Feedback Settings on Blackboard Tests—Is There Too Much Information?

While immediate feedback on test questions is helpful for students to know how well they performed and where to improve, two automatic settings in Blackboard may not be in the best interest of test integrity. These settings are “After Submission” and “Score per Question.” Thus, instructors need to balance feedback, integrity, and strategy. First, we will look at where these settings are managed.

In the Edit the Test Options display, Blackboard allows instructors to customize test feedback under Show Test Results and Feedback to Students. This area controls how much feedback students see, and when they can view it. It helpfully includes an automatic setting to display the score for each question immediately after the student submits the test. However, this automatic setting may display too much information!

When the automatic setting of “After Submission” and “Score per Question” is used, a student who is taking a test will immediately see their overall score, the individual score for each question—and the question. If students are not all taking the test at the same time, a student who has completed the test can view the results and then share the test questions and correct/incorrect information with another student who has not yet taken the test.

To provide timely feedback, and protect the integrity of the test, use both of the When feedback rules.

1. Set the first rule for “After Submission” and uncheck every box in the row.

2. Set the second rule to meet your preference, and check any feedback option that suits your goals. A recommendation is to set the date for “After Availability” or “After Attempts are Graded.” Use “Show Incorrect Questions” when allowing unlimited attempts so students will see those questions they missed, to focus studying on those areas. More information is available at Blackboard’s website.

Students can always see their overall test scores. If you do not want them to see their scores yet, access the Grade Center column’s menu and select “Hide/Show to User.” Note that when you hide a test column from students, they see nothing about the test in My Grades. However, they will see an updated score in Grade Total.

For more information on creating tests in Blackboard and Test Options for students, click on these additional tips:

Creating Blackboard Tests and Setting Test Options contains information on using Respondus to upload a Word test file into Blackboard, setting test options, and proctoring.

Creating and Using Tests in Blackboard contains information about ways to use tests and review results.