Student Information System (Banner)

---

When assigned a course to teach or when a student registers for a course, this information is recorded in a Student Information System. This system houses the students' final grades and many other types of information. You may also hear the word "Banner", regarding putting in your assignment or checking registration. This is because Tri-C uses a SIS product from Ellucian called Banner.

### What is a SIS system?

An SIS, or Student Information System, is a web-based software application used by educational institutions to manage and organize student data. It acts as a central repository for information like student demographics, enrollment details, attendance records, grades, and more. SIS solutions help streamline administrative tasks, improve communication between teachers, students, and parents, and support personalized learning experiences.

### What is the difference between ERP and SIS?

In essence, ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and SIS (Student Information System) are both crucial for educational institutions, but they serve different purposes. An ERP system manages a broader range of administrative and operational functions, including financials, human resources, and sometimes even inventory. A SIS, on the other hand, focuses specifically on student-related data, such as academic records, attendance, and demographics.

## CRN Site

---

When you are assigned a CRN in Banner your course will automatically appear within Brightspace. The same applies for students, when they register and are assigned in Banner, they will appear in your class list within your CRN site.

### Faculty Experience in Brightspace when course schedule updates are made in Banner

**Scenario #1** – Course scheduling change and the instructor remains the **same** (e.g., the course part of term is changed with the same instructor).

The faculty member may lose temporary access to the Brightspace course site while the scheduler is making the change in Banner. Access to the Brightspace course will be restored once the faculty member is reassigned to the course in Banner.

**Scenario #2** -Course scheduling change and instructor is **NOT** the same

The OLAT team will notify the original faculty member that their content has successfully been exported from Brightspace and saved offline. The original instructor can [email OLAT](#) to receive assistance with moving the course content into the course they are choosing.

Second, once OLAT has successfully moved the original instructor's content out of the Brightspace site, OLAT will communicate to the scheduler who can then make the necessary course scheduling changes in Banner. OLAT will notify the new faculty member that their course site is available for access.



For your reference, please view this [video explaining Brightspace and Course Schedule Changes](#). While the video is slightly outdated from Fall 2024, the core content and guidance remain accurate and applicable.

## Sandbox Course Site

---

Sandbox course sites are available to all faculty members and are recommended methods for building a course. Entire courses can be built in a sandbox and then copied into a live course once the CRN becomes available. Since there are no students on these sites, you can test tools and delivery methods without worrying about impeding student learning. Additionally, these sites will remain available as long as you remain with Tri-C.

## Course Combine

---

A course combine consolidates students from multiple course sections into a single, master course site that allows instructors to manage all their students' content. Course combines should not take place due to faculty convenience, but only if there is a specified reason to do so. Tri-C's Legal Services and Risk Management team shared guidelines for compliance with FERPA and protecting student identity. Please reference the [Course Combine How to Document](#) to familiarize yourself with the guidelines and course combine reasoning examples.

## Course Roles

---

There are a variety of course roles that can be assigned within a course. By assigning roles you can delegate responsibilities, provide access to content/tools, and manage users within specific courses. View the [Course Roles How to Document](#) to see the variety of roles that can be added to Brightspace along with descriptions and best practices for adding each role.