

Blackboard Rel. 9.0: Changes to the Course Home Page

One of the most notable changes in Blackboard Rel. 9.0 is the way instructor's setup and manage their courses. The Control Panel is now located on the course "Home" page aka the Announcement page. Menu items are also added changed and deleted right on the home page.

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Rel. 9.0 Course Home Page. At the top, there are tabs for 'My Blackboard' and 'Courses'. Below this, the course name 'Release 9.0 Demo course' and 'Home Page' are visible. A red arrow points to the 'Add Menu Items Here' button. The main content area is titled 'Home Page' and includes sections for 'My Announcements', 'My Tasks', and 'My Calendar'. A red box highlights the 'Edit Mode: ON' button in the top right corner, with a callout stating 'The Edit Mode must be ON to make any changes to the course.' A 'Customize Page' button is also present. On the left, a 'Control Panel' menu is expanded, showing options like 'Course Tools', 'Course Links', 'Evaluation', 'Users and Groups', 'Customization', 'Packages and Utilities', and 'Help'. Red arrows point from these menu items to callouts: 'The Course Control Panel is now located on the Home Page', 'Grade Center and Tracking Reports', 'User and Group Management', 'Design Your Course Here. See Below for a list of items.', and 'Course Copy, Export and Import'. A 'Hide Menu' button is also visible in the 'My Announcements' section.

Course Customization

Enrollment Options

Sets up how students are enrolled. (Default is by Administrator)

Guest and Observer Access.

Allow or disallow guests and observers.

Properties

The instructor may change the course name and availability.

Style

Change menu from text to buttons, select course entry point or add a course banner.

Tool Availability

Select what course tools are available to students.