Student Questions about the Move to Blackboard

Why is SUNY Poly switching to Blackboard?
Blackboard, actually Blackboard Learn, is the successor to our current learning management system, ANGEL and is the new SUNY preferred platform.

What is the timeline for switching to Blackboard?
Spring 2015 is the last semester ANGEL is used for courses and groups. Effective for Summer Session 2015 all courses are in Blackboard.

When will my access to ANGEL end?
Student access to Spring 2015 ANGEL courses is March 28th for first half term, May 23rd for second half term and May 28th for full term courses. Make sure you download whatever course materials you need from your ANGEL courses, and print important Course Mail before your access to them ends.

Instructors can authorize extended access in Spring 2015 courses for students with incomplete or IP grades in the spring semester. The last date for extended access is the date Spring semester incompletes and IP grades revert to an F in mid-October 2015.

When will students have access to Blackboard, and what is the web address?
Students registered for Summer 2015 courses will be added to Blackboard on May 15 after 1 PM. Blackboard will be updated with student registrations Mondays – Fridays at 12 PM and 5 PM. The updates, expected to be automated in late May, will run daily at 12 PM and 5 PM.

Students registered for Fall courses will be added to Blackboard sometime in the June/July timeframe. Blackboard login page is at: https://sunypoly.open.suny.edu.

How will completion of Incomplete or IP grades in Spring 2015 an ANGEL course be handled?
Your course instructor requests an extension to Spring 2015 ANGEL courses to complete coursework on incomplete and IP grades. The deadline is generally the date that Spring semester incompletes revert to an F grade, which is in October. Coursework for incompletes and IP grades can also be completed outside of ANGEL by email, or some other means.

What is the deadline for students to request a grade change for Spring 2015 courses?
May 18, 2015 is the deadline for students to request a grade change from their instructors for Spring 2015 courses.

Is it true that starting with Summer Session 2015 there will be no more early access to online and hybrid courses?
Yes, this is true. Textbook and course material information is available from the Course Schedule Search with Textbooks link from the website and the Banner Self-Service menu. Instructors can also email the course syllabus and other information to their students from via college email well before the start of classes.
Is Blackboard Different from ANGEL?
There are differences, mostly with the interface, the course layout and discussions. ANGEL is a nested environment which requires switching to tabs to view the calendar, participate in a Collaborate session or Course Mail. All areas of the course are accessible from the Course Menu making it easier to find things. SUNY Poly has developed a template for all courses to give consistency to course layouts. Discussions are different and so are the electronic communications in courses.

Blackboard courses have two types of electronic communication: Course Messages and External Mail.

- Course Messages are for private communications with class members, including your professor, within each course. Each course has its own Inbox and Sent folder. Course Messages can only be sent from within courses where you have access to the class member list.

- External Mail is a tool to send email to your class member’s college email address. External Mail has no Send folder, and no record of mail having been sent in Blackboard or in the SUNY Poly email system. Include yourself as a recipient if you need a record of the email being sent from you.

Is there training available to students?
Yes. The Open SUNY Blackboard Student Orientation is a publicly available course that is facilitated by the Open SUNY HelpDesk to introduce you to Blackboard. It is accessible from the Blackboard login page and My SUNY Poly tab. All courses also contain links to Blackboard Help, On Demand videos, and the Open SUNY HelpDesk.

Will the “Turnitin Plagiarism & Prevention” resource available in Blackboard?
Yes, but it has been renamed Plagiarism & Prevention Course because Blackboard has its own built-in plagiarism checker.

Will NetTutor be available in Blackboard?
Yes, it has been added to the Course Menu for courses.

Does Blackboard Learn have a mobile solution?
Yes. Yes. Blackboard Mobile will be available and can be downloaded at the Google Play or on iTunes. The app is free and is available for android and iOS platforms. Since the app was created for Blackboard, you are able to do almost everything in the app that you can do on your computer. It’s a fantastic app.