

Similar Tools/Functions Between Blackboard and Scholar

NOTE: "Similar" does NOT imply identical functionality. The tools in each row serve a similar purpose but do not necessarily have the same features.

Tool Category	Scholar (Sakai 2.5.4)	Blackboard 8 Academic Suite
Content	Blog	
	Module (Melete Lessons)	Learning Unit [tool], Course Documents
	News	
	Podcasts	Content Areas
	Resources	Content Areas (Course Information, Course Documents, Assignments, External Links)
	Syllabus	Syllabus
	Web Content, Resources, Wiki	Content Areas (External Links)
	Wiki	
Communications	Announcements	Announcements
	Calendar (Schedule)	Calendar
	Chat Room	Virtual Classroom; Lightweight Chat
	(Discussion) Forums	Discussion Board
	Email Archive	HokieSPA listserv
	Mailtool (Internal/External)	Email
	Messages (Internal only)	Email
	Synoptic (Announcements, Calendars, Messages, Forums)	Recent announcements on site home page; merged calendars
Grades	Drop Box	Digital Drop Box
	Post 'Em (Feedback)	
	Gradebook	Grade Center
Assessment	Assignments	Assignments [tool]
	Data Points	
	Goal Management	Outcomes
	Polls, Test & Quizzes (Survey)	Survey Manager, Opinion Poll, Multiple Choice Poll
	Tests & Quizzes	Survey Manager; Test Manager; Pool Manager

Portfolios	Evaluations	
	Forms	
	Glossary	
	Matrices	
	Portfolio Layouts	
	Portfolio Templates	
	Portfolios	
	Presentation	
	Reports	
	Styles	
	Wizards	
Administration & site management	Account	Personal Information/Change Password
	Membership	My Courses; My Organizations
	Preferences	
	Profile	Personal Profile; Staff Information
	Search	
	Section Info	
	Site Info (Site Editor)	Control Panel (Course Options; Settings; User Management)
	Roster, Add Participants, Add Class Roster(s)	List/Modify Users
	Site Setup	Course Creation Wizard
	OCS: Site Statistics, Site Size Info	Course Statistics

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What Tools does Scholar have that Blackboard doesn't?

Blog	The Blog tool allows site participants to create and maintain weblogs (blogs), or online journals. While a blog can be created and maintained by only one person and may be kept private (i.e., the tool in My Workspace), blogs are well suited to group development and are usually intended for others to read. For reflective writing or journaling processes, a private blog may also be kept or shared between only the instructor and student.
Edit Class Rosters	This option allows an instructor to combine sections (or entirely different courses) together into one Scholar Course site yet maintain separate announcements, assignments, and gradebooks. Student enrollments through the registration system are automatically managed and updated for the site.
Email Archive	When each site is created, an email address is automatically associated with the site. The Email Archive tool allows you to view your site's email address and to create an alias for it that is easy to remember. Like a listserv, you and other site participants can send an email to all members of the site by sending email to this email address. The tool also archives email for future reference.
Post 'Em (Feedback)	The Post 'Em (Feedback) tool allows site owners to post individual feedback to participants in a site. If you are an instructor, you may use Feedback to post grades and comments for individual students. If you are a project leader, you might use Feedback to provide feedback to individual team members and track their progress toward goals. You may also use this tool to share feedback among members. Site users can only see their own scores and feedback.
News	The News tool allows you to view information from a news source, blog, events listing, or other site that updates its content dynamically. News can come from RSS "feeds" or sites that have buttons that say RSS, ATOM, & XML.
Podcasts	The Podcasts tool allows you to upload audio and video files from your computer system to your site and display these files in a user-friendly way. Site participants may then download these files to the podcaster of their choice (including most computers with podcaster software) in order to play them. Many instructors use podcasts to make audio lectures, video presentations, slideshow presentations, and other material available to students outside of class. NOTE: Blackboard supports the upload/download of the podcast format, but only Scholar offers the automatic feed to the user.
Portfolios	The Portfolio Templates tool allows you, the site organizer, to add portfolio templates to your site and manage their use by site participants. A portfolio template defines the layout, style, and content of all portfolios that are based on it. If you are a site organizer, you can create templates that support the intended purpose(s) of portfolios on your site. You might create one template to support resumes or other forms of self-presentation. You might create

	another for displaying the results of teaching and learning as demonstrated in the contents of general education or co-curricular progress matrices. Or you might create a template that is tailored for assessment and accreditation portfolios, such as those that integrate learning across many data structures and sites to show learning in relation to institutional values or desired outcomes. See http://eportfolio.vt.edu/ for more information on how ePortfolio and Scholar work together at Virginia Tech for personal use, course assessments, and for college and university accreditation purposes.
Preferences	The Preferences tool manages your site links, change email notification options, specify time zone, and languages. Available in "My Workspace".
Search	The Search tool allows you to search an entire site to find documents and other materials that contain text you specify. The tool searches the content and file names of the following file types in Resources: .doc (MS Word document), .pdf (portable document format), .ppt (MS PowerPoint presentation), .xls (MS Excel), .xsd (XML schema definition for forms), .html, and .xhtml. It also searches: emails in the Email Archive, wikis, announcements (searches both the subject and content of announcements), chat messages (searches both the header and body of chat messages), titles (but not content) of .zip (Winzip archive) and .sit (Stuffit archive) files
Sign-up	An online scheduler for site users to sign up for timeslots. This replaces the 'sign-up sheets on an office door' with an online alternative. Faculty use this tool to allow students to sign up for office hours, meetings, & review sessions. This tool can also be used in project sites to create meetings for participants or to schedule support for conferences. If a time slot is full, participants can add themselves to a waitlist. The tool automatically "promotes" a participant when a slot becomes available and sends email notification.
Wiki	The Wiki tool allows your site participants to create and maintain a wiki (that is, a web site that allows groups of people to create and change its content without possessing any web programming skills or technical knowledge). Instead of using programming commands to format text, create new pages, insert pictures and links, etc., users insert special punctuation that is automatically converted into appropriate programming commands. Users can edit and save wiki pages and see the results immediately. The content for a wiki comes from its users. Everyone that uses it can contribute and change it as they choose. As a result, a wiki tends to change over time to suit the changing needs of its users. A wiki is especially good for group paper collaboration, creating public areas or websites, or for chronicling knowledge processes or procedures shared among a group.

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