



Blackboard[®]

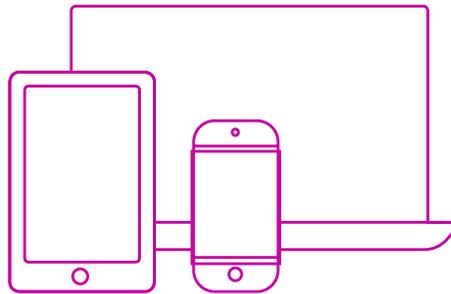
Starters Guide to Mobile-Friendly Courses



Overview

Understanding the power
of mobile learning

Mobile Learning



Mobile learning can empower students to interact with academic content on the devices that they use to connect with nearly every other aspect of their lives.

Offering course material in such an easy to access environment, can improve student engagement and participation, and can ultimately have a positive impact on learning outcomes and retention.

Mobile Learning Can Take Place:



Inside the Classroom

When implemented effectively, mobile technology can enhance classroom learning and drive student engagement. Instructors can use tools like mobile polling to gauge student sentiment and students can use tools like audio and video recording for more effective note taking.



Outside the Classroom

Mobile technology can also be used to support learning outside of the classroom. Mobile enables students to access academic content whenever they want to and unique mobile tools like push notifications can help students stay up-to-date.

Accessibility

Mobile delivery of academic content can make the learning experience more personalized and better meet the needs of a range of learners compared to more traditional delivery styles.



Student Enrichment

Many students believe that technology enriches their academic experiences.



Benefits of Mobile Learning

Participation & Engagement

Students see technology as a powerful mechanism for increasing their levels of engagement in their academic work.



Flexibility

Mobile learning gives students the flexibility to learn anytime they want to, anywhere they want to, on whatever device they choose to.



Collaboration

Most students feel that technology helps them engage with other students on tasks like working on class projects, communicating and learning from peers.



Fast Facts

More than  **80%** of students say technology helps them conduct research, and keep track of courses and school work.

Almost **50%** of students get more actively involved in courses that use technology.

 **78%** of students believe that technology in their courses contributed to their successful completion.

52% of faculty believe the use of mobile devices in class can enhance learning.

Anywhere from  **60-80%** of higher education students with a disability never disclose it to their teachers or administrators.



Content

Start designing courses
with mobile in mind

Things to Consider

- 1 Cut the clutter**

Screen space is prime real estate. Break content down into easily digestible lists, and avoid bulky images or graphs to prevent cognitive overwhelm. Leave plenty of white space around your on-screen items.
- 2 Need for speed**

Mobile learning can be limited by bandwidth access and network speeds. Optimize content for mobile by compressing large files.
- 3 One size doesn't fit all**

Screen sizes vary widely, and different devices handle content differently. Keep devices in mind, and beware of formats like Flash that aren't compatible across all devices.
- 4 Accessibility**

While mobile technology presents accessibility opportunities (Voice-Over, Zoom, Invert Colors), it can also put up barriers for users who may struggle with touch screen devices, small screens and buttons, and complex menu systems.
- 5 Put your content to the test**

Preview layouts on multiple devices to ensure that your content appears as it should.

↓ Scrolling

Think about how much scrolling a document requires. Scrolling can be more difficult on smaller screens.

User Experience

Think about how you want your students to interact with your course and what activities they are likely to complete from a phone or tablet.

Here are some tips to consider about the app user experience:

+ Zooming

It's often easier for users to zoom out on a desktop than to have to zoom in on a mobile device.

☐ Landscape vs. Portrait

Consider landscape vs. portrait view and how content will appear.

🕒 Mobile Assignments

Keep mobile assignments shorter, chunking them out into 10-15 minute pieces.

📌 Linking

If you're linking outside of the course, notify learners that they are leaving the mobile-optimized environment.



Imagery

While images can make a course more engaging and add value, they can also detract from a course if they're too bulky or are not optimized for mobile.

Keep these best practices in mind when adding images to your course:

- Select or create graphics with a resolution of approximately 100ppi.
- Use bold imagery and images on white backgrounds.
- Use clear and simple images that don't require too much zoom to understand the content.
- Use visual cues like descriptive icons to clarify the image.
- Keep the amount of text used in images to a minimum.

Fonts

Font and font size can have a big impact on content accessibility and user experience.

Here are a few tips to consider when producing course content:

Font size

Make your default font size at least 14pt. Larger font sizes eliminate the amount of zooming required on mobile.

Font style

Use simple fonts like sans-serif and choose colors sensibly keeping contrast in mind.

Images

Keep the amount of text used in images to a minimum.

Multimedia

Incorporating audio and video content into your course is a great way to make your course more engaging.

Keep these best practices in mind when including audio and video content in your course:



Content type

Not all mobile devices can play all types of media files.



Download time

Quality and length of an audio or video file will greatly impact the download time. Optimizing and compressing any audio and video files is important for a fast mobile experience.





Get Started

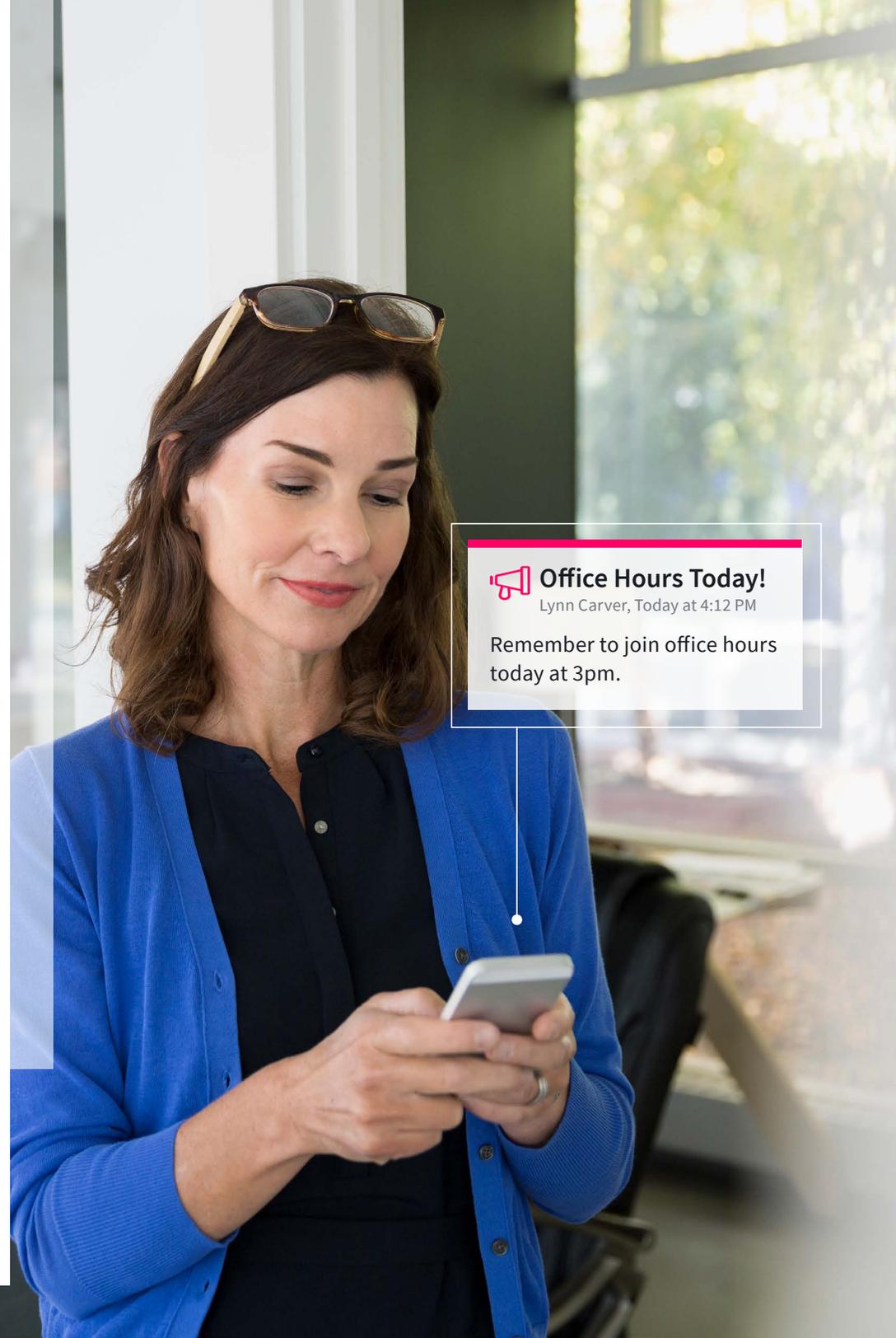
Three exercises to begin mobile
teaching and learning

Keep students up-to-date and motivated

Nudges can help students complete important tasks, stay motivated, take advantage of support resources and stay on track in class.

Encourage Office Hours Participation

How many students regularly attend your office hours? Send an announcement to students before office hours to remind them of the time and let them know they can also attend virtually using Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom.



 **Office Hours Today!**
Lynn Carver, Today at 4:12 PM
Remember to join office hours today at 3pm.

Check the pulse of your students

Mobile polling is a great way to engage students during class, check where students are to encourage active participation.

Gauge students' understanding of class material

Want to get a better sense of whether or not students are grasping the material being covered in your course? Mobile polls can help you quickly gauge student comprehension levels and adjust when necessary.



How well do you feel like you understood today's class material?

- A) Great, I've got it!
- B) I need to clarify a few things.
- C) Ugh, I'm confused.

Integrate mobile assignments into coursework

Consider replacing a traditional assignment with a multimedia project that makes use of mobile tools such as camera, voice/video recording, and video conferencing.

Ideas to incorporate mobile capabilities:

- Include on-camera interviews
- Have students take photos while outside
- Send students on a mobile field trip
- Assign a group project enhanced by the use of Collaborate
- Create a digital storytelling project





Resources

Learn more about the
Blackboard apps and designing
mobile-friendly courses



Blackboard

The Blackboard app is a modern, easy to use, mobile learning app for the on the go student.

The Blackboard app helps students stay connected to their academics anytime, anywhere. They can check grades, view announcements, participate in discussions, access and submit content, and connect with peers and instructors using Collaborate.

Learn more: https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard_App/Student



Blackboard Instructor

Blackboard Instructor helps educators increase efficiency, simplify workflows and amplify student engagement.

Blackboard Instructor allows instructors to preview course content, send announcements, create and participate in discussions, and join Collaborate sessions anytime, anywhere.

Learn more: https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard_App/Instructor

Learn More

Join Blackboard's Educator Community

The educator community is a great place to connect with other educators and to find and share teaching & learning resources, ideas, best practices, and more!

<https://community.blackboard.com/community/questions/educator>

Visit the Blackboard Instructor Help Site

Learn more about the Blackboard Instructor app and how it can help you easily complete tasks on the go, preview mobile content, and connect with students.

https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard_App/Instructor

Learn more about designing mobile-friendly courses

Take a deep dive into designing mobile-friendly courses. Use this guide to ensuring your content is optimized for mobile and easily accessible to students anytime, anywhere.

http://www.blackboard.com/Images/MobileBestPractices_FINAL.pdf?utm_source=BbCorp-Website&utm_medium=Web&utm_campaign=2017_HigherEd_Student_Success_BbStudent_MobileBestPractices&utm_term=Datasheet&utm_content=WebTile

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