

# WHAT IS BLACKBOARD?



**Blackboard** is Columbia College's web-based Course Management System and tool that allows our instructors to develop and support online education.

Students use the Blackboard system when they take fully-online classes (no face-to-face instruction), hybrid classes (a blend of face-to-face and online instruction) and in face-to-face classes when instructors use Blackboard as an enhancement tool.

Note: Blackboard features and tools used in an online class may vary from instructor to instructor.

Most students will find Blackboard easy to use, especially if they are familiar with the Internet and have some basic computer skills: searching the Internet, word processing, and uploading and downloading files. If you want to learn more about being an online student and the technology skills needed, check out the Blackboard Demo located on the log-in page.

Go to the Columbia College home page and click on the Blackboard icon.



This will take you to the Blackboard log-in page.

The screenshot shows a log-in form with the following elements:

- User ID:** A text input field.
- Password:** A text input field.
- Log In:** A button.

## Log-in for First Time Blackboard Users

We highly recommend before logging in, that you click on the ["Check Browser Support"](#) link above the Username and Password text boxes. This browser check will ensure the browser is correctly configured in order to have complete functionality inside the Blackboard classroom. Make sure to look around the log-in page for additional information and resources that may be helpful, such as the Student Services link or the Help and Technology Requirements tabs.

**User ID:** Your "w" number (for example, w0123456)

**Blackboard Password:** Your 6 digit Date of Birth as mmddyy (for example, 041189)

**Note:** If you have used the Blackboard system in the past, log in using your existing username and password. If that is not successful, try using your six-digit birth date as the password. If you still cannot log in, contact the Help Desk. Most online classes are available starting 5 calendar days prior to the start of the semester.

## Spring 2010 Online Training Opportunities

Columbia College offers a hybrid class **CMPSC 101, "How to Succeed as an Online Student,"** in the fall and spring semesters for students who would like to experience online activities and practice technology skills before enrolling in an online class.

**One hour face-to-face Blackboard orientation sessions** for those enrolled in online or hybrid classes will be conducted during the first couple of weeks of the fall semester in the ITC (Instructional Technology Center) Room 134, located in Tamarack Hall.

Wednesday	January 6	12N-1P
Friday	January 8	4P-5P
Monday	January 11	4P-5P
Wednesday	January 13	4P-5P
Friday	January 15	10A-11A