

## Tools overview

### Tools

The following tools are standard available.

- [Announcements](#), are messages to all users in a course. They can be used to for instance to welcome students to your course, to notify them of changes in the schedule, to inform them about what is expected of them and to link to new material in the course. Be sure to always set an end date for your announcement in order to make them compatible with Student Portal.
- [Blackboard Collaborate](#), tool to support distance education with video conferencing, whiteboard and chat functionality.
- [Discussion Board](#), students can post messages in a forum. Instructor has to open a forum first.
- [Email](#), students can send email to each other and to instructors in the course, mail will be send to the UM-mail account.
- [Groups](#), option to make subgroups of all users in a course, groups can have their own tools and content can be made available to specific groups only.

Other tools can be made available too if desired. E.g.:

- [Blog](#)
- [Wiki](#)
- [Journal](#)

Please contact your faculty support when you would like to make other tools available. For more information on the available tools see [Blackboard Support](#).