About Blackboard

Your Virtual Learning Environment

Blackboard is a web-based course-management system and your virtual learning environment while enrolled in Syracuse University Online. Blackboard is designed to allow students and faculty to participate in courses delivered online using online materials and activities.

Inside Blackboard you will find:
- Your courses & course materials
- Announcements
- Discussion boards and threaded discussions
- Online quizzes or exams, and more

Logging into Backboard:
You will need to know your SU NetID and password to access your course(s) in Blackboard. If you do not know your NetID and Password, visit the Information and Technology Services website or call 315-443-2677.
- Go to https://blackboard.syr.edu/
- Use the links in the “Need Help?” box to familiarize yourself with Blackboard™; Syracuse University’s online learning system.
- Enter your SU NetID in the Username field and your password in the Password field.
- Click the LOGIN button.
- Click on a course link in the My Courses box to access a course in which you are enrolled.
- Contact the Syracuse University Help Desk (315-443-2677) if you have trouble logging into Blackboard or accessing courses in which you are enrolled.

Online Learning: Overview

Asynchronous Course Content and Live Sessions

While you are joining an online program - we very much want you to feel part of Syracuse University's community. To help do this, we have live session components in many of our classes which allows you to join together with your professor and classmates in a virtual classroom.

Many of Syracuse University's online courses have two components to complete your weekly coursework:

1. Asynchronous Course Content: Your professor will assign coursework that is required to complete PRIOR to your live session meeting time. This coursework could include:
   - Videos
   - Readings
   - Assignments
   - Projects

2. Live Sessions: Once per week at a designated time, your class will meet in an online web meeting room. This session, sometimes referred to as a sync or synchronous session will place you in a live virtual classroom
where you will interact with your professor and fellow classmates. Many professors will use these live sessions to review and expand on the course content you completed PRIOR to your live session.

**Blackboard Compatibility Check**

It is your responsibility to have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection that is fast enough to handle the types of material you will need to view in your class. This will include large video files that will not work on slower internet connections (a dial-up or satellite internet connection) or older computers.

Run this browser checker to see if your browser will work with Blackboard: [Blackboard Browser Checker](#)

**Note on Accessibility:** For the best Blackboard Learn experience with your screen reader, use Firefox® and JAWS® on a Windows® system. On a Mac® use Safari® and VoiceOver.

**General Computer Requirements**

**Check your tech for online learning**

**General Requirements**

**Telephone:** Either cell phone or landline with strong service

**Telephone headset with microphone:** Any type compatible with the phone/system you will be using

**Webcam:** Either internal or external

**Software:** Microsoft Office (The Microsoft Office Suite can be accessed at no cost to you while you are an active student at Syracuse University - see instructions below)

**Hardware:** Computer (see specific recommendations below), and access to a printer and scanner

**NOTE:** Please do not rely ONLY on a tablet, including an iPad, or a smartphone to use Blackboard. Not all features will work on tablets/mobile devices. You will need access to a full computer to be able to do everything in your Blackboard class.

**PC & Mac Users**

Your computer must meet the following minimum hardware requirements:

- Minimum of 2 GB available disk space
- Dual-core processor: 2.0 GHz
- RAM: 2 GB+
- Internet connection
  - Minimum download speed: 5 Mbps
  - Minimum upload speed: 3 Mbps

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Note: If you are not sure of your connection speed, please go to www.speedtest.net to test your connection. If your connection does not reach these requirements, please contact your ISP.
Software

Software Requirements

All Syracuse University online students will be required to use Microsoft Office (version 2007 or later) throughout their time in the online program.

As a student of Syracuse University, you have access to the online and downloadable Microsoft Office suite.

How do I access the online Microsoft Office suite?
You can find all Office 365 services available using your by using your @syr.edu email address and NetID password at the portal page.

Go to https://portal.office.com and type in your @syr.edu email address. Use your NetID password that is used for all other Syracuse University services. Click (or tap) on the Office 365 app launcher icon to see the menu of Office 365 web apps and services that are available to you. You can click on the app launcher icon while in any Office 365 web app to easily switch between applications.

To download Microsoft Office, go to: Office 365 ProPlus

Other required software
Individual instructors/programs may have additional requirements for specific classes. Be sure to check your course syllabus and discuss technology needs with your instructor as early in the class as possible.

Software is also available at the SU Bookstore which is accessible via this link:
Syracuse University Bookstore

The Blackboard App

The Blackboard App

The Blackboard app gives you the information you want, the updates you need, and the personalization you require while on the go. The Blackboard app puts your Syracuse classes directly in your hands, so you can stay connected with your educational journey anytime, anywhere.

The Blackboard app is available for Apple, Google and Windows devices, search your app store for 'Blackboard'.

To access your Syracuse University courses:
1. Install and launch the Blackboard App
2. Type **Syracuse University** into the "Type your school's name" field. Select **Syracuse University Courses**

3. Click **Web Login**

4. You will be taken to the Syracuse University Blackboard login page

5. Select **SU NetID Login**
6. Type in your **NetID** and **Password**

![Web Login](image1)

7. The home screen is the **Activity Stream** that represents a "smart view" of prioritized events and actions and pushes content to the student

![Activity Stream](image2)

8. Click the top left icon to navigate and access Organizations (iOS only), Courses, Grades, and Due Dates
For more information, watch the Blackboard App Video Tour below:

Blackboard App Tour (video link)