

## Creating a Wiki

Wiki is a featured component of Web 2.0 technologies. Web 2.0 technologies promote user-generated contents, encouraging students to contribute to the content of the web by sharing, authoring, collaborating, and commenting on the web. Web 2.0 has the potential to complement, enhance, and add new collaborative dimensions to the classroom. As one of the major tools of Web 2.0 technology, wiki offers an online collaborating platform for students to integrate concepts and perspectives from different people, as well as to compare and contrast the difference perspectives. Furthermore, a wiki on Blackboard allows multiple students to write and edit on the same document, be it a group paper or a project report.

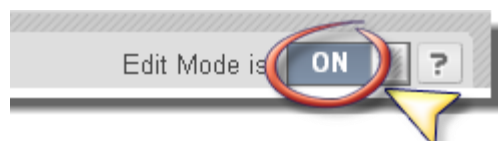
In Blackboard, there are two different types of Wikis:

**Course Wikis:** All enrolled users are able to contribute to, edit, and comment on wikis.

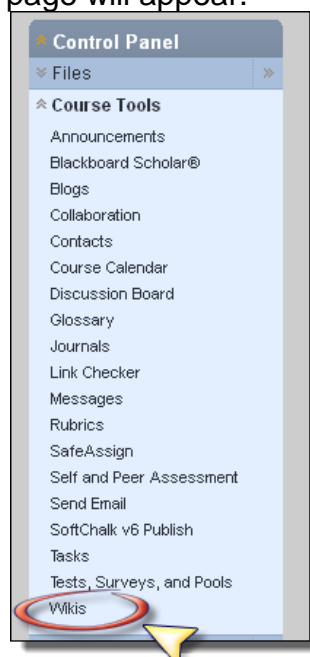
**Group Wikis:** All members enrolled in a specific group are able to contribute to, edit, and comment on wikis.

To add a wiki to a Blackboard course, follow the steps listed below:

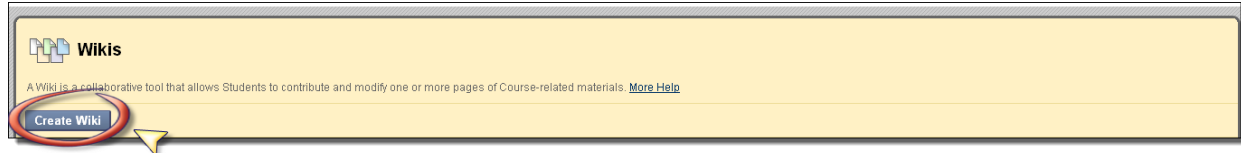
Step 1: Click the course you would like to add a wiki. Make sure **Edit Mode** is **ON**.



Step 2: In the **Control Panel**, click on under **Course Tools**, click on **Wikis**, a **Wikis** page will appear.



Step 3: on the next **Wikis** screen, click on **Create Wiki**.




Step 4: On the Wikis content page

4.1 Under **Wiki Information**, enter a name for the wiki (obligatory) and the descriptions of the wiki (optional). In the descriptions of the wiki, the goals and instructions of using the wiki can be given.

A screenshot of a form titled '1. Wiki Information'. At the top right are 'Cancel' and 'Submit' buttons. The form has a section 'Name' with a red star icon indicating it is required. Below it is a large text area labeled 'Instructions'. A red circle highlights the 'Name' input field, with a yellow arrow pointing to it. The text area has a rich text editor toolbar above it. At the bottom left, there is a 'Path:' label followed by the text 'body'.

4.2 Under **Wiki Date and Time Restrictions**, choose **Yes** or **No** for Wiki Availability. Choosing yes will allow students to access to the Wiki.

4.3 If a time restriction is desired, click on the check boxes of **Display After** and **Display Until**. Then click on the calendar icon  to choose the date for **Display After**, the wiki will be available after the date of selection. Choose the date for **Display Until**, and the wiki will be available until that date.

A screenshot of a form titled '2. Wiki Date and Time Restrictions'. It contains two main sections. The first section is 'Wiki Availability' with radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'. The second section is 'Limit Availability' with two checkboxes: 'Display After' and 'Display Until'. Each checkbox is followed by a text input field and a calendar icon. Below each input field is the text 'Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy'.

4.4 Under **Wiki Participation**, click on **Closed to Editing** or **Open to Editing** for students' participation. Choosing **Open to Editing** allows students to edit the wiki.



4.5 Under **Wiki Settings**, choose **No grading** or **Grade: Points Possible**. If a grade will be given to the Wiki, enter the points possible in the text box. It will automatically add a column to the blackboard grade book.



4.6 Click on **Submit** button, a wiki will be created.



## Teaching Value

The term 'wiki' is derived from the Hawaiian phrase, wiki-wiki, which means quick. A wiki is a collaborative web platform whose content can be edited by visitors to the site, allowing users to easily create and edit the contents on the web. Wiki allow visitors to engage in dialog and share information among participants in group projects, or to engage in learning with each other by using wiki as a collaborative environment to articulate and construct their knowledge. Research shows that wikis can enhance peer interaction among a community of learners (Lipponen, 2002) and augment research and foster critical thinking (Augar, Raitman, & Zhou, 2004). Students and teachers are able to work closely together on a topic (e.g. writing a text or article, collecting information on a topic, etc) on a wiki space.

There are several possible educational uses of wikis:

- Students can use a wiki to develop research projects, with the wiki serving as ongoing documentation of their work.
- Students can add summaries of their thoughts from the research literature, building a collaborative annotated bibliography on a wiki.
- Teachers can use wiki as a knowledge base, enabling them to share reflections and thoughts regarding teaching practice, and allowing for versioning and documentation.

- Wikis can be used to map concepts. They are useful for brainstorming, and editing a given wiki topic can produce a linked network of resources.
- A wiki can be used as a presentation tool, and students are able to directly comments on and revise the presentation content.

### **Closely-Related Functions**

Adding a group

Adding a blog

Adding a journal

Adding a discussion board