Getting Started

Student Preview

With student preview, you can experience your course exactly as your students do. You can review course content and validate course behaviors, such as the availability of content or adaptive release, allowing you to confirm course design and functionality before your students see it.

While in student preview mode, you can do the following student activities:
- Submit assignments
- Take tests
- Create blog and discussion posts
- Create journal and wiki entries
- View student tools, such as My Grades

Note: Student preview is different from using Edit Mode. Edit Mode OFF hides the editing controls, but still displays any content that would normally be hidden from a student. Also, it doesn’t enable you to see student-only content, such as My Grades.

Enter Student Preview Mode

To enter student preview mode, click the Enter Student Preview function, at the top-right corner of your course pages, next to the Change Course Theme function.

Student preview creates a student account, called the preview user account, logs you in as that student, and enrolls you in the current course. When you enter student preview mode, the student preview bar appears at the top of every page. Student preview mode is active only in the courses where you enable it.

Understand Your Preview User Account

When you enter student preview mode and are logged in to your course with the preview user account, your preview user appears in the course roster and is visible to all students enrolled in the course. Students and
administrators can easily identify this as your preview user account by the way it is named: its last name is your last name appended with “_PreviewUser” and its username is your username appended with “_previewuser”. If you are teaching a course with another instructor, you will each have your own preview user account.

As a preview user, all the data associated with your activities are captured by Blackboard Learn, such as submitted assignments and discussion posts. Other students can even interact with your preview user. For example, they can reply to your posts as though you were another student enrolled in the course.

Exit Student Preview

Click Exit Preview to exit the student preview. If you leave the course without exiting from student preview, you will return to student preview when you return to the course. When you exit the student preview, you are prompted to keep or delete the preview user and all its associated data.

It is considered best practice to remove the preview user and its associated data. To do this, select Delete the preview user and all data (Recommended). If you want, select Remember this choice and do not ask again. The course will automatically complete your choice each time you exit student preview.

Deleting the preview user has the following effects:

- All activity conducted or created as the preview user is removed from the course permanently. This includes test attempts, assignment submissions, grades, and discussion posts. Also deleted is any interaction an enrolled student has with the preview user, such as replies to a preview user’s discussion posts.
- The preview user is unenrolled from the course. If the user is not enrolled in another course, the preview user account is deleted.
  You can unenroll the preview user account from a course using the traditional enrollment tools. If this is done, some of the activity conducted or created as the preview student remains in the course but is made anonymous. For example, discussion posts are retained but made anonymous.

Select Keep the preview user and all data if you need to keep the user and data to see how student activity presents itself to you as the instructor, such as grade calculations. If you keep the data, the preview user account will appear in the course roster, Grade Center, and any place where you did something as that user.

Note: Not all institutions have student preview enabled. When available, the Enter Student Preview function appears in the top-right corner of your course pages, next to the Change Course Theme function.