



Educational White Paper

Implementing Learning Management System- Moodle

Moodle URL: moodle.bluecrest.edu.gh

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Learning Management Systems(LMS) over the years has gained ascendancy among eLearning providers to manage content delivery, corporate reporting, administration, course enrollments, assessments and content storage

Executive Summary

As education and training become a pivotal aspect to success, Institutions are going through a hard time trying to streamline their proceedings with the right personnel and systems to successfully manage their learning programs

Learning Management Systems(LMS) over the years has gained ascendancy among eLearning providers to manage content delivery, corporate reporting, administration, course enrollments, assessments and content storage

A report by one analyst company, Bersin & Associates whose sole priority is to track the trends and happenings in LMS industries purported that the LMS vendors have a wide spectrum of target ranging from multinational corporations, Colleges or Universities, private organizations, government agencies and nonprofits with unique strengths, challenges and costs.

The percentage of U.S training firms who have resorted to the use of LMS is over 40% as per a report by these organizations. The complexity of deciding on which LMS solution is best suited for your organization can not be over-emphasized as the levels at which users are satisfied and the effectiveness of these LMS have a wide variation.

However, Open-Source LMS solutions in a regular and even manner are becoming more dominants over other commercial LMS solution vendors. Many of the Open-Source LMS solutions were initially implemented in the academia and gradually escalated to corporate, government and nonprofit areas. Below are highlight of key features provided by some of the top Open-Source LMS

- Security and privacy
- Feature-rich toolsets
- High Stability and Scalability
- Lower long-term cost



This white paper provides an overview of the adoption of LMS specifically Moodle by BlueCrest College and the progress we have made with it over time. It will also explore the core functionality and strengths of Moodle LMS at BlueCrest



Introduction to LMS

In the LMS space, LMS platforms may be referred to as Virtual Learning Environments(VLE), Course Management Systems, Training Management system, Learning Activity management system or even Learning Experience Platform (LXP).

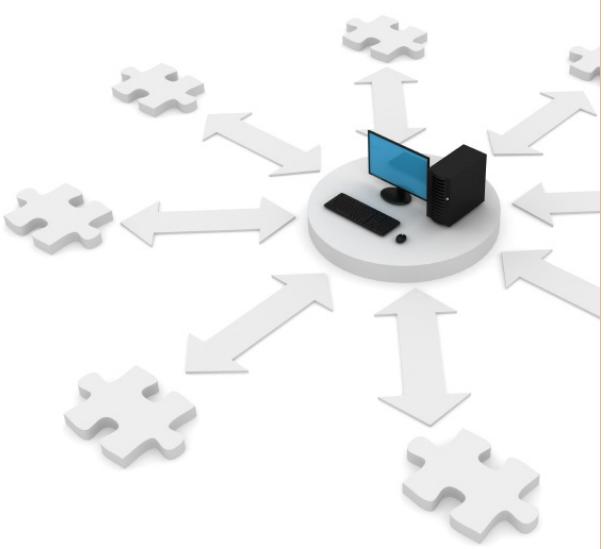
The American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) reports that a sound LMS should at least have these functionality:

- Centralize and automate administration;
- Offer self-service and self-guided services (such as learner self-registration for courses);
- Rapidly assemble and deliver learning content;
- Consolidate training initiatives on a scalable Web-based platform;
- Support portability and standards, such as SCORM; and
- Personalize content and enable knowledge reuse.

Below are lists of common functionalities embedded in most LMS solutions:

- Content management features with total storage control, sharing of contents and downloading of contents
- Rebranding and customization options;
- User management tools which allow administrators assign roles to specific users
- Assessment, grading, and tracking learning
- Collaboration tools, like wikis, discussion or chat
- Reporting and analytics
- Access control features to immunize the system against unauthorized people

A major consideration by most organizations before adopting an LMS is the integration ability of that LMS solutions, whether it can integrate with Plagiarism systems, e-book libraries, ERP systems among other systems. The most popular Open-Source LMS in use today meet these requirements.



The quest to offer a global education to all is our main drive to adopting Moodle LMS as a tool to facilitate this process.

Adoption of Moodle LMS by BlueCrest

The most popular and widely used LMS in the world today happens to be Moodle. A report by Moodle Trust indicates that Moodle has over 49,000 actively registered sites as of the latter part of October 2010. These sites are administering almost 4 million courses to users of more than 38 million globally.

The adoption of Moodle LMS started when Dr. Anand Agrawal, the President and Rector of Bluecrest University College joined the College in the first quarter of the year 2019. Due to his passion for blended learning, he immediately initiated the implementation of one of the globally competitive LMS particularly Moodle to manage our online learning.

The quest to offer a global education to all is our main drive to adopting Moodle LMS as a tool to facilitate this process. Here at BlueCrest, we believe that distance should not be a barrier to education. Students from across the globe can remotely access education from the comfort of their homes.

On the other hand, BlueCrest also wanted to streamline its physical classroom proceedings by ensuring all students are learning in the classroom on one platform so we can ensure that the teaching materials, urls, books and other learning resources students are receiving are of the highest quality.

Students success has always been our priority and as such we tailor all our proceedings to make students learning a great success with minimal or no stress.



BlueCrest can proudly boast of one of the high featured, well designed, carefully curated, thoroughly customised and high class Moodle LMS - moodle.bluecrest.edu.gh

Overview of our Moodle LMS

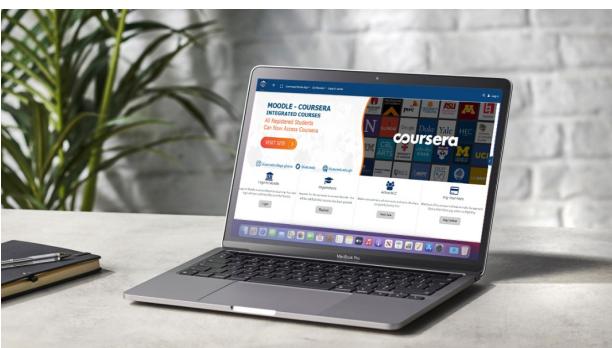
BlueCrest can proudly boast of one of the high featured, well designed, carefully curated, thoroughly customised and high class Moodle LMS. Our LMS has speedily evolved to become a globally competitive LMS. (BlueCrest Moodle url : <https://moodle.bluecrest.edu.gh/>)

Tips for Learning Online:



BlueCrest Centres of Excellence are launched after a careful review of the need for such centres in this region. BlueCrest has been a pioneer in various fronts in West Africa and we have endeavored to contribute to the society and to make a positive impact in the lives of people...

[Read more](#)



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LMS SUPPORT DESK

Support Center
Hotline: +23355856434 /
+233556043349
Email:
moodle@bluecrest.edu.gh

Follow Us

The homepage of our Moodle LMS follows the design principle of 'keep it simple and don't repeat yourself'

Detailed Overview Of The Design Concept

The homepage of our Moodle LMS follows the design principle of 'keep it simple and don't repeat yourself'.

The first section contains a banner creating awareness of how students of blueCrest College can have free access to Coursera once they register for the semester.

The second section contains key links to assist students get started with the Moodle LMS. The links are as follows

1. Login
2. Registration
3. Active BCC(Intranet)
4. Pay Your Fees(Online Payment of Tuition Fees)

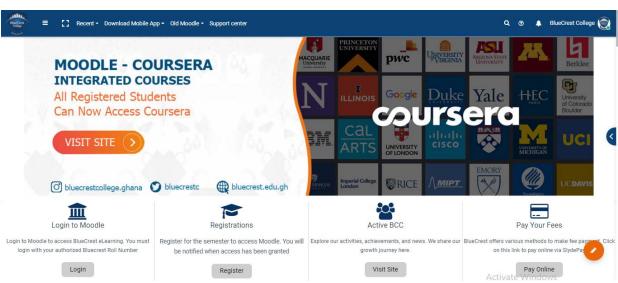
The third section consists of banners pointing to our e-library and Online examination portal for Online Scholarship Examination

Following the third section is the section that contains other useful links:

- Resit/Re-check request system
- Students Redressal System
- Students Handbook
- e-portfolio

The firth section is specifically dedicated to displaying tips for successful Online learning. These tips are as follows:

- **Get Organized** - Before class begins ensure you have all the technical abilities to access the Internet and prepare your course material.
- **Create a Plan** - Create a working plan that accommodates breaks for lunch, snacks and make a printout of your schedule.
- **Create your workspace** - Setup a dedicated learning environment that helps you establish a good routine and doesn't distract you.
- **Actively participate** - Offer feedback, ask questions and engage your lecturers. Share examples and do prior research on the topic so you know what to talk about.
- **Stay connected with your classmates** - Chat and discuss class material with your classmates. Create virtual study groups to engage and share ideas.
- **Hold yourself accountable** - Set weekly goals, check in to review your progress and be organized and proactive.
- Leverage your network
- Practice Time Management



With the help of our Moodle Unit, Dubai IT team and our Rector and President Dr. Anand Agrawal, massive customization of the Moodle interface was initiated. This stage was critical to transforming our Moodle



The sixth section contains links to our Centers of Excellence

- Research and Grant Centres - *Bluecrest supports research that prepares leaders who can address complex challenges through multiple lenses...*
- Centre for Professional and Entrepreneurial Development - *BlueCrest College (BCC) is not only a tertiary educational institute but a centre for excellence in the region. We aim...*
- Teaching and Learning Centre - *Our Mission is to develop a holistic culture that values learning as a lifelong process supporting pedagogical excellence and professional development.*
- Coursera - *BlueCrest College has changed the game in university education with the integration of Coursera Courses into its teaching curriculum...*

Finally the last session contains the footer. This sections contains useful links of Academics, Admissions, LMS support and social media handles.

The Moodle Design Evolution Process

The evolution of the BlueCrest Moodle interface has gone through several phases to becoming what it is today. It was initially deployed as a raw Moodle software with no customization. The design interface was not really fascinating and user-friendly. With the help of our Moodle Unit, Dubai IT team and our Rector and President Dr. Anand Agrawal, massive customization of the Moodle interface was initiated. This stage palyed a critical role in transforming our Moodle to become a world-class LMS. This process spanned almost a year to bring to light the current Moodle interface and some of its features.

There are many types of activities available in our Moodle at BlueCrest University College: assignments, activities for communication and collaboration between teachers and students, quizzes, etc

Key Features Of BlueCrest Moodle LMS

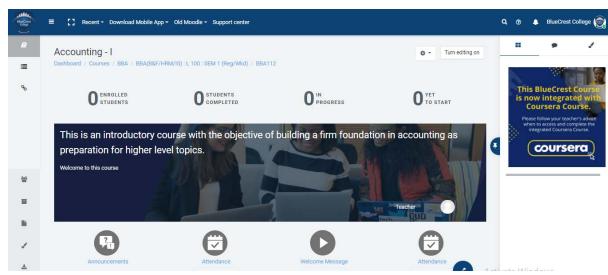
Course Development and Management Features

- Direct learning paths - *Design and manage courses to meet various requirements. Classes can be instructor-led, self-paced, blended or entirely online.*
- Encourage collaboration - *Built-in collaborative publishing features foster engagement and encourage content-driven collaboration.*
- Embed external resources - *Teach materials and include assignments from other sites and connect to the gradebook in Moodle.*
- Multimedia Integration - *Moodle's built-in media support enables you to easily search for and insert video and audio files in your courses.*
- Group management - *Group learners to share courses, differentiate activities and facilitate team work.*
- Marking workflow - *Conveniently assign different markers to assignments, manage grade moderation and control when marks are released to individual learners.*
- In-line marking - *Easily review and provide in-line feedback by annotating files directly within browser.*
- Peer and self assessment - *Built-in activities such as workshops and surveys encourages learners to view, grade and assess their own and other course members' work as a group.*
- Integrated Badges - *Fully compatible with Mozilla Open Badges, motivate learners and reward participation and achievement with customised Badges.*
- Outcomes and rubrics - *Select from advanced grading methods to tailor the gradebook to your course and examination criteria.*
- Competency based marking - *Set up competencies with personal learning plans across courses and activities..*
- Security and privacy - *Teach and share in a private space only you and your class can access.*

Core Activities and Resources

There are many types of activities available in our Moodle at BlueCrest University College: several types of assignments, activities for communication and collaboration between teachers and students, quizzes, polls and surveys, tools to aid in managing students, and formats for delivering interactive content.

- **Assignment Activity** - *Moodle provides several ways to track and collect work from students. You can have them submit files or enter content into a text box. You can also assign "offline" work not submitted through Moodle (but that can be graded in Moodle).*



Much of Moodle's popularity rests on its ease of use. As an LMS, it provides a robust toolset, particularly thanks to plug-in modules that greatly increase its functionality.

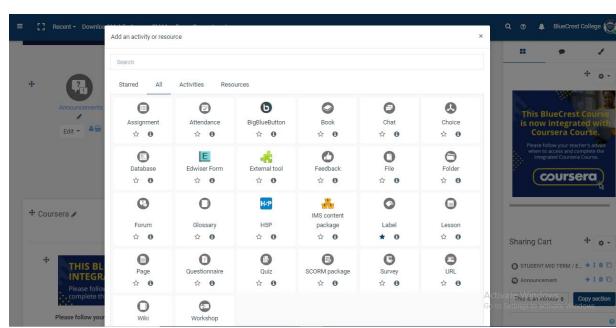
- **External Tool(s)** - External tool allow students to interact with certain learning resources and activities on other web sites. For example, you can link to OWL or to learning materials from a publisher.
- **Chat** - Chat activity allows course members to hold real-time, text-based conversations with other course members. Multiple chat rooms can be set up for the same course.
- **Forum** - Instructors and students can communicate and collaborate using Forums, sometimes called "discussions." Instructors can create topics or, depending on the Forum type, allow students to originate topics, to which course members can "post" a reply
- **Quiz** - Moodle quizzes are comprised of a Quiz activity that contains one or more questions from your course's Question bank. The Quiz activity lets you administer a wide range of question-types within a specific layout and order, provide different kinds of feedback based on how a student performed on the quiz, and control how students access the quiz
- **Questionnaire** - Questionnaire activity allows you to survey your students using a wide range of question types. For example, you can collect student feedback on your course or on a particular topic. In a Questionnaire, individual answers cannot be graded, but you can award a grade for the entire activity.
- **Attendance** - The Attendance module lets you record attendance or participation in other offline activities. The records are aggregated in a single column in the Moodle gradebook.
- **BigBlueButton/Zoom** - This is for organizing and managing Online virtual class.
- **Plagiarism** - Helps instructors evaluate the originality of student work by comparing submitted files to online sources
- **Wiki** - Wiki is a web page (or set of web pages) that class members can create together, working directly in the browser without needing to know HTML

BlueCrest Moodle Strengths

BlueCrest Moodle's popularity anchors on its user-friendly nature. BlueCrest LMS provides rich authoring toolset. The countless free Moodle Plug-in modules available has also greatly enhanced the functionality of BlueCrest Moodle. Some of these feature sets include:

- Site management and administrator tools;
- A variety of user management options.
- Registration and enrollment tools and plug-ins
- Course and communication management options.
- Plagiarism checking ability.
- Seamless accessibility of Coursera courses
- Reporting and analytics

BlueCrest Moodle is highly rated by its users because of its simplicity and efficiency. BlueCrest Moodle is an ideal LMS solution.



Following our quest to deploy a high quality blended learning here at BlueCrest College. We have signed an agreement with Coursera and partnered with them to allow our students to have access to the millions of well curated courses available on the coursera platform by world renowned universities.



BlueCrest Moodle - Coursera Integration

Coursera

Coursera Inc. is a U.S.-based massive open online course provider founded in 2012 by Stanford University computer science professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller. Coursera works with Universities and other organizations to offer online courses, certifications, and degrees in a variety of subjects.

Partnership of BlueCrest with Coursera

Following our quest to deploy a high quality blended learning at BlueCrest, we have signed an agreement with Coursera and partnered with them to allow our students to have access to the millions of well curated courses available on the Coursera platform by world renowned Universities. These courses are carefully mapped with our in-campus courses. Students after completing these mapped courses are awarded certificates. With these professional certificates from top Universities our students are better positioned to have advantage over other students from other institutions who do not have access to these certificates.

How Coursera Works With Our Moodle

Our Moodle is configured to allow for single-sign-on(SSO) with Google. Students only need to navigate to the BlueCrest's Moodle in a browser and login with the 'Sign In with Google' option. Once they login successfully, they have seamless access to every course on Coursera. All the Coursera courses are integrated with our Moodle, so once a student is logged in he/she simply needs to click on a link to be redirected to Coursera to complete the course. Our academic unit tracks the progress of our students in all the Coursera courses to also help ensure that students are maximizing the use of Coursera

BlueCrest's decision to adopt and use Moodle LMS has never impacted us in any negative way but rather positioned us in the hem of affairs and really facilitated our academic proceedings.

Conclusion

The scope of adoption and usage of Moodle has over the years expanded because of its popularity, ease of use and scalability. Its usage ranges from the educational sectors to the corporate world and even extends to nonprofits. Moodle has the capacity to successfully manage over 200,000 users without compromise on its speed and any of its other functionalities. It is an excellent choice for learning administration offering rich toolset and reliable solutions to most organizations. Moodle is a great solution.

BlueCrest's decision to adopt and use Moodle LMS has never impacted us in any negative way but rather positioned us in the hem of affairs and really facilitated our academic proceedings. Its intriguing how adopting Moodle and making the best out of it has gone a long way to bring to a spot light the brand of BlueCrest University College.

Staff and students alike are always appreciative to management of BlueCrest College for pioneering such an incredible venture in our educational system here in Ghana, where students and faculty members are only used to the traditional way of teaching that is face-to-face. With the adoption of Moodle by BlueCrest, faculty and students are now confident with Online teaching and learning.

It is however evident from the foregoing that BlueCrest is far advanced in our education delivery. Everyone who enrolls with us has access to all these benefits, stress-free learning environment alongside enjoying our quality of teaching and flexible learning schedules. BlueCrest Moodle is a game changer. Visit our Moodle on : <https://moodle.bluecrest.edu.gh/>





About BlueCrest University College

THE BLUECREST WAY

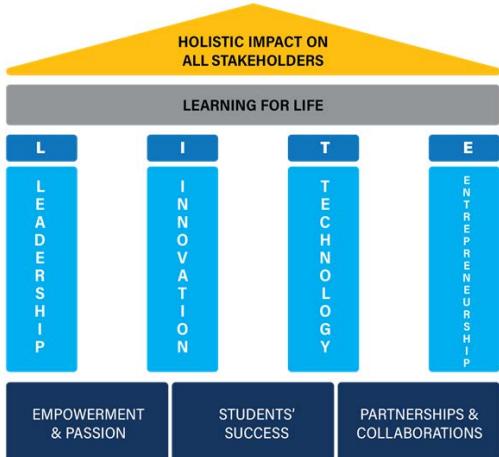
BlueCrest University College is a premium educational centre of excellence in Ghana with well-structured programmes aimed at building the capacity of graduates to become the next generation leaders.

The BlueCrest way of teaching and learning is anchored on Leadership, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE approach). The LITE approach drives the teaching, training and learning philosophy of both faculty and students at the college.

At BlueCrest, we value empowerment and passion, success of students, and partnership and collaborations to provide a life-long learning to create a holistic impact on all our stakeholders.

BlueCrest University College is and will remain one of the best colleges in the region with a focus on high-quality affordable programmes, training, research, consultancy activities and impactful community development initiatives.

Come with a dream, and leave with a career!



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