

WHY WOULD YOU USE THIS FEATURE?

Course links allows students to link directly to any of the course map items within the class. This feature is useful because it can make navigating the course easier for students. The instructor can link to different parts of the course that they wish the students to complete. Instructors can also use this feature to group course work according to major objective areas.

Course links are available through the control panel for the syllabus, assignments, external links and manage course menu features. When using course links in manage course menu, the instructor can add a new area (button on main page).

TO SET UP IN A COURSE LINK:

1. In the control panel, open a content area, such as assignments.
2. Select Add +Course Link from the action bar on the top left side of the page.
3. Complete the Add New Area page, browsing to the area of the course you wish to link.
4. Click submit.

TO ADD A NEW CONTENT AREA (BUTTON ON MAIN PAGE):

1. In the control panel, click on Manage Course Menu in the course options section.
2. Click on Add +Content Area from the action bar on the top left side of the page.
3. Complete the Add New Area page and click submit.
4. Click OK, return to your main page, and click refresh on the left side toolbar. Be sure your new area (button) appeared.
5. Instructors can change the names of the existing content areas by entering the control panel, clicking on manage course menu and then clicking modify next to an area name.

HOW DO STUDENTS USE THIS IN A BLACKBOARD CLASS?

Students can access these links in the areas where the instructor places them. For example, the instructor could place a course link for the discussion board in the assignments area. The students can access the assignments area, click on the discussion board link on the next page, and then go directly to the discussion forums.

POTENTIAL ISSUES FOR STUDENTS

Students will be able to access the information through the course link and through the traditional methods they may have used in another class. This may cause some confusion, however it does not really matter how students connect to an area.