

ONLINE “DISTANCE” EDUCATION

PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for the effective implementations and management of online distance learning programs to ensure high-quality education, promote student engagement and success, and maintain a consistent and reliable online learning environment.

POLICY STATEMENT

Blackboard is the sole online Learning Management System (LMS) utilized by Edison State Community College, and every section of every course has a corresponding Blackboard site. Employees are expected to use conventional Microsoft Suite programs and .pdf files within the Blackboard environment.

Instructors may not populate their course sites with links to Google Docs or other non-approved third-party vendor products.

The College IT Department makes every reasonable effort to recommend web browsers, software, and plug-ins that are compatible with Blackboard.

1. Adoption of Academic Software for Online Courses
 - a. Plug-ins, Add-ons, or Pass-throughs in Blackboard must not be duplicative of any Blackboard functionality.
 - b. Software that has been approved, adopted, and implemented by the Academic Deans in consultation with the IT Department must provide its own training and technical support for instructors and students. The College's IT Department cannot be held responsible for training, troubleshooting, or maintaining software, accounts, logins, connectivity, etc., associated with “third-party” products, for instructors or students.

PERSONS AFFECTED

Edison State Community College faculty.

DEFINITIONS

PLUG-INS

Software components that add specific functionality or features to an existing software application.

ADD-ONS

Software components that enhance the functionality or expand the features of a larger software application.

PASS-THROUGHS

Transmitting or transferring data, commands, or information between different software systems without modification or interference.