

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT DASHBOARD

Considerations for interpreting Dashboard data from the Learning Platform Suite (LPS) e.g. Blackboard, Collaborate and Turnitin

As well as the physical TDS attendance monitoring system, the Dashboard Lite report shows learners' digital engagement with the 'Learning Platform Suite' (LPS). Specifically, this includes Blackboard activity, both logins and an indication of the amount of content they have accessed, and access to Collaborate sessions. The full Dashboard reports include Turnitin submissions and engagement with Library resources.

Dashboard Lite provides an excellent 'one-stop-shop' indication of engagement in the LPS, however it is high level and is **not intended, nor should be used for, detailed engagement analysis because of some limitations of the data**. Furthermore, where the Dashboard only gives an indication of engagement in the LPS, we have comprehensive guidance about how to promote, support and sustain digital engagement in the first place. See the [Fully Digital Delivery guidance on Project 20/21 web pages](#) and the [Dashboard web page](#) for more information and contact your School Digital Academic Developer (new name for Learning Technologist) for advice.

Crucially, given the limitations described below, it is important to highlight that **you should not reach conclusions in comparing learners' LPS engagement or flagging students for potential withdrawal due to low engagement based solely on the Dashboard data**, much as you would not set a % threshold to automatically infer plagiarism from a Turnitin Similarity report.

Limitations of LPS data

There are both technical and pedagogic considerations. Technical considerations relate to what data is and isn't included and why some learners may have engaged but it is not clear on the Dashboard whether or how much they have engaged. Pedagogic considerations relate how localised use of the LPS necessarily creates differences in expectations on individual learners' engagement within the same module/course.

Technical

Reporting period - Although Dashboard Lite reports are updated daily, by default it reports only on the last two weeks of LPS engagement data. In the full Dashboard you can adjust the timeframe.

Blackboard counts a 'hit' on all content on a page a learner lands on –where there are multiple content items on a page, Blackboard cannot not record whether the student looked at one particular bit of content nor does it record whether the student opened a file attached to a content item, only whether they visited the page the content item is on.

Collaborate access via guest links are not included – only access via the Collaborate link in Blackboard itself can be captured.

Pedagogic

Not all Blackboard content is equal (nor included) –for the purposes of comparing students access to different kinds of content (e.g. on-screen text, attached documents, web links) is not discriminated by the Dashboard. Consider that 1 x content access reported for Learner A might

relate visiting a page containing a single key reading (e.g. Module Handbook or the week's session notes), whereas 10 x accesses for Learner B might relate to visiting a page with ten links on it (e.g. to useful web sites), given the technical limitation that one page means a hit on every bit of content. Consider also that some key content is not currently available to the Dashboard, for example when a learner accesses a ReCap recording.

Learners on the same module may not be expected to attend the same Collaborate sessions - for example 1:1 sessions (e.g. tutorials, supervision) and where some groups on a module are using Collaborate and other not (e.g. a particular seminar group tutor is shielding). Also, we know some students in University accommodation bubbles are accessing Collaborate together through one device, plus it is not uncommon for students outside of a module or even course to be invited to some module-based Collaborate sessions.

Collaborate guest links cannot always be disabled - as well as to improve the accuracy of Dashboard data, access by students to Collaborate by guest link is discouraged for security reasons. However, guest links will still be needed for specific reasons, for example you have made recordings of 1:1 sessions with students and need to switch off the Collaborate link in your module Blackboard to prevent all students from seeing these recordings, also when you are inviting guest speakers who cannot login to Blackboard (as well as pragmatic reasons e.g. staff time)

In the full Dashboard Learners on the same module will not be required to submit to the same Turnitin submission points - Whereas the Dashboard shows all Turnitin Assignments (submission points) across all module Blackboards student has access to, each student is not required to submit to all of course. Students will usually submit to an 'on time' or 'after deadline point' and some students may even be required to submit to fewer than others depending on module-level assessment strategies and/or their own circumstances.

Use of Blackboard Journals and Tasks is not widespread (as reported under the 'Task Tracking' section of the Dashboard)