Blackboard: Interact with Students in a Course

Synchronous Tools

**Blackboard Collaborate Ultra**: Real-time video conferencing tool with file and desktop sharing capabilities.

Asynchronous Tools

- **Announcements**: Post notices for students on the course home page.
- **Send Email**: Send email messages to individuals or groups of students enrolled in a course.
- **Discussion Board**: Setup discussion forums in which students can post and respond to other students.
- **Wikis**: Provide a collaborative workspace where students can create and modify content together.
- **Blogs**: Create a space where students can share reflections and ideas intended for the *entire class*.
- **Journals**: Create a space where students share reflections and ideas intended *only for the instructor*.
- **VoiceThread**: Create and share multimedia VoiceThread presentations on which others then comment using audio, video, and text responses.

Provide Student Access to Tools

**On the Course Menu** *(provides quick access to frequently used tools)*

1. Click the plus icon in the top left of the *Course Menu* and select **Tool Link**.
2. In the box, enter a **Name** and select the **Type** drop-down menu to choose a tool like **Blogs**.
3. Check **Available to Users**.
4. Click **Submit**.

**In a Content Area** *(provides access near related content)*

1. In the *Course Menu*, click on the **Content Area** in which you want to add the tool (e.g., *Electronic Reserves, Weekly Sessions, etc.*).
2. In the action bar, click **Tools** and choose a tool from the menu.
3. Complete the fields on the resulting page and click **Submit**.