Blackboard Utilization
2013 to 2016

In January, 2013, we measured Blackboard utilization by counting courses than had no logins to courses that did have logins. At that time utilization was 35%. This assessment made no attempt to quantify scale or complexity, just was a course used or not.

We reviewed data in three different ways:
1. Percentage of courses with logins shows the proportion of courses actually accessed. Note that most lab sections are never accessed. Faculty typically manage the lab activities within the main lecture course. The notable exception to this is Chemistry.
2. Percentage of courses with external files (document libraries) added to the base course shell. This shows an increased level of commitment and sophistication in usage compared to simply filling in content forms in Bb.
3. Percentage of courses merged into Master Courses.

The table below summarizes the usage types over the past three academic years.

	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016
Utilization	64.0%	71.7%	63.5%	75.3%	66.3%	64.8%
Document libraries	44.9%	49.6%	53.7%	51.1%	46.0%	N/A
Sections in Master Courses	13.7%	12.2%	14.1%	14.1%	11.6%	12.0%

What these data do not show are the trends in using Blackboard more for assignments and assessments. Based on the support questions from faculty that focus on the Grade Center, there is a strong shift in the direction of using Blackboard's testing and assignment grading capabilities.