

Approval Policy for Blackboard Learn Building Blocks

Blackboard Building Blocks (or B2s) are programs that can be added to Blackboard Learn to provide additional functionality. Some building blocks add new tools to Blackboard Learn. Others provide a way to integrate content from third-party tools directly in Blackboard Learn.

A list of Blackboard-created and Blackboard Partner-created building blocks can be found at: <http://www.blackboard.com/Partnerships/Extensions.aspx>

Examples of Building Blocks currently used at UAFS include:

- McGraw-Hill Connect
- SafeAssign

In order to ensure that the Blackboard Learn service is working at maximum efficiency, Technology Services and Instructional Support will test all new building block software, prior to its deployment into the Production environment. These tests will ensure that the software does not degrade Blackboard performance, create system instability, or negatively affect existing Blackboard services.

Instructors may request the addition of building blocks to the Blackboard Learn system by completing a form and submitting it to Instructional Support. Requests for building blocks that are not developed by Blackboard or a Blackboard Partner must include three references from schools that are currently using the building block in a comparable version of Blackboard Learn.

If an instructor is unable to get three references for the product, the TS and IS departments may accept a request with only two references, if the building block is the product of a reputable software company and has no known technical issues in a comparable version of Blackboard Learn.

Once approval and testing are completed without any technical issues, the building block can be implemented into Production at the earliest feasible opportunity that will not disrupt active courses.