We understand that the synchronisation of assessment grades information is often a messy technical problem, it can be error-prone, time consuming and is often solved manually or via non-standard one-off integrations. The Grades Journey overcomes all of these challenges. Blackboard has developed a solution that helps institutions to manage more effectively and efficiently the exchange of grades related data between Blackboard Learn and any Student Information System to help tackle the issue of marks entry and data accuracy whilst freeing up staff time at critical periods in the university calendar.

**Benefits**

- **Improve student satisfaction** - an efficient workflow ensures that students receive more timely feedback and results.
- **Increase staff satisfaction** - reduce staff frustration of having to manually add marks during busy end of term marking, to free up their time and help them achieve more.
- **Drive academic administrative efficiencies** - automate the input of data to ensure the reliability of marks.
- **Improve data accuracy and quality** - by reducing manual interventions and minimising the amount of changes after marks have been returned.

**The Blackboard Grades Journey Components**

- **Grade Column Provisioning**: Automatic creation of required Blackboard Grade Centre columns based on curriculum management data.
- **Marks/Grades Approval & Release**: Additional workflow features within the Blackboard Grade Centre to enable marks to be reviewed, approved and released from Blackboard.
- **Grades Exchange**: Automatic export of a single module mark from Blackboard for import into the Student Information System for processing.
Envision and Prepare

With a wide variation in the availability of student information systems, SIS feature licenses, implementations, policies, and business practices, grades exchange processes are complex.

Blackboard International Consulting can provide extensive experience in helping institutions prepare by undertaking a review of current assessment business processes and document the revised “to be” business processes before the implementation of the Grades Journey. We can work with institutions to:

• Design a solution overview and gap analysis
• Assess implementation plan, roles, responsibilities and work streams
• Design a prototype Grades Journey configuration using standard functionality

Blackboard has a growing number of institutions who have adopted the Grades Journey. We can provide references, client stories and share institutional best practice to drive success.

Implement and Succeed

Getting Started Services

The tools are accompanied by a “Grades Journey Getting Started” installation and configuration service. This service will provide installation support and a walk through of the critical business rule decisions and configuration settings required to successfully implement the Grades Journey in your institutional context.

About Blackboard International Consulting Services

We help institutions world-wide to design high-performance learning systems, integrate with student information systems, develop custom solutions, drive adoption and get trained. We bring best practices from more than 5,000 projects across 1,600 organisations worldwide to get institutions started and help them achieve their strategic goals.

Additional Features

• Institutional Administrator Tools - These tools enable the institution’s Blackboard System Administrator to manage exceptions, repair grade columns, re-release grades, view status of transfers, etc.
• Extensible Design - The overall solution is designed and built to meet the core needs for grades transfer. It is also built to be extended and adapted to meet specific institutional needs.

“...This process seems to be time efficient, and cuts down the chance for human error. I feel more confident in what I am doing.”

Feedback from a staff member
Glasgow Caledonian University, UK