What is Blackboard Base Navigation? (Click here to watch a video)

The Ultra Base Navigation is the experience you have outside of a course. Blackboard removed all of the My Institution tabs and modules and created a streamlined menu (Ultra Base Navigation), including the Institution area and several other features.

Although the interface looks different, base navigation does not impact the design of your course. In addition, your course-building experience remains unchanged, and you retain all the same features that were previously in your Blackboard course. For students, the navigation experience within a course remains the same; the only difference is the streamlined menu Blackboard has added, which replaces the My Institution tab.

Why has Blackboard changed the user Navigation experience?

The new layout makes Blackboard Learn more accessible for anyone using mobile devices and provides a simple, consistent experience regardless of whether users are accessing it via computer or mobile device. The streamlined interface provides simplified tools for instructors to focus on student performance (i.e., activity streams, calendar due dates) and easy navigation between multiple courses by opening a course as part of a layer that sits on top of Base Navigation. Closing the course returns the user to the main menu when another course can be selected. One click tells instructors who have submitted, who is late, and what has been graded.

Blackboard Learn Ultra Base Profile Setup

As of Thursday, May 19th, 2022, you will see a change to our Blackboard Learn portal, now using Ultra Base Navigation. This may leave you with questions on getting going and personalizing the page to yourself. If you're one of those people, you have come to the right place.

1. Logging in for the first time, you will see the following welcome messages. Be sure to read them as they will give you the basics of everything that has changed. After reading the messages, click the arrows outlined in the following image, OR scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Get Started".

2. After logging onto Blackboard, click your Username to Personalize your Blackboard Experience. You can add a Profile Picture by clicking on the profile icon (which resembles an icon of a person's face). This profile will appear on course cards (the course's title and code if you are an instructor), rosters, discussion board posts, and messages. If a student customizes their profile pictures, they will also appear in the grade center and attendance areas. When uploading your first avatar, it may take up to 5 minutes for the image to show up.
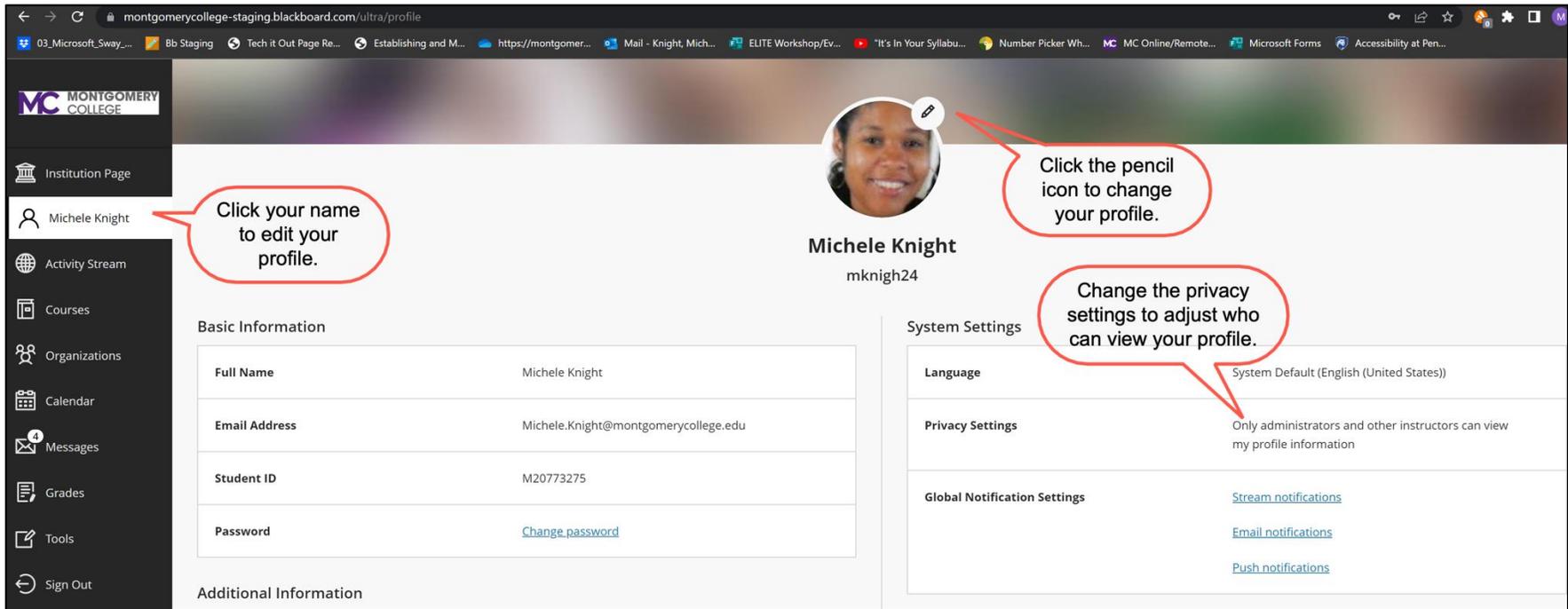
3. Have more questions? Want to explore all the possibilities? Follow **this link** to get more information directly from Blackboard.

Blackboard Original Landing Page

Ultra-Base Navigation Landing Page

Left Hand Base Navigation Menu
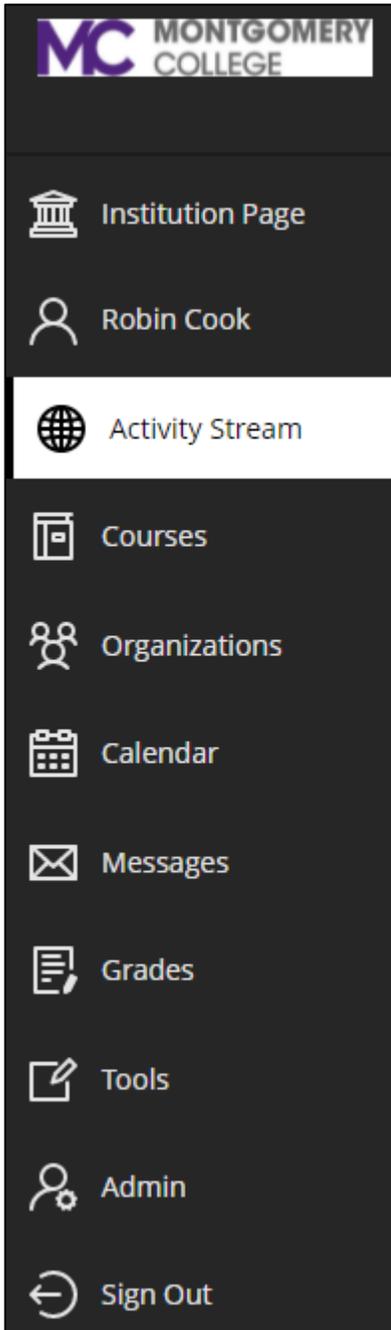
Navigation Menu Definitions

- **Institution Page:** Contains important news and helpful information about Montgomery College.

- **Profile (shown on the image to the left as "Robin Cook"):** Allows you to manage your online persona and modify your notification settings.

- **Activity Stream:** See what's new and coming up across all your courses and organizations. See this video for information on how to adjust your activity stream settings.

- **Courses:** Quickly navigate your courses using search, filter, and favorites.

- **Organizations:** Quickly navigate your organizations using search, filter, and favorites.

- **Calendar:** View all due dates and events in your courses and organizations. Click this link for information on syncing your Blackboard calendar with outlook, apple, or other calendars.

- **Messages:** Stay connected by viewing and sending messages to/from all your courses in one place.

- **Grades:**

  - For instructors: See what needs to be graded across all your courses and start grading with just one click.

  - For students: Check your grades for all your courses with just one click.

- **Tools:** Access the tools located outside of your courses, such as Portfolios or Content Collection.

Ultra Base Navigation for All Users

- As you open content, it slides out in a layer. You can easily see where you've been and navigate back to any spot.
- The system automatically saves as you create. Review, refine, and share your work when you're ready.
- Courses are automatically organized by term.
- Notifications of course activity are more robust in this new environment.

Course level menus (left-hand navigation in each course) remain unchanged and can still be customized as before.

The Activity Stream

The Activity Stream – provides a view of tasks across **all** your courses.
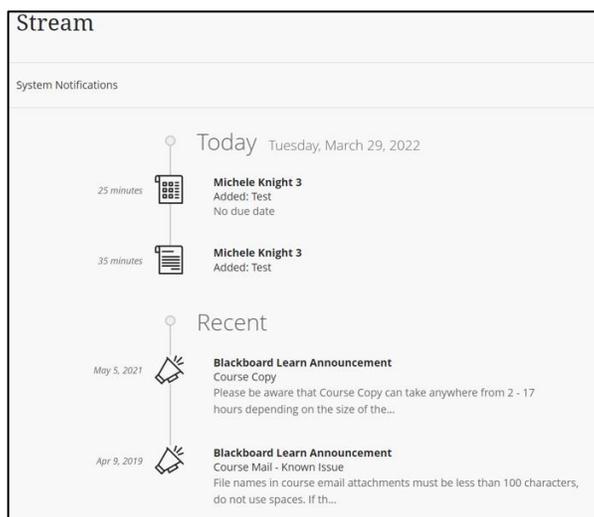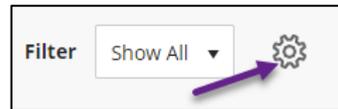
Important information is listed at the top. These could be notifications about past-due assignments or messages from instructors.

Assignments or events coming up in the next few days will be listed as Upcoming.

Events, discussions, or assignments due today and any new content added today will be listed in the Today area.

Recently passed events are in the Recent area so you can keep track of what's been accomplished.

Students will see recently graded assignments and can check the grade right from the Activity Stream.

Select the 'Filter By' option to focus on the information you want. The filter menu appears next to the stream page title.

Stream Settings

Stream Settings - select the Stream Settings clog icon to open the Settings panel. See this video for information on how to adjust your activity stream settings.

Due dates for tests, assignments, and graded discussions always appear in your activity stream, but you can hide or show these activity types: New calendar items; New course content; New grades and feedback; New messages; Replies to discussions; and Performance, activity, and action alerts.
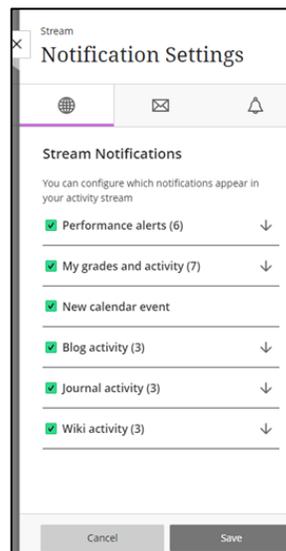
Select "Courses' to view your courses list.
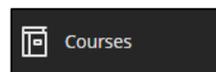
Students will receive a pop-up window ('Course Notices') to alert them about items such as

Overdue assignments and tests; Assignments and tests due today; Calendar events happening today; and Course-wide messages.

The icons on the navigation bar open frequently used tools such as discussions and mail.

Course content appears in the main part of the page. Click on the black area to expand and view the Main Menu.

All of your course content appears in the main part of the page. You can always see the left navigation area that peeks from behind layers. When you open a course, it slides out in a layer on top of the main navigation page. Close layers to go back to the main navigation page.
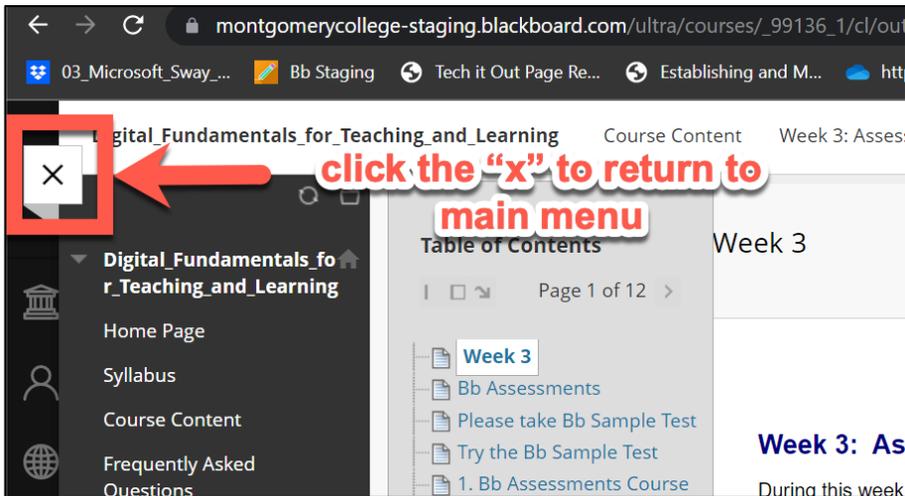
For example, closing the layer for the Digital Fundamentals course in this example brings you back to the main navigation area.