Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

Why is DeSales making this change?
The decision was not driven by money or dissatisfaction with ANGEL. The Blackboard Corporation purchased Angel Learning in 2009 and announced a 2013 end of life for ANGEL. Although that decision was rescinded for now, DeSales wanted to get ahead of the game for when support eventually ends.

Who was involved in making this decision?
Everyone at DeSales! A review committee of students and faculty viewed several vendor presentations. DEIT also used student and faculty survey data from Canvas and D2L pilot experiences.

How was the decision made?
DEIT considered survey and pilot data, Academic Technology committee feedback, made Blackboard reference calls, experimented hands-on with Blackboard, and held two campus-wide Blackboard demonstrations, before issuing the recommendation reflected in its final report (available from DEIT). The Academic Oversight Committee affirmed this recommendation on October 24, 2012.

Will instructors have to redo all their course content?
No! One of the factors in choosing Blackboard Learn was the ability to convert current ANGEL courses to the new Blackboard Learn platform.

Is this the same Blackboard we left for ANGEL?
Only in name. When DeSales switched from Blackboard to ANGEL in the summer of 2009, the features in ANGEL, the responsive ANGEL staff, and the price were compelling reasons for the initial change. Today, many of those same features, plus several compelling new features, are part of Blackboard Learn. Former ANGEL leadership and support staff joined Blackboard. In fact, DeSales will retain its same ANGEL engagement and support team. Finally, Blackboard committed to honoring ANGEL-level pricing.
Will there be a pilot period?
Yes. The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Department (DEIT) will initiate the Blackboard Learn pilot with the ACCESS program in early spring 2013.

When will the transition start and end?
In March 2013, DEIT will start the faculty training and migration process. The migration of ANGEL archived courses into Blackboard will start in summer 2013 and will continue until a few months after the rollout date. The goal is for faculty and students to access all their courses via single sign-on in Blackboard Learn starting in the fall of 2013.

Will training be provided?
DEIT will begin to offer online and face-to-face workshops to pilot instructors in January 2013, and provide Blackboard Learn preview sessions to all faculty and students starting from March 2013. You can register online at www.desales.edu/workshops for these training opportunities.

Will I be able to access ANGEL during the transition?
ANGEL will continue to be available for faculty and students to use before all courses are converted.

Will I lose my current ANGEL Course?
No. All courses will be automatically archived at the end of the spring semester and then at the end of summer sessions. Your ANGEL course content can be imported into Blackboard.

Do I have access to earlier ANGEL courses?
Yes. All courses prior to the migration are archived. Fill out the ANGEL Archive Request Form on the Instructional Technology Website http://deit.desales.edu/deit/public/archive to request access.

Do I need to buy new equipment to use Blackboard Learn?
No. Blackboard requires no additional purchases above what was necessary for ANGEL. All current technologies used on campus (such as Blackboard Collaborate and Panopto) will function in Blackboard Learn.

Are there additional resources for information regarding the transition?
Yes. Please subscribe to the DEIT blog http://blogs.desales.edu/deit/ to stay informed.

How do I get help?
Contact DEIT for help by phone 610-282-1100 x2290 or email deit@desales.edu.