

Course Roles in the Blackboard LMS

Course roles control access to the content and tools within a course. Each user is assigned a role for each course in which they participate. For example, a user with a role of teaching assistant in one course can have a role of student in another course.

Course roles include:

- Course Builder
- Grader
- Guest
- Instructor
- Student
- Teaching Assistant (TA)

Course Builder

The course builder role has access to most areas of the Control Panel. This role is appropriate for a user to manage the course without having access to student grades. A course builder can still access the course if the course is unavailable to students. A course builder cannot delete an instructor from a course.

Course builders have access to the areas of the Control Panel in the following list. The tools and functions within each area can vary depending on the course customization. The instructor can also limit the availability of certain tools and functions.

- Course files
- Content Collection
- Course tools
- Users and groups
- Customization
- Packages and utilities
- Help

Grader

A grader assists the instructor in the creation, management, delivery, and grading of items, such as tests and discussion board posts. A grader also assists the instructor with managing the Grade Center. A grader cannot access a course if it is unavailable to students.

Graders have access to the areas of the Control Panel in the following list. The instructor can also limit the availability of certain tools and functions.

- Course files
- Content Collection

- Course tools
- Evaluation
- Grade Center
- Packages and utilities (limited access)
- Help

Guest

Guests have no access to the Control Panel except where certain areas are on by the default template such as the syllabus area. Areas within the course are made available to guests, but typically they can only view course materials, but do not have access to tests and assessments, or have permission to post on discussion boards.

Instructor

Instructors have access to all areas in the Control Panel. This role is generally given to those developing, teaching, or facilitating the class. Instructors may access a course that is unavailable to students.

Instructors can access to the following features of the Control Panel:

- List users
- Create user
- Delete users
- Enroll users
- Settings
- Import
- Export
- Archive

Student

Student is the default course role. Students have no access to the Control Panel.

Teaching Assistant

The teaching assistant (or TA) role is that of a co-teacher. Teaching assistants are able to administer all areas of a course. Their only limitations are those imposed by the instructor. A teaching assistant cannot delete an instructor from a course.

Teaching assistants have access to most all tools and features in the Control Panel.

Even if the course is unavailable to students, teaching assistants still have access to the course. Teaching assistants are not listed in the Course Catalog listing for the course.

Course roles information courteous of Blackboard Inc., https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_10_and_SP_11/Instructor/030_Course_Options/Course_Roles.