

A TLPDC QUICK (TIP) INFO SHEET

What is Blackboard Learn? What is Ultra? What is the difference?

And, how much of a change will this be?

(This is one IoR's perspective and, as such, is more of an information sheet than a tip sheet.)

BLACKBOARD IS OUR LMS:

According to [this page from Blackboard](#): "Ultra describes the transformation of the user interface and workflows in Blackboard Learn." **Great. What does that mean for me, an IoR?**

Texas Tech upgraded our LMS in 2020 to something called a SAAS deployment, which means Software as a Service. Maybe that has meaning for you, but if you're like me the technology part—whatever it's called—doesn't matter, because I'm not as concerned with how it works as much as understanding how to use it. **(But, to be clear, the SAAS deployment was a big, important shift that represented a win-win for Texas Tech faculty and students.)**

More Good news! The "Ultra experience" is just a term for a new user interface that is more intuitive. It provides new course navigation that is billed as "more personalized and proactive" for faculty and learners. **The content components remain exactly the same as what we're using today (as of spring 2021).**

[Here's a Blackboard help page that compares the views.](#) (Scroll to learn more.)

The Ultra Experience describes a change to how the course is viewed! Truthfully, the change to the SAAS deployment was the biggest one we'll make as the rest is primarily cosmetic.

Compiled from various Blackboard articles here are the key answers to my original questions:

- What is Blackboard Learn? **The version we're currently using with the Original Course view.**
- What is Ultra? **The Ultra Experience view that we'll move to when faculty are ready.**
- What is the difference? **The way we view the user interface.**
- How much of a change will this be? **When the Ultra Experience is enabled, all the features that faculty have access to right now, will still be available. "Whew. That's one less thing I need to worry about!"** (Jody Roginson, TLPDC Faculty Fellow, 2021).

 **ABOUT THE ULTRA EXPERIENCE**

Watch the **Ultra Experience** in action in this YouTube video.



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