

3 - important > 1 - useful	Importance	Blackboard 5.5	Etudes	Manhattan	WebCT 3.8
•• LEARNER TOOLS					
• Communication Tools					
discussion - threaded, topic, date, collec	3	x	x	x	x
file exchange	2	x	-	x	x
internal email	2	x	x	x	x
online journal, notes	1	-	-		x
• Productivity Tools					
bookmarks	1	-	-	x	x
new user orientation, online help	2	x	x		x
resume course function, tracking	1	-	-	x	x
searching within course	1	-	-		x
self-progress review - grades	2	x	x		x
work offline, synchronize	1	-	-		x
• Real-time Tools					
application sharing - like netmeeting	1	-	-		-
real-time chat	1	x	-	x	x
whiteboard	1	x	-		-
• Student Involvement Tools					
groupwork - group discussion area, file s	1	x	-		x
self-assessment	3	x	x	x	x
student community building - outside cla	1	?	-	x	x
student help - helpdesk, forum, email	1	x	x	x	x
student portfolios, homepage	1	x	-	-	x
•• SUPPORT TOOLS					
• Curriculum					
curriculum management ??	3	?			?
instructional design tools	3	x	x	x	x
course layout templates	2	x			x
customized look and feel	2	x			x
• Administration					
registration	3	x	x	x	x
secure transactions	3	-			
optional extras	1	x			
• Instructor					
automated testing and scoring	3	x	x		x
course management	3	x	x		x
instructor community building	2	-			x
instructor helpdesk	3	x		x	x
online grading tools	3	x	x	x	x
student tracking	3	x	x	x	x
• Accessibility compliance					
• Technical Specifications					
browser constraints, version	3	x	x	x	x
migration considerations	2	x	-		x
authentication	2	x		x	x
hosted services	2	x	x		x
integration with student information sys	3	x	x		x
server administration ??	2	?			x
IMS, SCORM standards	2	x			x
• Company profile					
costs	3	??	??	free	??
opensource	3	-	-	x	-

Other considerations					
video services - more than just link to v	1	x			-
voice chat	1	-			-
group web browsing ? not whiteboard, ne	1	x		x	x
Clarify requirements					
assignment submission - upload document, message (with/without html, fixed formating, smart text)					
grades, columns for outside assignments					
instructor input ? requires HTML sometimes					
authoring environment - online, link, upload					
simplicity, grouping of functionality					
complexity level selection					
resetting course for new quarter - date roll forward					
calendar - course, student private					x
announcements					
scalability - students, administration, operations					
faculty start-up - training, support, migration					
long-term vision, direction, incorporation of new features					
support - faculty, administration, operations					
integration with college student, administration and financial systems					
local customization - api, interfaces					
accreditation issues - timed tests					
limitation on number of students - 10 sections, 8000 students, 200-300 class/sections					