Streamlining Course Listings and Management in Blackboard Learn

Requesting a "Common Learning Environment"

If an instructor is teaching multiple sections of a course, using the same content, but with different students in each section, the instructor may want to ask the department ASC or ASA to set up a common learning environment in PeopleSoft. This streamlines course management because you only need to manage course content within a single "master" section.

Note: It is important to request a common learning environment BEFORE the instructor loads content into a section. Making a request for a common learning environment after the semester starts could result in deleted student submissions, discussion posts, etc., if those submissions occurred in a section other than the "master."

Background Information: How Courses are Configured in PeopleSoft and Blackboard Learn

There are two systems at CSU Chico that impact course listings for faculty and students:

- PeopleSoft is used for student enrollment and for specifying which instructors are teaching specific sections. Department ASC/ASAs configure class sections, faculty and students in PeopleSoft. See the Business Process Guide section of the Academic Publications and Scheduling Services website for details.

- Blackboard Learn (Bb Learn) is the campus learning management system where instructors post, at a minimum, a syllabus and grades; and more commonly, course content, discussion boards, assignments, and tests.
  - PeopleSoft courses sections are "loaded" into Blackboard Learn prior to the start of the semester. By default, each course section has a corresponding course "shell" or listing on the Bb Learn Home Page.
  - New sections and add/drops are transferred from PeopleSoft to Bb Learn every hour.

Common scenarios for Common Learning Environments in Blackboard Learn

Hide the Lab/Discussion/Activity Section

If an instructor is teaching BOTH the lecture and a lab/activity/discussion section, and the students are the SAME in all of the sections, the instructor may want to "hide" the activity section from the Bb Learn Home Page. Faculty, staff and students can control the information which is displayed in the My Bb Learn Courses list in Blackboard Learn by clicking on the little gear icon. Contact the Technology and Learning Program if you need assistance.

Other

Sometimes, there are multiple PeopleSoft components for labs, discussions, activities, with multiple instructors assigned to each of those components. In those cases, the instructor should determine the preferred set up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample/PeopleSoft Components (e.g., Lecture, Discussion, Lab, Activity, etc.)</th>
<th>Common Bb Learn Configuration</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BISE 165 (EEC)</td>
<td>BISE 165-01</td>
<td>Scenario: single PS component, one section of that component, one instructor. Potential solution: one Bb Learn course shell (default).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 301 (EEC)</td>
<td>GEOG 301-01</td>
<td>Scenario: single PS component, multiple sections, same instructor; same content, different students. Potential solution: merge sections into a &quot;common Bb Learn environment&quot; with master section denoted with &quot;X&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 545 (ACT)</td>
<td>CHEM 545-01</td>
<td>Scenario: multiple PS components; multiple sections, same instructor; same students, different content. Potential Solution: hide one of the component sections (e.g., Lab) and make a folder in the main section for content from the other component.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 121-01 (EEC), CHEM 121-03 (EEC)</td>
<td>CHEM 121-01, 03</td>
<td>Scenario: multiple PS components; multi-section, same instructor; same content, different students for lecture component; different instructors, potentially the same content, different students for lab component. Potential solution: Bb Learn configuration varies depending on instructor assignments, resources, and entitlements. Instructor should consult with TLP.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The above are just sample PeopleSoft class setup components.
Making Changes to a Common Learning Environment Configuration

Once a common learning environment has been set up in Blackboard Learn, you must send an email to bblearn@csuchico.edu for any of the following changes:

- Adding a section to an existing Common Learning Environment set up (for example, sections 01 and 02 configured as common learning environment in PeopleSoft in August, new section 72 added to PeopleSoft in September)
- Separating/removing a section from an existing Common Learning Environment (for example, if a course has multiple instructors who do not want to work within a common learning environment)
- Changing the master section for an existing Common Learning Environment (for example, the instructor changed their mind about the common learning environment setup)

Failure to send an email to bblearn@csuchico.edu will likely result in one of the following scenarios:

- Half of the roster is missing
- Grade center is not listing all sections
- Students are not seeing the correct section, or not seeing the correct content