

# 2021 Guide to Learning Management System software



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# Introduction



Today, learning management system software is playing a vital role in higher education. It serves as the backbone to courses.

In this guide, we'll explore what learning management system software is, why schools are using it more than ever before, and what some of the most popular platforms are on the market today.

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## What is learning management system software?

[Learning management system software](#) is a platform that centralizes learning materials for courses and makes them accessible to students online. Students can view and download lesson content, assignments, and assessments.

With learning management system software, universities and schools can eliminate the cost of printing study materials. Moreover, they save time and money when managing teaching schedules and materials.

## Why are learning management software systems growing in popularity?

Learning management system software [came onto the market in the 1990s](#). For years, it was a nice-to-have – instructors viewed these solutions as a supplement to in-class teaching.

However, that changed in the spring of 2020, when a global health crisis forced universities and schools to send students and faculty home. Learning management system software took on new importance: it was the only place for instructors to post course information that was readily accessible for students.

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## What are some of the most popular learning management systems on the market?

There are four main learning management systems on the market today that enjoy popularity:

- Canvas
- Blackboard
- Moodle
- D2L by Brightspace

[RingCentral's virtual classroom platform integrates](#) with these platforms to enhance the teaching and learning experience. [RingCentral for LTI](#) abides by LTI 1.3 standards, which means that the integration follows the latest security practices for authentication (OAuth 2.0) and message exchange between RingCentral Video and your LMS, as recommended by [IMS Global Consortium](#). In the following sections, we'll take a closer look at each of the four popular LMS platforms and explain how each works.

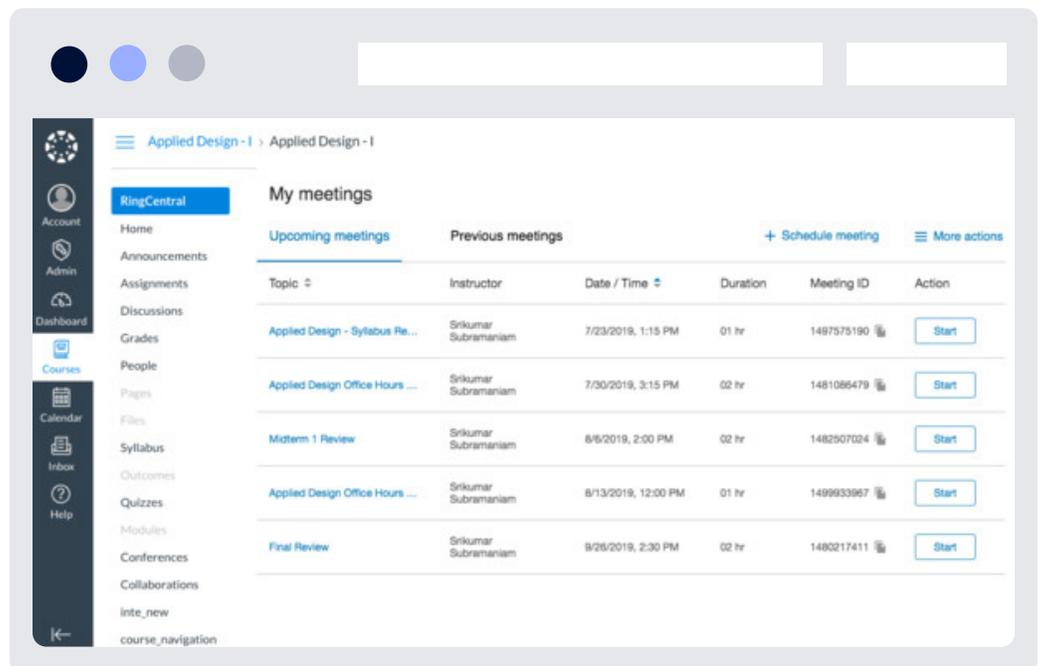
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# Canvas

[Canvas](#) is learning management system software developed by Instructure. It can be used for online, hybrid (a mix of in-person and online), or in-person learning.

One of the benefits of Canvas is its native mobile app. Instructors can send personalized messages to students, so students stay informed and engaged. Students can also message each other through the app.

In addition, Canvas offers course-level analytics so you can track student and class performance. Instructors can see who's watched which videos (and for how long). Canvas' visual dashboards give instructors the data they need at a glance.



# Blackboard

[Blackboard](#) touts its learning management system software as having a “pedagogy-first” mindset.

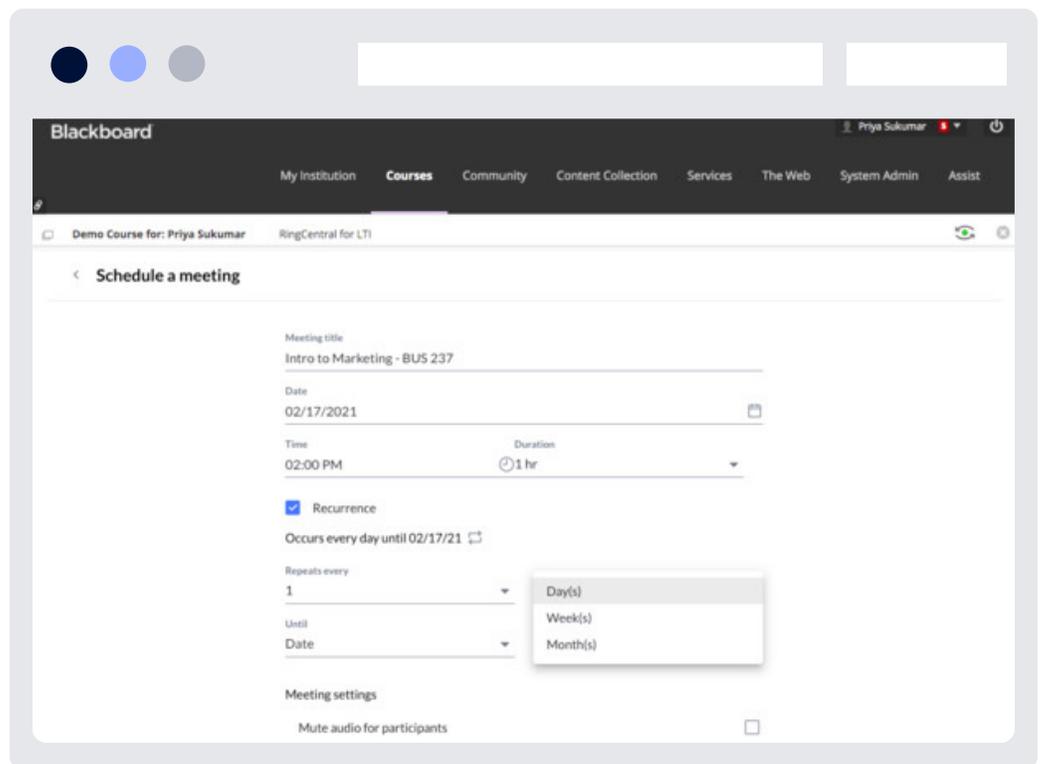
The learning management system software aims for a user-friendly experience, with simple, yet powerful workflows for students and instructors alike. Instructors and students can also use Blackboard to connect to one another outside of class.

For students who need some extra help, Blackboard offers Assist, a built-in feature that provides personalized support.

Assist shares the school’s own resources with students so they can learn the material successfully.

Moreover, Blackboard has a network of nearly 300 partners who offer third-party tools and the ability to integrate content.

Similar to Canvas, Blackboard provides analytics. Administrators and instructors can look at course-specific performance as well as performance across the institution.



# Moodle

[Moodle](#) was first released in 2002 as an open-source project to create a collaborative, interactive approach to distance learning. Since its inception, Moodle has grown in popularity – over 60% of higher education institutions across the globe use this learning management system software.

One of the benefits of Moodle is that it's highly customizable. Institutions can add the features they need to improve the learning and teaching experience. Schools can even brand their Moodle app to help students find it in the app store.

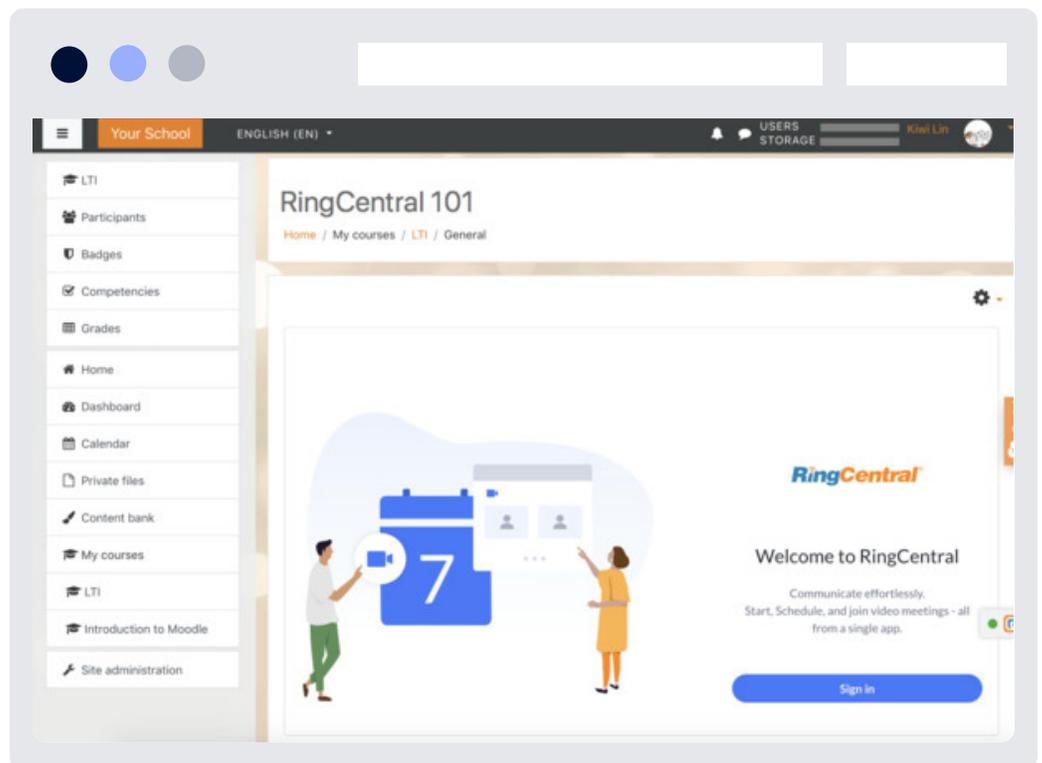
Because it's open-source, Moodle can integrate easily into a variety of other systems institutions already use.

What are some of the things instructors can use Moodle for?

- Online exams
- Forums and wikis
- Polls and feedback for surveys
- A platform for assignment submission
- Grade assignments

Instructors can use custom grading scales and rubrics, assign different markings for submitted work, manage grade moderation, and control when grades are released.

Another benefit of Moodle is single sign-on. All users can access their online portals and systems with Moodle with just one login.



# D2L by Brightspace

[D2L by Brightspace](#) is learning management system software that prides itself on being mobile-first. Users can access the platform from any device, at any time.

The learning management system software also prides itself on 99.9% uptime (although they have a track record of exceeding that SLA going back years). Every month, the developer delivers updates and enhancements without downtime.

D2L also easily integrates into institutions' existing IT ecosystems, so schools can create their own combination of tools, content, and applications. With D2L, instructors can deliver personalized feedback. There's also a feature that automatically nudges students when it senses low engagement. Users can configure D2L to enroll in study groups based on their courses, too.

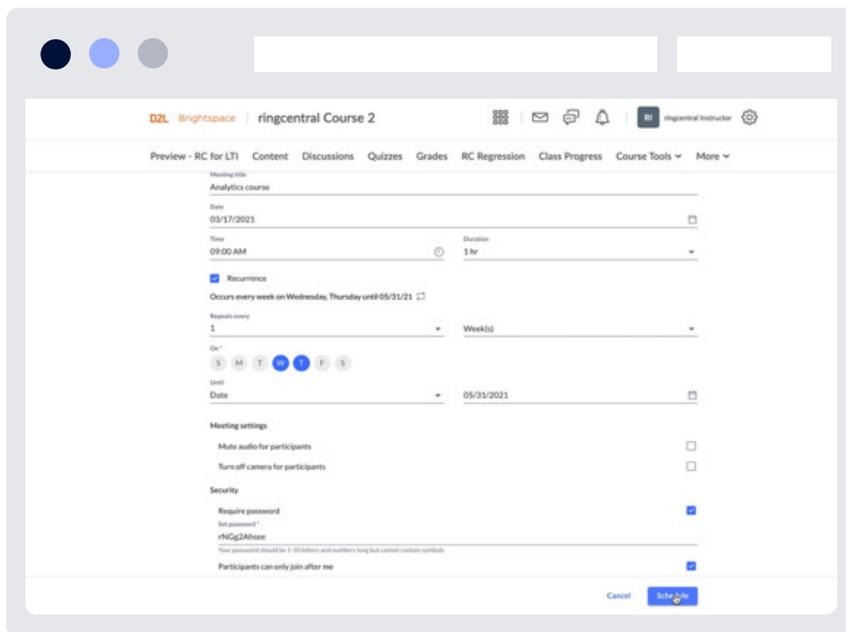
Students can use D2L to connect to one another. Moreover, instructors can create portfolios which highlight growth and accomplishments.

D2L identifies high-risk students, and will alert instructors when they're in need of help.

Moreover, D2L is the only learning management system software to be certified ISO27001 and ISO27018.

## RingCentral: integrating with leading learning management system software

RingCentral's virtual classroom platform integrates with leading learning management system software. To learn more, [get a demo](#).



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