

# Nine new features for Discussion Boards in Blackboard

## **Unread posts tracking**

You can view all posts in the Forum view, which lists all of your unread posts. A forum title in bold indicates that there are unread posts.

## **Grading**

You can now grade forums or threads. Once you set up grading in a forum or thread, an entry in the gradebook (column) is automatically created for you. And when you are ready to grade each student's work, the posts are listed below the grading feature.

## **Rating of posts**

Students can rate each other's posts, with all of the ratings averaged, up to 5 stars.

## **Let students subscribe to forums**

You can enable subscription of either a link to a new forum posting or the content of the posting to a student's email. The student can decide by clicking a "subscribe" button and can unsubscribe at any time. You might tell your students who may otherwise forget to visit your course site that they can select this feature to remind them when new entries are posted. (You will need to enable the subscription function when you set up the discussion forum.)

## **Search feature**

You can now search for any content on your discussion forums.

## **Tagging**

You can create custom tags for discussion forums. This is another powerful feature that facilitates effective searching. For instance, if you wanted to tag a post as "excellent," (and this would only show up for you, not for the post writer), you could always search for this tag later on. Students can also construct their personal tagging systems.

## **Group forums**

Now, when you create a group in Blackboard and enable discussion forums for that group, a forum is automatically created.

## **Draft option**

If you click "Save" instead of "Submit," your post is saved as a draft. Others can't read it until you submit it. This option encourages drafting and editing of posts before submission to the forum readership.

## **Copy forums**

You can easily copy a forum from one of your courses to another.