

Communication

Forums:

Discussion forums are a great way to add interactivity to your class and promote student activity outside of the class. You can use the forums to inform your students, allow them to continue discussions started in class or to supplement or add discussion topics outside of class.

Here is a view of all of the discussion forums from the Spring Online Advising tools class:

General forums

Forum	Description	Discussions	Unread posts	Track	Subscribed
Class Announcements	General news and announcements	6	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Questions??	If you have any questions please post them here and together we can all try to find the answers!	2	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Assignment: Introductions	Please take a moment to briefly introduce yourself to the class. This is a good opportunity for some of the new faculty to get to know folks from some of the other departments. Tell us a little about your background, what department you are teaching in, what classes are you teaching this ...	10	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes

Learning forums

Section	Forum	Description	Discussions	Unread posts	Track	Subscribed
1	Assignment: Talk about Advising in your department	Each department handles faculty advising a little differently at Columbia. For example, some departments assign students to a specific faculty advisor others have students meet with different faculty throughout the semester. Some departments do advising and registration clearances at the same ...	9	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
3	Assignment: How do you start the advising session?	Based on reading the "10 Questions to Start the Conversation," any past advising experience and your research on best practices in your department, what have you found to be an effective way to start your advising sessions with your students?	6	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
4	Assignment: Departmental Advising Revisited	Based on the reading "Best Practices and Core Values," what you have learned about Advising practices in your own department and other departments and seeing how the online advising tools can help in your advising sessions, what are some new ideas you plan to try in your upcoming student ...	6	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes

Each discussion has a "Description" or prompt that the students can respond to. Once a forum has been posted, students will post their responses as "topics"

Discussion prompt

Show/edit current subscribers
Unsubscribe from this forum
Don't track unread posts

Based on reading the "10 Questions to Start the Conversation," any past advising experience and your research on best practices in your department, what have you found to be an effective way to start your advising sessions with your students?

Add a new discussion topic

New Topics

Discussion	Started by	Replies	Unread ✓	Last post
Departmental Talking Points?	Rebecca Courington	0	0	Fri, 17 Oct 2008, 02:49 PM
Starting the conversation	Julian Grant	3	0	Wed, 15 Oct 2008, 08:34 PM
Starting the Conversation	Karen Loop	1	0	Wed, 15 Oct 2008, 07:53 PM

The students will respond both to the discussion prompt and to each other - thus creating the online “discussion.” In the example above, there were 3 responses to my post titled “Department Talking Points. If you click on the topic, you will see the posted responses.

It looks like this:

The screenshot shows a Moodle forum thread. The main post is titled "Departmental Talking Points?" by Rebecca Courington, dated Wednesday, 15 October 2008, 07:05 PM. The content asks if departments have suggested/recommended/required topics for discussion. There are three replies, each starting with "Re: Departmental Talking Points?". The first reply is from a user with a smiley face icon, dated Wednesday, 15 October 2008, 07:42 PM, discussing steering students to courses and finding out how things are going. The second reply is from the same user, dated Wednesday, 15 October 2008, 08:05 PM, mentioning track sheets for concentrations. The third reply is from the same user, dated Friday, 17 October 2008, 02:49 PM, mentioning curriculum guides for Art + Design. Each reply includes a "Rate..." button and a "Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply" link.

You can place forums anywhere in your moodle class. Here is an example of three discussion forums placed in the topics unit:

The screenshot shows a Moodle course page. At the top, there is a list of resources: "Class Announcements", "Course Syllabus", "Questions??", "Advising Terms", and "Assignment: Introductions". Each resource has a small icon and a set of control icons (back, forward, search, etc.). Below the list is a search bar and an "Add an activity..." button. The main content area is titled "1 Day 1: Getting Started" and contains a paragraph of text: "If you are not quite certain how to get started launching OASIS, logging into the portal and finding the Advising Tools Portlet, please view 'Accessing the Advising Tools.' This short video will walk you through the login process and help you navigate to the Faculty page. Also, you might want to download the PDF file 'Access the Advising Tools Portlet' for future reference." There are also icons for a lightbulb, a star, and a downward arrow on the right side of the content area.

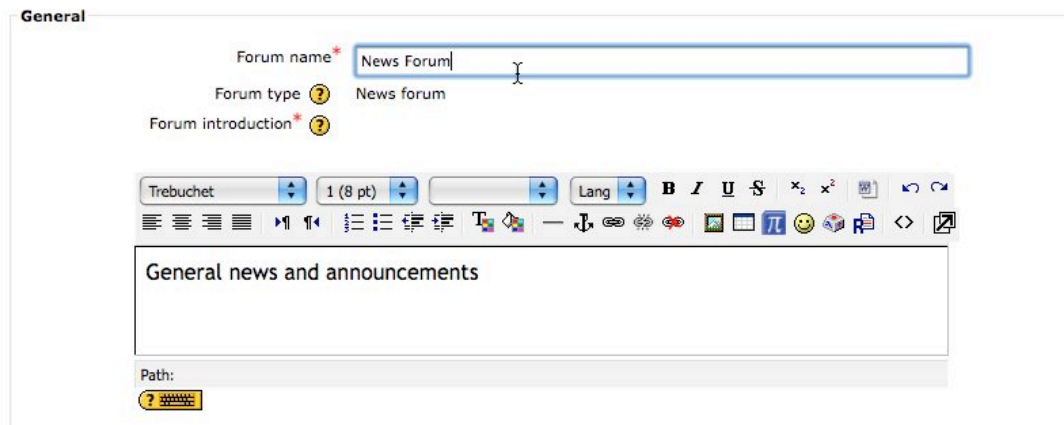
Announcements

The News Forum is a special forum for general announcements. A course has only one News Forum. The News Forum is generated automatically when the course is created and by default is placed in the top of the center section. Also, by default, every person enrolled in the class is automatically subscribed to the News Forum.



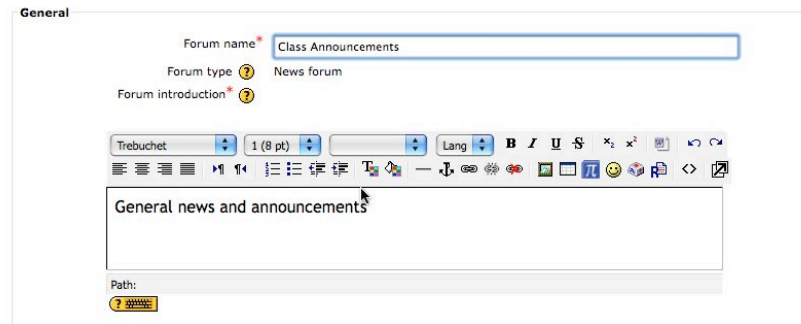
You shouldn't delete the News Forum, but you can rename it. Click the edit icon:

Updating: Forum ?

A screenshot of the 'Updating: Forum' dialog box, 'General' tab. The 'Forum name' field is highlighted in blue and contains the text 'News Forum'. Below it, the 'Forum type' is set to 'News forum'. The 'Forum introduction' field is empty. Below the introduction field is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing various icons for text formatting, alignment, and insertion. The text in the editor is 'General news and announcements'. At the bottom, there is a 'Path' field with a question mark icon.

Enter a new name

Updating: Forum ?

A screenshot of the 'Updating: Forum' dialog box, 'General' tab. The 'Forum name' field is highlighted in blue and contains the text 'Class Announcements'. Below it, the 'Forum type' is set to 'News forum'. The 'Forum introduction' field is empty. Below the introduction field is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing various icons for text formatting, alignment, and insertion. The text in the editor is 'General news and announcements'. At the bottom, there is a 'Path' field with a question mark icon.