

Update: WebCT and Electronic Grade Submission

Walt Milligan, August 6, 2007

After a successful trial in Spring 2006, Michigan Tech is moving forward to upgrade WebCT, from the current Version 4 to Version 6, over the current academic year.

Fall Semester 2007

The default version of WebCT will be Version 6, but Version 4 will still be available. Every course offered will automatically have a WebCT v6 section set up, so faculty will not need to request that the course be set up. Access will be via the web at newcourses.mtu.edu, and instructors will log in with their normal ISO password. Instructors who use Version 6 in the Fall and who would like to participate in the second test of electronic grade submission should contact Walt Milligan, milligan@mtu.edu, 487-2015.

A tutorial on migrating your current WebCT v4 course to WebCT v6 is available in the “WebCT@MTU - WebCT Support and Discussion” WebCT v6 course. As an instructor, you should already be enrolled in this course and will see it as one of your courses when you log in to newcourses.mtu.edu. Click on the course title to enter the course, then click on the WebCT Tutorials icon. Additional tutorials can be found here and more will be added in the future. Also, www.techonline.mtu.edu/webct.html has some resources as well.

We will be developing additional training resources and seminars that will be available during Fall semester. For those who are uncomfortable starting the new version of WebCT without training on short notice, Version 4 will continue to be available through the end of the Fall semester. As usual, instructors must request that a WebCT v4 section be set up through a web-based request at <http://www.webct.mtu.edu/>.

Spring Semester 2008

WebCT Version 4 will no longer be available. All courses offered at the University will automatically have a WebCT v6 section set up. Procedures will be in place to support special-needs applications, for example, multiple physical sections of the same course that an instructor may wish to treat as one WebCT “course”. Special requests can be made to webct@mtu.edu or by contacting Matt Buss, mpbuss@mtu.edu, 487-1722.

Electronic grade submission will be **required** for all courses taught in Spring 2008 and beyond. The bubble sheets will be distributed in Spring 2008 only as an emergency backup, and will not be printed or distributed at all starting in Summer 2008. Grades will be submitted through the WebCT gradebook and a simple website. Training materials and seminars will be available throughout the course of the academic year. For instructors who choose not to use WebCT in the delivery of their course, WebCT will only serve as a convenient way to transmit accurate class lists, and to offer instructors a convenient, secure way to type in and submit their grades from any web browser, anywhere in the world. For those who are interested, a more detailed explanation of the rationale behind using WebCT as the grade submission tool will be posted on the OIT website shortly.

Feel free to contact Walt Milligan with questions or comments, milligan@mtu.edu, 487-2015