# Create
# Mobile-Friendly
# Courses:

## Simple Steps to Ensure Success

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# Overview
## The Power of Mobile Learning

**Mobile learning, sometimes referred to as mLearning, enables students to interact with academic content on their mobile devices. It allows teaching and learning to extend to spaces beyond the traditional classroom.**
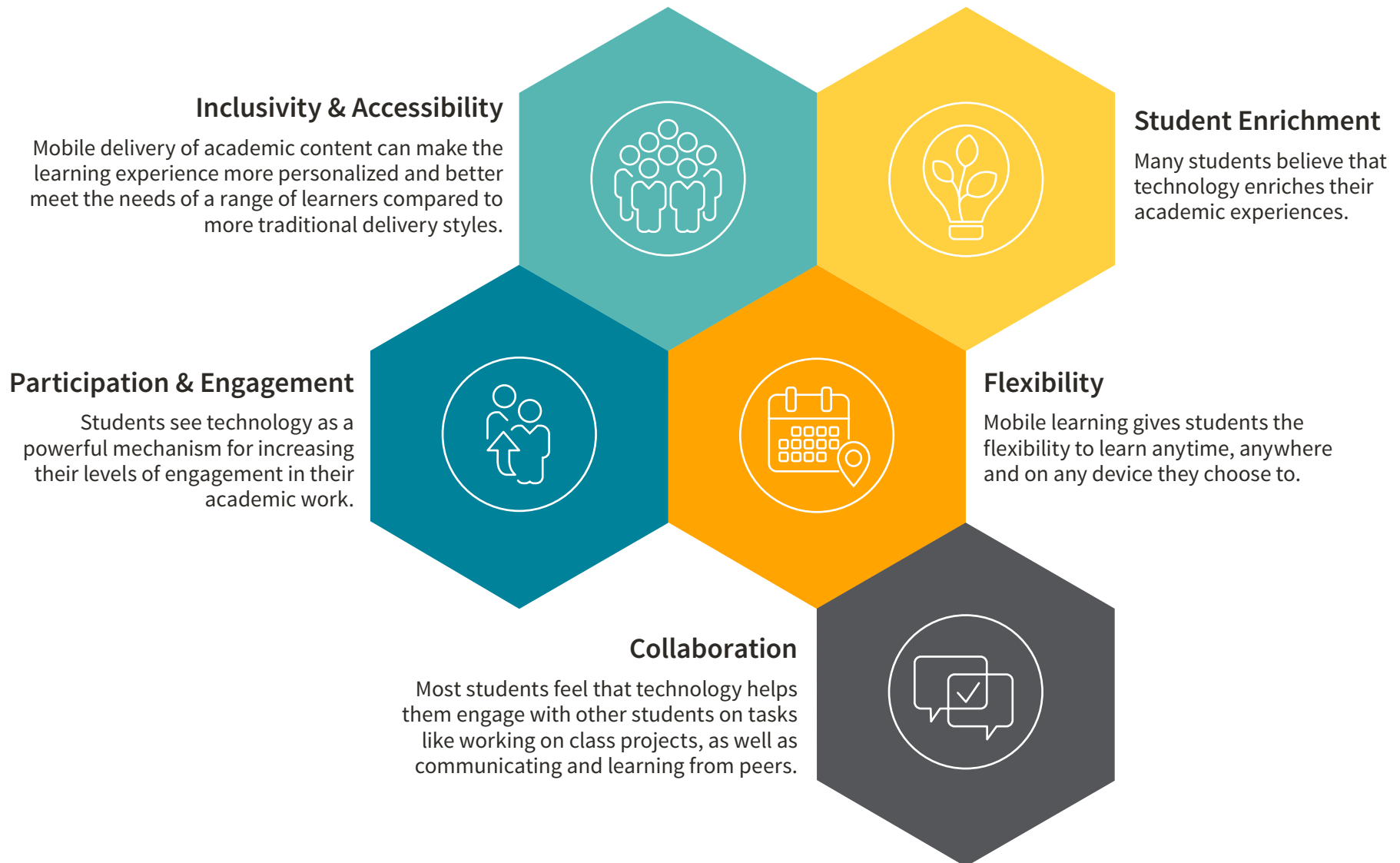
When implemented and leveraged in the right way, mLearning has the power to drive student engagement and participation and can ultimately have a positive impact on learning outcomes and retention.

Mobile learning includes activities completed across a range of devices—like phones or tablets—and can include:

› activities completed within native mobile apps.
› content available through a mobile browser.
› activities that leverage other mobile device tools, such as a camera or video recording tool.

This guide outlines best practices for promoting all types of mobile learning.
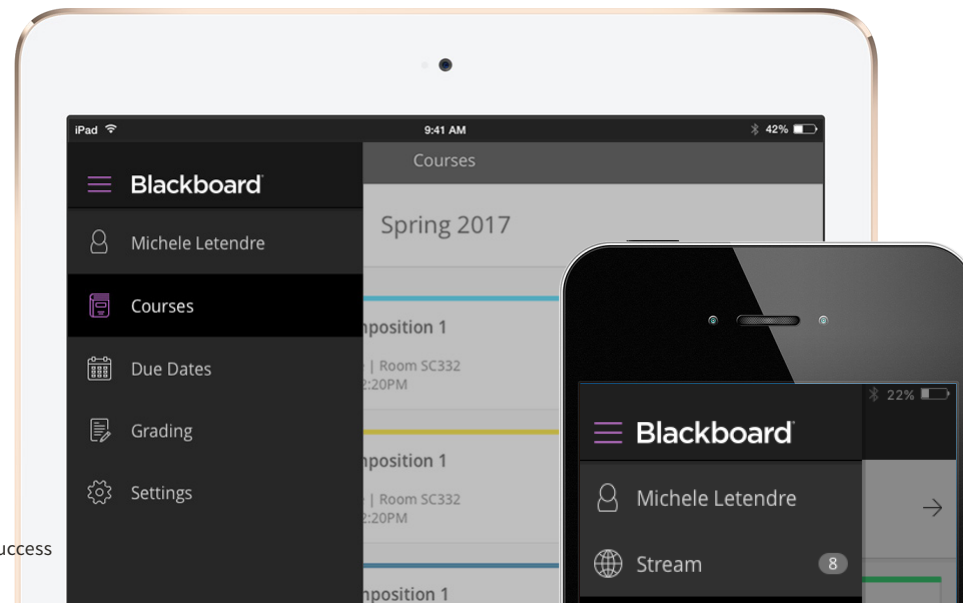
# The Benefits of Mobile Learning

**Inclusivity & Accessibility**

Mobile delivery of academic content can make the learning experience more personalized and better meet the needs of a range of learners compared to more traditional delivery styles.

**Student Enrichment**

Many students believe that technology enriches their academic experiences.

**Participation & Engagement**

Students see technology as a powerful mechanism for increasing their levels of engagement in their academic work.

**Flexibility**

Mobile learning gives students the flexibility to learn anytime, anywhere and on any device they choose to.

**Collaboration**

Most students feel that technology helps them engage with other students on tasks like working on class projects, as well as communicating and learning from peers.

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# Mobile Learning: Fast Facts

**80%** — More than 80% of students say technology **helps them conduct research** and keep track of courses and school work.

**52%** — 52% of faculty believe the use of mobile devices in class can **enhance learning.**

**78%** — 78% of students believe that technology in their courses **contributed to their successful completion.**

**80%** — Almost 80% of students feel that technology makes it easier for them to **ask their instructors questions.**

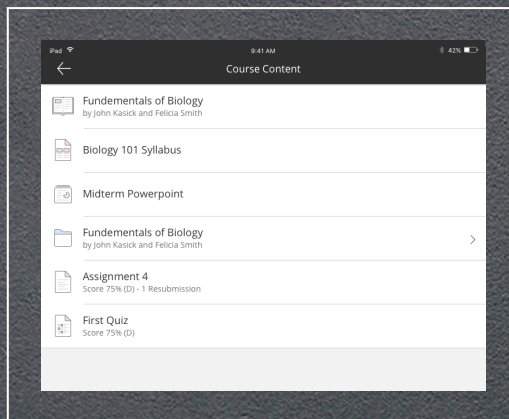**50%** — Almost 50% of students get **more actively involved** in courses that use technology.

**75%** — 75% of students agreed that technology **helps them get feedback from instructors** in a timely manner.

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# Content
## Design Courses with Mobile in Mind

iPad 9:41 AM 42%
Course Content

Fundementals of Biology
by John Kasick and Felicia Smith

Biology 101 Syllabus

Midterm Powerpoint

Fundementals of Biology
by John Kasick and Felicia Smith

Assignment 4
Score 75% (D) - 1 Resubmission

First Quiz
Score 75% (D)

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# Top Five Things to Consider

**Cut the Clutter** **1** Screen space is prime real estate. Break content down into easily digestible lists and avoid bulky images or graphs to prevent cognitive overwhelm. Leave plenty of white space around your on-screen items.

**Need for Speed** **2** Mobile learning can be limited by bandwidth access and network speeds. Optimize content for mobile by compressing large files.

**One Size Doesn't Fit All** **3** Screen sizes vary widely and different devices handle content differently. Keep devices in mind and beware of formats like Flash that aren't compatible across all devices.

**Accessibility** **4** While mobile technology presents accessibility opportunities (Voice-Over, Zoom, Invert Colors), it can also put up barriers for users who may struggle with touch screen devices, small screens and buttons and complex menu systems.

**Test-Drive Your Content** **5** Preview layouts on multiple devices to ensure that your content appears as it should.

Set your students up for success by designing with mobile in mind.

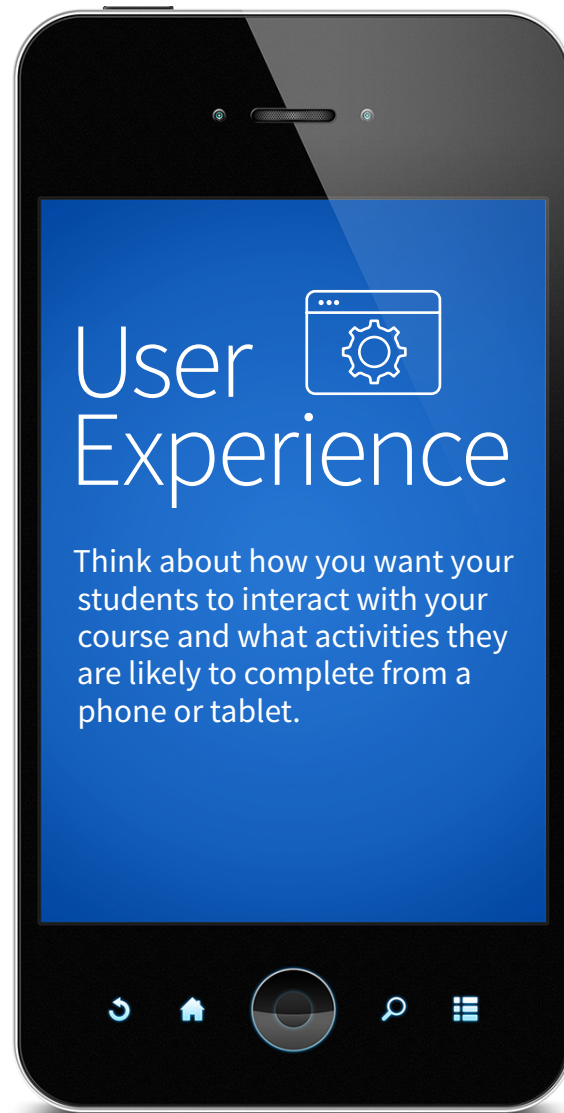**Blackboard**®

# More Best Practices

## Scrolling

Be aware of the amount of scrolling a document requires. Scrolling can be more difficult on smaller screens.

## Mobile Assignments

Keep mobile assignments shorter, chunking them out into 10-15 minute pieces.

## Linking

If you're linking outside of the course, notify learners that they are leaving the mobile-optimized environment.

## User Experience

Think about how you want your students to interact with your course and what activities they are likely to complete from a phone or tablet.

## Zooming

It's often easier for users to zoom out on a desktop than to have to zoom in on a mobile device.

## Landscape vs. Portrait

Consider landscape vs. portrait view and how content will appear in both formats. Remember that not all features and content will be optimized for both. (Note: In the Blackboard and Blackboard Instructor apps, landscape mode is only supported on tablets).

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# Imagery

**Incorporating images is a great way to add value to a course and make it more engaging. However, images can also detract from a course if they are too bulky or are not optimized for mobile.**

When implemented and leveraged in the right way, mLearning has the power to drive student engagement and participation and can ultimately have a positive impact on learning outcomes and retention.

Keep these best practices in mind when adding images to your course:

› Use bold imagery and images on white backgrounds for all image formats (JPG, PNG, GIF, etc.).
› Use clear and simple images that don't require too much zoom to understand the content.
› Use visual cues like descriptive icons to clarify the image.
› Keep the amount of text used in images to a minimum.

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# Fonts

**Font and font size can have a big impact on content accessibility and user experience.**

Here are a few tips to consider when producing course content:

› Font size
  Make your default font size at least 14pt. Larger font sizes eliminate the amount of zooming required on mobile.

› Font style
  Use simple fonts like sans-serif and choose colors sensibly keeping contrast in mind.

› Blackboard & Blackboard Instructor Apps
  Because Blackboard native mobile apps for Blackboard Learn employ the Ultra experience, fonts may not be fully supported. Please use the student preview feature available in the Blackboard Instructor app to see how your content will display.

# Multimedia
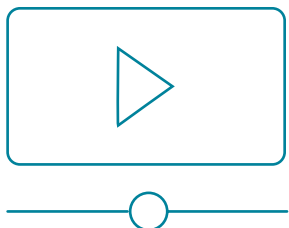
**Incorporating audio and video content into your course is a great way to make your course more engaging.**

Keep these best practices in mind when including audio and video content in your course:

› Content type
  Not all mobile devices can play all types of media files.

› Download time
  Quality and length of an audio or video file will greatly impact the download time. Optimizing and compressing any audio and video files is important for a fast mobile experience.

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# Get Started with Mobile Teaching & Learning

**Assignment Due Tomorrow!**
Lynn Carver, Today at 4:12 PM

Don't forget to submit your
first assignment by midnight.

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# Practice Exercises

### Keep Students Up-to-date & Motivated

Nudges can help students complete important tasks, stay motivated, take advantage of support resources and stay on track in class.

› Set a deadline reminder
   Upcoming assignment due? Send an announcement out to students reminding them to submit their assignment by the deadline.

### Hold Flexible Office Hours

Students are constantly on the go. Give students a flexible way to join and participate in office hours.

› How many students regularly attend your office hours?
   Encourage students to attend office hours virtually using Blackboard Collaborate.
   Students can join Collaborate sessions right from the Blackboard app.

### Integrate Mobile Assignments into Coursework

Consider replacing a traditional assignment with a multimedia project that makes use of mobile tools such as camera, voice/video recording and video conferencing.

Ideas to incorporate mobile capabilities:

› Include on-camera interviews
› Ask students to document a field trip
› Assign a group project enhanced by the use of Blackboard Collaborate
› Create a digital storytelling project
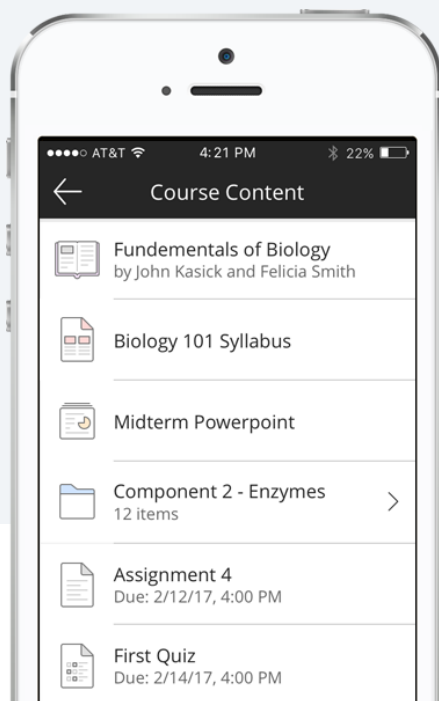
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# Blackboard Learn Mobile Apps

**The Blackboard app is a modern, easy to use, mobile learning app for the on-the-go student.**

The Blackboard app helps students stay connected to their academics any-time, anywhere. They can check grades, view announcements, participate in dis-cussions, access and submit content, as well as connect with peers and instructors using Blackboard Collaborate.

**LEARN MORE ❯**

Blackboard App

Blackboard Instructor
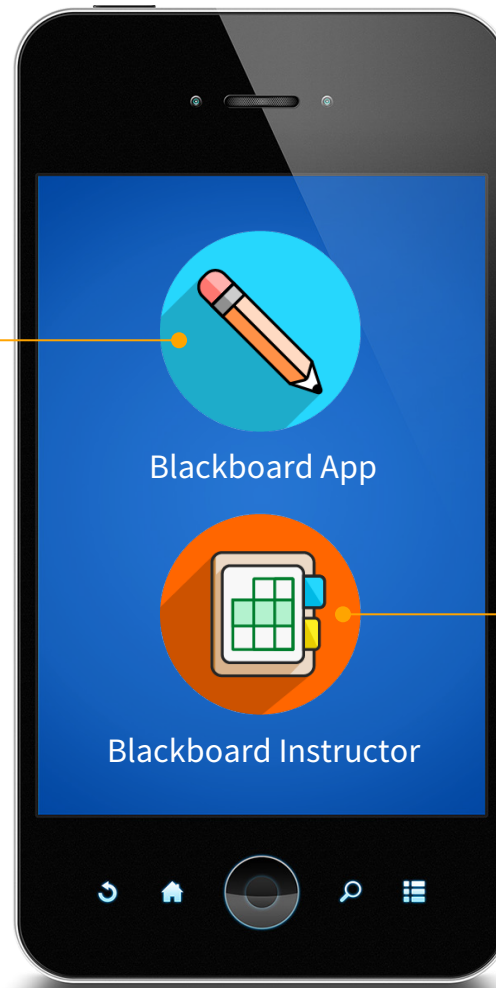
**Blackboard Instructor helps educators increase efficiency, simplify workflows and amplify student engagement.**

Blackboard Instructor allows instructors to preview course content, send an-nouncements, create and participate in discussions, and join Collaborate sessions anytime, anywhere.

**LEARN MORE ❯**

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# Learn More

1. Learn More about the Blackboard & Blackboard Instructor Apps
   Learn more about our mobile apps and how to download the Blackboard Instructor app.

   **BLACKBOARD APP** ❯

   **BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTOR** ❯

2. Visit Our Help Site for Creating Mobile-friendly Content
   Get more information on how to create and preview your content to ensure that it's optimized for mobile.

   **BOOKMARK HELP SITE** ❯

3. Review Supported Course Content
   Find out if your Blackboard Learn course content is supported in the Blackboard app.

   **REVIEW NOW** ❯

4. Join Blackboard's Educator Community
   The educator community is a great place to connect with other educators and to find and share teaching & learning resources, ideas, best practices and more!

   **VISIT COMMUNITY SITE** ❯

   **SIGN UP** ❯

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