

# Canvas for Students – Frequently Asked Questions

Across the 2018 – 2019 academic year, all courses at Arizona State University will be migrating to a new learning management system (LMS) known as Canvas. Canvas is a user-friendly and feature-rich system that supports distribution of course materials, learning activities, collaboration, communication, and assessments.

ASU's previous LMS, Blackboard, will be available until June 30, 2019. During the transition period, both systems will be accessible. The following Q&A and resources are designed to address the most common questions and concerns for students.

## How will the move to Canvas impact students?

During the yearlong migration period, ASU students may have classes in both Blackboard and Canvas. This transition phase will give students who have previously only used Blackboard the opportunity to explore Canvas and get a feel for its course navigation structure and functions. Although Canvas is different from Blackboard, students report that the two systems follow a generally universal approach that allows users to quickly identify and adapt to the navigation and functionality of Canvas. The Canvas user interface has a modern look and feel, with a high focus on ease of use. There is also a powerful mobile application component for use on tablets, smartphones, and related devices.

Another significant benefit of the Canvas platform is that it will not experience scheduled outages for maintenance and updates in the way Blackboard does, which will minimize disruption for learners.

## How should students prepare to use Canvas?

To prepare for using Canvas, students should access their courses as soon as possible and explore the new system. It may also be helpful to review the following on-demand Canvas resources to learn about the basics:

- **Canvas Community – Student Guide:** <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>
- **Canvas and Blackboard Feature Glossary:** <http://links.asu.edu/student-canvas-glossary>

## How will students access courses in Canvas?

Students will continue to access their courses through their MyASU homepage. Should MyASU be inaccessible for any reason, students can also navigate directly to Canvas via <http://canvas.asu.edu>.

## Will MyASU look different?

No, MyASU is not expected to look or function differently as a result of the migration. It will still act as the primary access point to enter courses, and that will be seamless, as MyASU will automatically direct students to either the Blackboard or Canvas system where each respective course is located.

## How can students get technical assistance?

- The **Canvas “Help” icon** located on the left-hand navigation menu contains links to ASU Help tools and on-demand resources.
- The **ASU Help Desk** is fully trained and has resources for working in both Blackboard and Canvas. Phone and live chat support are available 24/7: <http://contact.asu.edu>.
- **ASU Tech Studios** provide a variety of walk-in support services on all ASU campuses: <https://uto.asu.edu/services/campus-it-resources/techstudio>

*Adapted with permission from: <https://currentstudent.asuonline.asu.edu/blackboard-canvas-migration-asu-online-student-qa>*