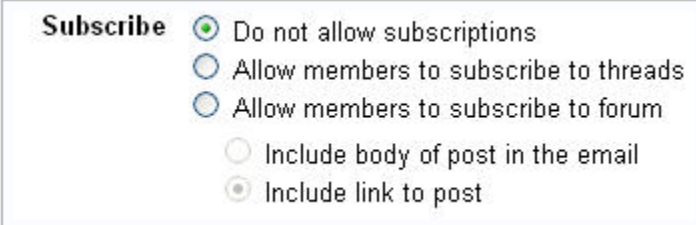


How to enable subscription to a Blackboard Discussion forum

To enable the subscribe feature in a forum or thread, here's all you need to do:

1. When creating a discussion board anywhere in your course site, one of the choices you'll need to make is whether to allow "Subscribe."



Subscribe

- Do not allow subscriptions
- Allow members to subscribe to threads
- Allow members to subscribe to forum
- Include body of post in the email
- Include link to post

By default, Blackboard has the "Do not allow subscriptions" radio box selected. However, you can choose between the following:

1. Allow members to subscribe to threads
2. Allow members to subscribe to forum (with the additional options of (a) include body of post in the email or (b) include link to post.

If you select "Allow members to subscribe to threads," then any threads in that post will have a little button at the top right of the discussion thread view that says "Subscribe." When the student clicks this button, they are automatically subscribed to that thread, with any new posts being sent to their email.

If you select the second choice, "Allow members to subscribe to forum," then that forum will have the "Subscribe" button for the student to select and all new postings to that forum would either be (a) posted in its entirety to the students' email or (b) posted as a link (less text in the student's email message, since it would just be a link to the discussion forum.)



Either way, students CANNOT respond to discussion forums and/or threads through their email. They MUST go to your Blackboard course site and post there. The subscription feature simply helps student be alert to new postings without having to go to your Blackboard site. It's a handy reminder of what might be going on in your site and is a valuable feature to a discussion board.

If it were me, I would format the subscribe feature in the following way:

Subscribe

- Do not allow subscriptions
- Allow members to subscribe to threads
- Allow members to subscribe to forum
- Include body of post in the email
- Include link to post

In other words, I would enable the Subscribe feature, allowing members to subscribe to the forum (which would include all of the threads/posts) and then select include link to post. That way, a student's email message would be shorter. But either option would work well.