

Canvas LMS Transition Timeline

Key Accomplishments, Outcomes, and Community Impact

This timeline highlights the major milestones, outcomes, and support activities that guided the University of Miami's transition from Blackboard to Canvas.

FOUNDATIONS: 1999 – 2023

- **1999–2023** – Blackboard supported more than two decades of digital teaching and learning, creating the foundation for the University's next-generation learning management system (LMS) transition.

DISCOVERY & EVALUATION: 2023 – 2024

- **September 2023** – University-wide satisfaction feedback identified Blackboard as an opportunity for improvement, elevating student, faculty, and staff voices in the LMS modernization effort. The timing aligned with Blackboard's phased reduction in support for the Original architecture, including the deprecation of Original-specific integrations in 2024 and a strategic shift in product development toward Ultra.
- **January 2024** – The University launched the **2024–2025 LMS Evaluation Initiative** with Information Technology and the Academic Computing Advisory Committee, creating a collaborative path to evaluate Canvas and Blackboard Ultra.
- **February–May 2024** – To prepare for a real-world Canvas pilot, Information Technology and Systems established the technical, security, privacy, procurement, and integration foundations for the transition while recruiting faculty to test Canvas in live teaching environments.
- **June–August 2024** – Pilot faculty gained Canvas access, orientation, migrated courses, CaneLink-connected live courses, Canvas 24/7 support, drop-in office hours, and troubleshooting help, building early confidence for faculty and students.
- **Fall–November 2024** – Faculty and student feedback, peer-institution research, and input from Canvas pilot and Blackboard Ultra participants were summarized and shared with faculty governance groups to guide planning, support, and decision-making.

GOVERNANCE & DECISION: EARLY 2025

- **January–May 2025** – Support for pilot faculty members in Canvas continued; migration, archive, and integration work advanced to strengthen implementation readiness for a potential Fall 2025 rollout.
- **February–May 2025** – The **2024–2025 LMS Evaluation Initiative** findings were presented to the Academic Computing Advisory Committee, Academic Deans Policy Council, Faculty Senate, and General Welfare Committee. All governance groups recommended adoption of Canvas, reflecting broad academic input and strengthening institutional transparency. Blackboard announced the retirement of Original.

ANNOUNCEMENT & EARLY ADOPTION: MID–LATE 2025

- **July 2025** – The University announced Canvas as its **next-generation LMS**, supported by extensive community feedback, pilot learning, and faculty governance endorsement.
- **July – August 2025** – Early adoption accelerated as more than **150 faculty** received Canvas access, orientations, migrated courses, live courses, 24/7 Canvas support, and drop-in office hours. UM-focused onboarding courses launched for students and faculty, and all faculty received sandbox access to explore the platform.

- **September 2025 – Canvas information sessions** outlined the transition timeline, reasons for moving to Canvas, key benefits, and support resources. ITS finalized professional services resources for the move.
- **October 2025:** Anthology, the ed-tech firm that owns Blackboard, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.
- **November 2025 –** Two dedicated **Canvas Consultants** joined to create a coordinated support model for broader adoption, including migration validation, planning, training, documentation, and videos. Weekly **Canvas Essentials training**, academic-unit sessions, and a Faculty Showcase presentation gave faculty and staff foundational Canvas knowledge and early opportunities to prepare for the transition.
- **November – December 2025 –** Spring 2025 migrated content was released ahead of the Spring semester, supported by migration guidance, help desk readiness materials, and faculty onboarding resources. These resources strengthened support, quality assurance, and readiness for full Canvas adoption.

SCALING ADOPTION: JANUARY – AUGUST 2026

- **January 2026 – Canvas Info Sessions** were delivered to key governance groups, including the General Welfare Committee and Faculty Senate, to build shared understanding and gather feedback. ITS also began school and college presentations, 1:1 consultations, and custom Spring training opportunities. Turnitin for plagiarism detection and YuJa Panorama for digital accessibility were launched in Canvas.
- **February 2026 –** Canvas adoption continued to grow through expanded training, support, migration validation, and resource development. All **2024 and 2025** Blackboard course content became available in Canvas, the Provost's **Office endorsed the Faculty Canvas Champions program**, about 30% of courses were taught in Canvas by approximately 789 faculty, approximately 450 faculty and staff were trained, and approximately 90% of required third-party tools were integrated. A direct email to all University students shared key transition updates.
- **March 2026 – Summer and Fall 2026 course shells** became **available in Canvas**, giving faculty an early start on course development. **Spring Canvas Month** launched after Spring Break with in-person and virtual trainings, 1:1 consultations, and drop-in workshops in partnership with Canvas Consultants. ITS continued tracking migration issues and planning advanced workshops to support expanded Canvas use.
- **April 2026 – Spring Canvas Month** continued with tabling events to build awareness and encourage early adoption among students. The **Faculty Canvas Champions** program launched to support peer-led learning. Canvas use expanded to student orientation, placement testing, and co-curricular learning pathways.
- **May 2026 –** Migration of Spring 2026 courses began, while technical work focused on finalizing core integrations, including Canes Course Pack, and enabling feature updates such as Box connections and Canvas' AI assistant, Panda Bot. The **Faculty Canvas Champions Spring Cohort concluded** and transitioned into summer sessions.
- **June 2026 –** Canvas Consultants reported 200+ 1:1 consultations, 155 unique faculty sessions, 23 repeat faculty sessions, 27 workshops, and new readiness resources emerged from the Spring semester. **A third Canvas Consultant** joined to expand internal **admin expertise**, support Canvas governance and lifecycle practices, optimize the environment, and guide strategic administration. CaneLink fixes, new Canvas features, knowledge base articles, and Faculty Champion-led teaching sessions further strengthened launch readiness.
- **July 2026 –** Spring 2026 course content was transferred and made available in Canvas, while summer training continued to expand. Support resources were updated for first-day readiness, accommodations, and common questions. Canvas Month materials were shared, the Canvas Escalation Desk launched, and a new process gave faculty Canvas access up to one week before their start date.
- **August 2026 –** The University completed final fall launch preparations, including onsite support planning and the launch of **Canvas Month**, a four-week series offering virtual and in-person workshops, learning integration sessions, and drop-in support for the University community.



LOOKING AHEAD: FALL 2026 AND BEYOND

- **Fall 2026** – Canvas becomes the University of Miami's **official and sole LMS**, with all courses taught in Canvas and Blackboard no longer available for instructional use. Training continues for Spring 2027 faculty, all remaining 2026 courses are migrated, and Blackboard archiving and retirement continue as Canvas use expands.
- **December 31, 2026** – Vendor support for Blackboard Original officially ends. Courses can no longer be edited in Blackboard, and no instructional activity may occur within the platform.
- **Spring 2027** – All courses continue to be taught exclusively in Canvas. Blackboard remains available in **read-only mode** so faculty and students can reference past materials, but no editing, course creation, or grading may occur. All courses are archived before decommissioning.
- **May 1, 2027** – Blackboard read-only access ends, completing the University of Miami's **full transition to Canvas** as its modern, university-wide learning management platform.