

VLE Student Survey Design

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Version History

Version	Revision
1.0	First Draft
1.1	Minor revisions from UL Input
1.2	Revised to align with elements of proposed DCU survey
1.3	Minor Revisions from input from TCD, UCC Students Union, UCC Disability Support Unit.
2.0	Minor adjustments following input from survey test at UCC.

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline survey design and methodology for a student survey to inform VLE usage.

It is intended that this survey can be used, with slight modification, by any institution wishing to learn more about its student usage of VLE.

Using a common survey tool will facilitate comparison between institutions of survey results.

Survey Objectives

This survey sets out to identify and quantify:

- key barriers to usage of the VLE
- key benefits to students of using the VLE
- student usage patterns of the VLE

The results of the survey will hopefully quantify and corroborate findings from other research methods, including statistical analysis of administrative data, and student interviews and focus groups.

Exclusions from Survey Scope

This survey is aimed at students only – not teaching staff, although many of the questions can re-used in a staff survey.

Some areas may be included or excluded depending on whether survey data from a respondent can be linked to VLE usage or registration data in a particular institution for example:

- Quantifying volume of usage can be determined more accurately from VLE Admin data.
- Location of access – Can be determined more accurately from Server log files.

Method

Survey will be carried out using an online survey tool (eg MarkClass) and circulated to all students via eMail.

Note that using a survey tool within the VLE will bias the results to exclude non-VLE users. This is not a major limitation but should be noted in the analysis.

Each institution is responsible for survey and data collection within their own institution.

Timing

It is anticipated that the survey will run sometime in the second half of February, so that it keeps well clear of end of term.

We anticipate circulating one eMail reminder on day 7, and closing off the survey to further responses on Day 10.

Incentive

Survey responses should be incentivised by entry into a draw.

Alterations

Ideally, to facilitate comparisons, the survey should be identical.

In practice, some small changes will need to be made. Before using the survey, please replace references to UCC and the Learning Technology Unit with your own institution and team.

Please replace references to 'Blackboard' and 'VLE' with whatever your own Virtual Learning Environment is known as by your own students.

If your institution does not use modules and semesters, you may need to amend the wording of Question 3.

Introduction to the Survey for Students

The **Learning Technologies Unit, University College Cork**, are currently carrying out research on the usage of Blackboard. This research will help us to improve our service to students in future years. We would like you to take a few minutes to complete the survey and help us understand how you use blackboard, and how it helps you.

The data will be used to help us to understand how Blackboard is used in UCC, so that we can improve our service in future years. The data will be analysed anonymously, and no personal identifying information, for example names or student numbers, will be permanently associated with the data. Survey findings will also be used for comparison with findings from similar surveys in other institutions. Once all analysis has been completed, the data will be deleted.

To give you an incentive, if you complete the survey by **Tuesday, February 19th**, we will put your name into a draw for one of **five Creative Zen Stone mp3 Players**.

Survey Questions

Usage

	Question	Response Form
1	How often do you use Blackboard	Tick one Daily A few times a week Once a Week Once or twice per month Never
2	If you use Blackboard, why? What are the benefits to you?	Tick as many as apply. Keep Track of class times Get copies of lecture notes Get other course material Online discussions about the course Other (specify)
3	How many modules have you taken this semester in which you have used Blackboard?	(choose one) One Two Three More then three
4	If you do not use Blackboard, why not?	Tick as many as apply. My Lecturers don't use it The information on it isn't useful I can't access it I find it difficult to use I don't have access to the web Other (specify)
5		

	How useful is blackboard for the accessing the following? Class Announcements Lecture Notes Other Course Documents Reading Lists Recommended Web Sites Discussion Boards Digital Drop Box Tests and Surveys Other (specify)	(tick on of the choices for each row as many as apply) Do not use, not very useful, useful, very useful. Free text box for other
6	For lecture notes, do you: Access them before class: Print them and bring them to class: Access them after class:	(tick one option for each item on the list) Daily A few times a week Once a Week Once or twice per month Never

Include this question if you are unable to access information from your server log files. Server log file data will be more reliable, but it may not be possible to link individual server access patterns to a specific survey respondent, which may limit analysis.

	Question	Response Form
7	From where do you access blackboard?	Tick as many as apply Home Workplace Open Access labs Departmental labs Laptops on Campus Internet Cafes outside Campus Mobile Device Other (specify)

Barriers and Enablers

	Question	Response Form
8	I am comfortable with using computers.	5 point scale strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree strongly disagree
9	I have adequate access (ie computers, bandwidth) to the web outside college.	
10	I think systems like blackboard are helpful.	
11	Blackboard is easy to use.	
12	Blackboard is reliable.	
13	I can get adequate help and support to use the VLE	(free text response)
14	Is there anything else that prevents you from getting the best use of Blackboard?	

Blackboard and Learning

	Question	Response Form
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15	<p>For each of the statements below, choose whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree or strongly disagree.</p> <p>Using blackboard gives me more access to my lecturers</p> <p>Using blackboard gives me more access to classmates</p> <p>Using blackboard changes the hours I can study</p> <p>Using blackboard gives me more access to resources and learning materials</p> <p>Getting notes on blackboard makes me less likely to go to lectures</p> <p>It mainly repeats what is covered in class</p> <p>It adds to what is covered in class</p> <p>It helps to clarify what has been covered in class</p> <p>I would like my lecturers to make more use of Blackboard</p> <p>My lecturers make good use of blackboard.</p> <p>I would prefer getting material in hardcopy handouts to having it put on blackboard.</p> <p>Using blackboard makes it easier for me to learn.</p> <p>Using blackboard facilitates prompt feedback and opportunities for evaluation</p>	<p>5 point scale strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree strongly disagree</p>
16	Are there any other ways, good or bad, that using blackboard affects how well you learn.	(free text response)
17	If you could change one thing about how blackboard operates, or how it is used by staff, what would that be?	(free text response)
18	Have you any other comments on how you use blackboard, or how it affects you learning?	(free text response)
19	If you have a disability, how has using Blackboard affected you?	(free text response)

Demographics

Include these questions if you are unable to merge survey results with demographic data from the enrolment system.

	Question	Response Form
20	What is your gender?	Male/Female
	What is your age?	(check one) 16-23 24-35 36-50 50+
21	What course are you studying	Free text
22	What year of the course are you in?	Single digit
23	How do you attend the college	Day/Evening/Distance Learning
24	Do you have a disability/learning difficulty that affects your learning experience at UCC and use of Blackboard?	Ticks as many as apply Dyslexia, Deaf/ Hard of Hearing, Blind/Vision Impairment, Physical Disability. Other (Specify)

And Finally...

This survey is anonymous, however, if you would like to be included in the prize draw, please provide your student eMail address.	(free text response)
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If you have anything else to add, please Email [us at ltu@ucc.ie](mailto:us@ltu@ucc.ie).