# Using Blackboard to Monitor Student Engagement

There are a number of tools within Blackboard that can help teachers and (potentially) academic advisers to monitor student engagement with online materials, tasks and assessments.

Retention Centre

Set-up rules at course level to find out who could be "at risk" e.g.

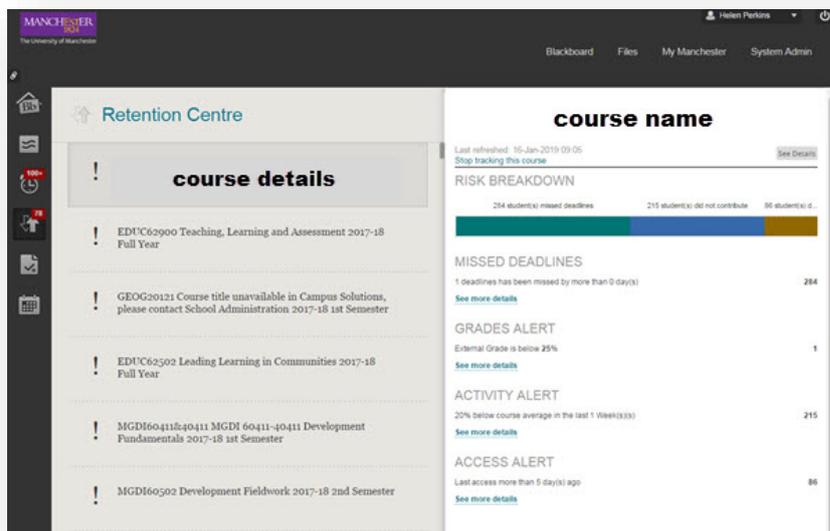- Days since last access
- Missed deadlines
- Grade issues

The "at risk" table shows who is at risk and why and provides options to contact them via email. You can also choose to monitor individual students.
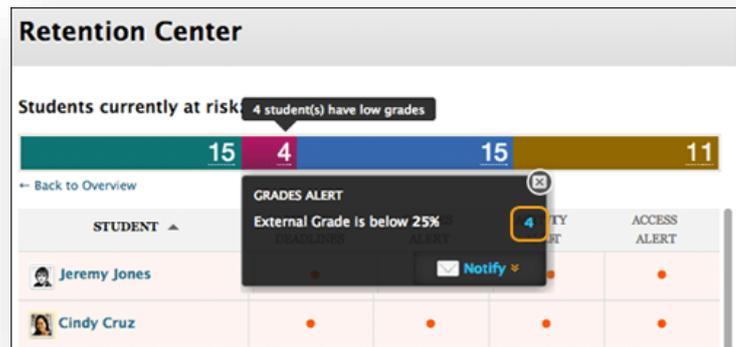
There is an option to set-up observers (possibly academic advisors) but UoM doesn't appear to utilise this function.

Retention Centre on Blackboard Homepage

This allows you to see "at risk" issues across all courses you are teaching on, so may be useful for academic advisors, but only if they are enrolled on their advisees Bb course units in a teaching role.

Performance Dashboard

This shows user activity for a course, including days since last access. It can also show the review status of items per student if enabled (see below) and any alerts generated by the Retention Centre.

Performance Dashboard

Last Name ▲	First Name	Username	Role	Last Course Access	Days Since Last Course Access	Review Status	Adaptive Release	Discussion Board	Customize Retention Center	View Grades
Casper	Chris	ccasper	Student	Feb 10, 2016 10:17:57 AM	2	4	📁	2	2/4	▤
Cooper	Ashby	acooper	Student	Feb 11, 2016 9:53:57 AM	1	2	📁	1	2/4	▤
Durand	Porter	pdurand	Student	Feb 8, 2016 2:27:57 PM	4	0	📁	1	2/4	▤

Course Reports

These reports allow you to look at whole course or individual activity, such as which content areas students accessed, and the time they spent on each. You can also provide a date range for report.
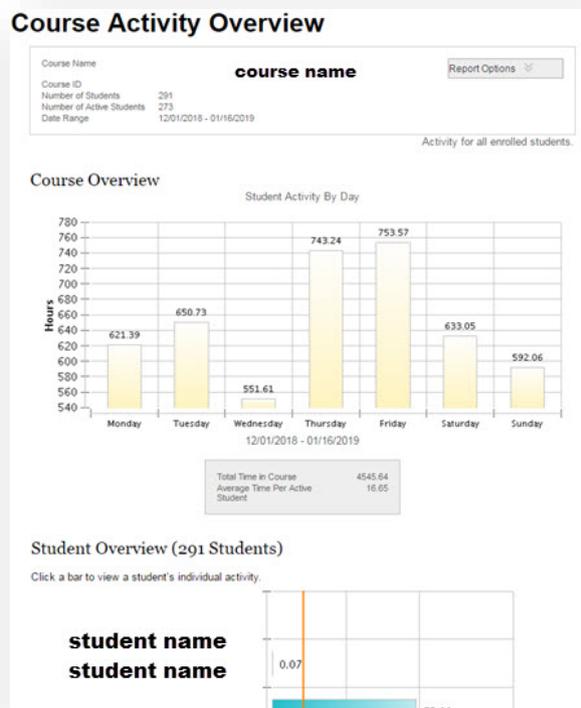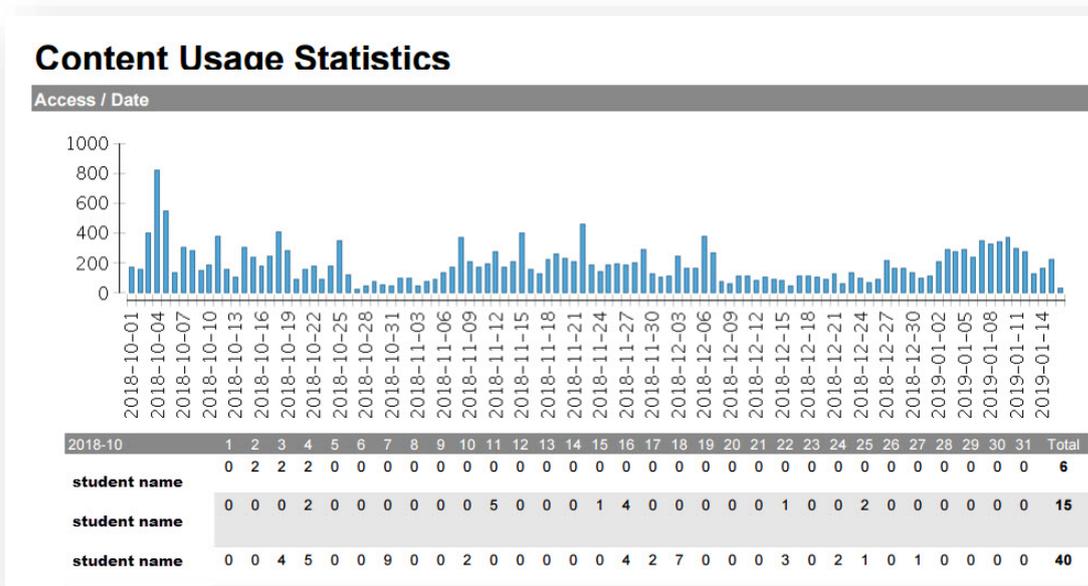

Reports can be exported as PDFs or Excel files which allow further analysis.
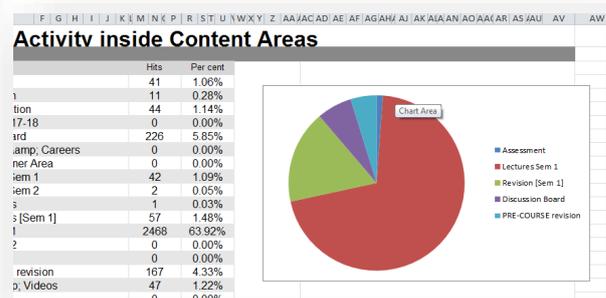
Statistics Tracking

You can track the number of views an item in a course has, and when it was accessed. This can be useful if there are specific elements of the course that students MUST engage with. Once tracking is enabled Blackboard will gather data which you can then run reports on. Reports can be for all students in a course or you can select specific students.

Content Usage Statistics

Access / Date

| 2018-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Total
student name	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**6**
student name	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	**15**
student name	0	0	4	5	0	0	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	7	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	**40**

Item Review

Another way of checking whether students have seen an item is to enable the **Review status** of the item. Once it is enabled students can then mark the item as reviewed. Teaching staff can then see who has reviewed the item by looking in the User Progress page or from the Performance Dashboard (which provides data on all items reviewed by a student in a course unit).

Achievements

Blackboard allows you to reward students with **achievements**, a great way of recognising a student's hard work and helping to keep them motivated.

Achievements are exportable, so they stay with students after their course has completed and can be used to evidence their learning outside of Blackboard.

You can create an achievement via the **Course Tools** section of the **Control Panel** and then define the criteria for awarding achievements in the form of **badges** or **certificates**.
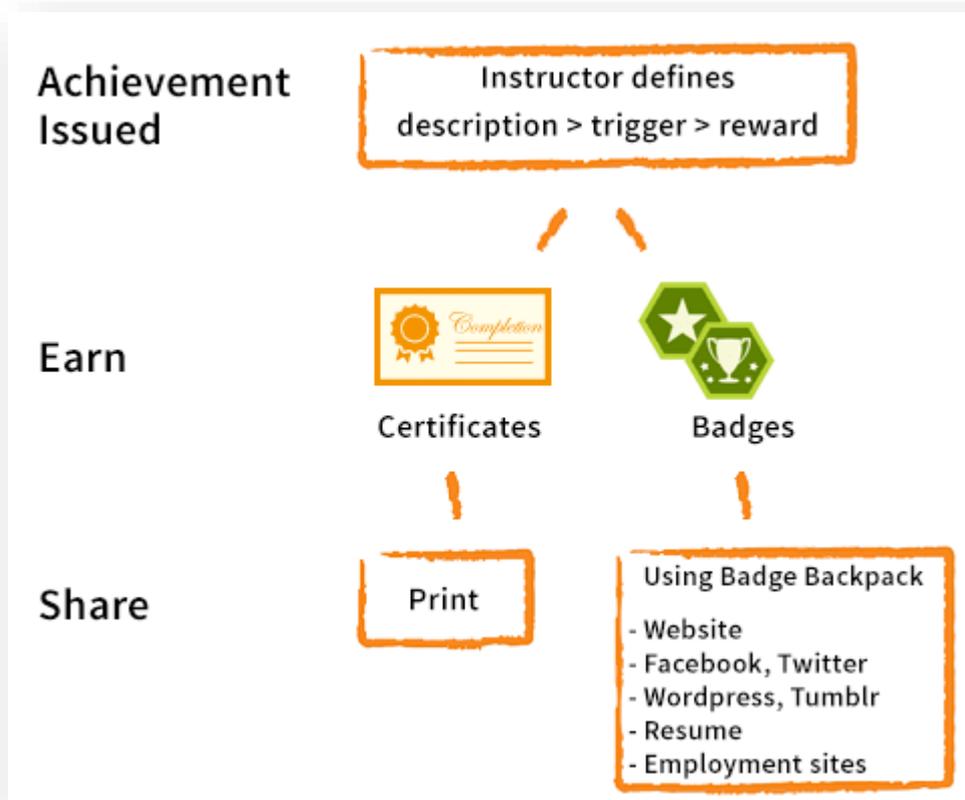
See Blackboard's own Help page – [Create and manage achievements](#) – for a step-by-step guide to creating achievements and defining the reward criteria.

When your course is running you'll be able to see all the achievements defined plus a list of the students who have earned them.

In the student view, there is a **My Achievements** page where they can see the achievements they've been awarded, and also any unearned achievements available. Tutors can see a student's view of their My Achievements page by selecting a student's name on the **Recipients** page within the Achievements tool.