



CourseSites MOOC Platform: FAQ

- **Why should I choose CourseSites as my MOOC platform?**
CourseSites is a free, cloud-based online teaching and learning platform powered by the latest Blackboard technology. It enables you to easily create flexible, open education experiences for students around the world. CourseSites provides the necessary tools and support to optimize student engagement, completion and success.
- **How many students can I teach in a MOOC on CourseSites?**
CourseSites allows you to teach an unlimited number of students in your courses.
- **What additional Blackboard technology is available in CourseSites and can I utilize it in my MOOC?**
CourseSites is powered by the latest and greatest technology from Blackboard, including Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1, Blackboard Collaborate™, Blackboard Mobile™ Learn, and Blackboard Connect™ for Learn. You have free access to all of these tools to utilize in your course(s).
- **Where can I see an example of a MOOC on CourseSites?**
Blackboard has offered two MOOCs to date as a part of the CourseSites Open Course Series (<https://open.coursesites.com>) and more are to come. While the courses have concluded, you can browse them as a guest, or enroll to see how each was designed, access the resources, and use them as a model to start your own course(s).
- **Can I customize CourseSites with my institution's branding?**
Each instructor on CourseSites receives a unique URL which is linked to a public instructor home page. You can utilize this URL for your institution (i.e. <https://uis.coursesites.com>) and upload your institution logo as the avatar. You can also upload images within the course, such as a course banner and page headers for further branding.
- **Is there a MOOC template I can use to build my course?**
CourseSites provides you with flexible menu and course design options to meet the needs of your course objectives, outcomes and expectations. We provide you with a set-up guide with over 30 course templates and themes to choose from. Also, you can use one of the CourseSites open courses as a template by going to <https://open.coursesites.com>. Click on the Instructional Ideas and Technology Tools course link, scroll down to locate the OER area, and download a Blackboard or Common Cartridge course package to import and use as a starting point for your course.

- **A recent open course offered on CourseSites provided badges. How can I include badges?**

The CourseSites team used [Adaptive Release](#) to create a learning path for learners and to reveal the badge image. You can establish your own learning path with Adaptive Release. CourseSites is working with the Mozilla Open Badge framework to provide capabilities for badge provision and storage. Please contact us as coursesites@blackboard.com for more information on how to offer badges.

- **What type of support is available?**

Live support is available to instructors *and* students by phone (U.S. and Canada) and chat 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. EST M-F and 9 a.m – 5 p.m. Sat-Sun. Users also may search the knowledge base for commonly asked questions or submit a ticket at any time.

- **Does CourseSites include tools that encourage networking?**

In addition to robust collaboration tools, each course roster now provides increased visibility of teacher and student information to better support peer-to-peer and student-instructor connections, networking and interaction. All course users can collect contact favorites for convenience as well as connect through social media. Please [view the tutorial \(http://youtu.be/FYLDr0kPs5s\)](http://youtu.be/FYLDr0kPs5s) to learn how to manage your roster. Share the tutorial with your students so they can begin connecting with one another.

- **How do students enroll in courses on CourseSites?**

CourseSites' provides a variety of enrollment capabilities to serve the diverse use cases and teaching scenarios of educators. For open courses which experience high volumes of participation, you can enable students to self-enroll, with or without an access code. Self-enrollment eliminates the need for any involvement in the enrollment process and allows you to focus on course design, development and facilitation.

- **What type course data can I collect during my course?**

In addition to assessment results, such as test scores, CourseSites offers many reporting options. Examples include:

- All User Activity Inside Content Areas
- Course Activity Overview
- Course Coverage Report
- Course Performance Student Overview
- User Activity in Forums
- User Activity in Groups.

- **Is it possible to open up my course for enrollment before I have completed designing my course?**

If you would like to open up the course for enrollment while you are still developing it, we recommend you hide all pages from guests and students and make one content area or announcement available that can serve as a splash page with

information regarding the course. You can then use the course email tool to communicate with early registrations and keep them up to date the course launch.

- **Can I integrate CourseSites with my institution's SIS?**

CourseSites cannot be integrated with an institution's Student Information System(SIS). If you have specific customization requests, please contact coursesites@blackboard.com.

- **If I am an institution and I have special requests, who should I contact?**

The CourseSites team wants to support you in your institution's open initiatives and we are happy to help address your specific needs. Please contact Jarl Jonas or Sarah Bishop-Root at coursesites@blackboard.com if you have specific questions or needs you would like to discuss.

- **How do I get started?**

Get started today at coursesites.com. We will guide you through the account and course creation process. You can also obtain further resources at our Get Started page at coursesites.com (<https://www.coursesites.com/webapps/Bb-sites-course-creation-BBLEARN/pages/getstarted.html>) or view tutorials at our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/coursesites.