Educational Technology Services

Getting Started with eLearning

eLearning Overview

Technical Requirements
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience.

Browsers and Operating Systems

- **View Blackboard's Browser and OS Requirements for 9.1.**

Software

- MS Office 2007 is the minimum standard. Microsoft software is available at a nominal cost from the UT Dallas/Microsoft Program. Software CDs are available for purchase at the [UT Dallas Technology Store](https://uts.utdallas.edu/technologystore).
- Plug-ins may be required to view media in or your eLearning class. Below are links to the most common plug-ins used.
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
  - Java
- Below is a list of recommended free tools that are available:
  - Zip software: [7-Zip](https://7-zip.org/)
  - Media player: [VLC media player](https://www.videolan.org/vlc/)
  - FTP: [Filezilla](https://filezilla-project.org/)

Course Access and Navigation

Students must have a UT Dallas NetID and password to log into the eLearning server and access the course. New students can go to the UT Dallas NetID page at [http://netid.utdallas.edu](http://netid.utdallas.edu) to initiate their account shortly before or at the start of the semester. Students can use this account to access all of UT Dallas eLearning classes (including those on the eLearning Pilot server) plus other UTD computing systems (i.e. your UT Dallas email account). Please note that the account password must be updated every 6 months. Users will receive a reminder message to their UT Dallas email accounts from UTD's Information Resources department prior to the password expiration. To update the account password, please login to the [NetID webpage](https://ets.utdallas.edu/). For more information, please visit the [NetID FAQ's](https://ets.utdallas.edu/faq) page. The URL to access the eLearning server is [http://elearning.utdallas.edu](http://elearning.utdallas.edu). Courses may be accessed at any time after the semester starts. Once logged in, students will see the "My eLearning" page. Here students will see their "Course List" which contains links to course content on the eLearning server. Students can click the course title to access the course Home Page.
eLearning Tools and Functionality

There are several built-in tools instructors can choose to use in order to facilitate learning, communication, interaction, and collaboration. Please visit the eLearning Tutorials page to view video tutorials on many of the tools and settings available.

**Email** - To access UT Dallas' student email, please visit Galaxy. If you need any help, please visit the IR's How To webpage.