

Dear USC Faculty:

This summer, Information Technology Services will upgrade Blackboard, USC's course management system, from version 7.3 to version 9.0. The new version offers significant enhancements, including social learning tools such as blogs and journals, a completely redesigned grade book, and integrated components such as quizzes and assignments.

April 2009

Beginning on Monday, April 6, 2009, users logging into Blackboard (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>) will see an updated interface with two buttons that offer separate access to spring and summer 2009 courses.

All summer 2009 course content will reside on a separate server running Blackboard 9.0 to ensure a smooth transition during the upgrade.

The Blackboard system upgrade will have no impact on the current spring 2009 Blackboard courses.

July 2009

Due to changes in the way Blackboard 9.0 handles the creation of new courses, instructors will not be able to create their Blackboard courses for fall 2009 until after July 6, 2009, when the upgrade is complete. Upon request, Blackboard support can set up a development course, which can be migrated to the upgraded Blackboard system after July 6, 2009. Please email [blackboard@usc.edu](mailto:blackboard@usc.edu) to request this option.

Visit the Blackboard login page at <http://blackboard.usc.edu/> to view a collection of how-to videos and instructions related to new Blackboard 9.0 features, as well as information about upcoming training workshops. If you have questions or comments, please contact [blackboard@usc.edu](mailto:blackboard@usc.edu).

Thank you,

Otto Khera

--

Otto Khera, Director  
Center for Scholarly Technology  
Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)  
Information Technology Services  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2571