

Blackboard Assessments – Question Pools

Question Pools

The Pool Manager allows instructors to store questions for repeated use. Instructors can create new questions to include in Pools and add questions that have been created in other Tests or Pools. Pools from other courses can be imported through the Pool Manager. With the exception of minor text changes, such as correcting a typo, a Pool should not be modified if students have already begun taking an Assessment that draws questions

Click Tests, Surveys, and Pools in Course Tools section on the Control Panel to open the Pool Manager page.

Functions

The Pool Manager functions in the same way as the Test Manager and offers all of the same options for creating and managing Pools. The difference between Pools and Tests is that Tests can be added to Course areas for users to view and complete. Pools contain questions that can be included in a Test. Pool questions cannot be presented to Students unless they are included in a Test.

Pool Creation Settings

The Pool Creation Settings function in the same way as the Test Creation Settings. The only difference is there is not an option to Specify default point values for questions. Pool questions are not associated with a point value until they are added to a Test.

Warning

When questions are selected from a Pool to be included in a Test links are created between the Test and the Pool for those questions. Instructors should not make changes to Pool questions that have been deployed in a Test once students have begun taking the Test. A warning will appear if any Students are in the process of taking the Test or have already taken the Test when Modify is selected on the Pool Manager. Certain areas of the questions will not be available for modification if the Test has already been taken by students.

If the Instructor modifies a Pool question after a Student has submitted a Test it was included on, the Student will view the new, modified question when they view their Grade and feedback. They will not view the original question.

Export Pool

A Question Pool may be exported by selecting Export on the Pool Manager page. The exported Pool is packaged in a .ZIP file. Once a pool is exported, questions may not be added to it.

Instructors can choose to export a Question Pool to their local computer or to the Blackboard Content System (if it is available). If the Blackboard Content System is not available, selecting to Export a pool prompts the Instructor to store the pool on their local computer.

If Instructors select to export the pool to the Blackboard Content System, they must enter a destination by either typing a valid path or by selecting Browse. If Browse is selected, the Blackboard Content System will open in a new window. Instructors may select any folder on which they have Write permission. It is not possible to export a pool to an existing file; therefore, only folders inside the Blackboard Content System can be selected. If an Instructor manually enters a Blackboard Content System path without Write permission on that path, an error message appears. In addition, if exporting a pool exceeds the quota of the destination path, an error message appears and the export does not occur.

Import Pool

Instructors may import a Pool of questions for use in Tests. Pools are exported from the Blackboard Learning System and imported as .ZIP packages.

Find this page

Follow the steps below to open the Pool Import page.

1. Click **Tests, Surveys, and Pools** from Course Tools.
2. Click **Pool**.
3. Click **Import**.
4. Locate the appropriate file by clicking **Browse My Computer** or **Browse Course Files**.
5. Click **Submit**

Field

Instructors may import a pool from either their local computer or from the Blackboard Content System, if it is available. Instructors may manually enter a path in either the Attach local file field or in the Copy file from Content System field. Alternatively, Instructors may select the Browse button next to a field to select the appropriate location of the package file. If the Instructor enters both a local path and a Blackboard Content System path, an error message appears.

If the Instructor selects Browse next to Copy file from Content System, the Blackboard Content System opens in a new window. Select the appropriate package file, and click Submit. Folders cannot be selected, and only files on which the Instructor has Read permission will be appear.