

# Blackboard®

## Winthrop University's Accounting Department Takes a Practical Approach: with WileyPLUS and Blackboard Learn, classroom time can focus on learning by doing



# WILEY

### Challenges



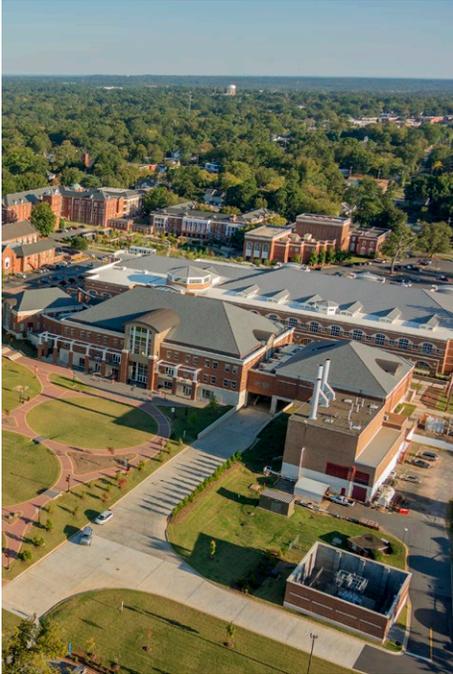
The digital revolution has changed the face of education. For the Accounting Department at Winthrop University's College of Business Administration, one of the most profound changes is in the amount of materials associated with each course. Yesterday's print textbook and in-class handouts have been augmented with (or replaced by) online texts, study guides, practice exercises, assignments, quizzes and more. Organizing and accessing this "explosion" of content can be daunting to both students and instructors. Another big change: a greater emphasis on preparing students to enter the workforce.

### Solution



Winthrop's Accounting Department relies on WileyPLUS for its teaching and learning materials for a wide range of courses, from introductory accounting through advanced courses at the MBA level. WileyPLUS is integrated within Blackboard Learn for a powerful, complete and easy-to-use digital learning environment that makes course materials more manageable. It also enables students to take care of the fundamentals so that classroom time can focus on "learning by doing."

When Jayne Maas joined the Winthrop University College of Business Administration faculty in 2009, she brought with her a wealth of experience as an instructor. A CPA, she also brought with her the knowledge and insight acquired as a practitioner who'd enjoyed a long career in public accounting, business, and industry. "I'm a 'do' person," Professor Maas says. "I don't like to spend a lot of time lecturing. I'd rather spend my classroom hours working on real-world situations, rather than going over the nuts and bolts of accounting." When she's setting up her course, she assigns resources, readings, and interactive tutorials for students to complete before each session, pinpointing where she wants her students to focus. All course materials, including her lecture notes and PowerPoint files, are made available in Blackboard Learn, alongside Wiley resources (which include electronic textbooks.) "Working out problems, collaborating in groups - in my classroom, we're always doing. This is what having the WileyPLUS and Blackboard Learn platforms allows me to do."



## A powerful platform for students and instructors

Professor Maas had previously used WileyPlus as an instructor at a different university, so she knew firsthand how beneficial it was for both faculty member and students. She was instrumental in introducing WileyPLUS into the Winthrop Accounting Department. Winthrop was already using Blackboard Learn, and the combination of WileyPLUS and Learn proved very powerful. “The amount of information that’s included in the curriculum for my courses can be overwhelming,” Professor Maas says. “My goal is to make sure that the students aren’t wandering around without any direction.” She uses Blackboard and WileyPLUS to set things up, organizing all materials by the relevant chapter in the textbook.

For instructors, there are a number of benefits to having WileyPLUS and Blackboard Learn in place. “With WileyPLUS, I can minimize the time I spend on routine stuff like grading many homework assignments.” Blackboard Learn is also a time-saver for Professor Maas. “Blackboard brings everything together in one place – announcements, course materials, assignments, practice tests. I put everything up on Learn, and can always find it. Blackboard helps bring everything together. If this were all on paper, it would be a disaster.”

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**Jayne Maas**  
Professor,  
Winthrop University College of  
Business Administration

- › Valuable classroom time can be spent on “learning by doing”, not on learning accounting fundamentals
- › Students have a powerful and easy to use platform for learning
- › Instructors can more efficiently organize and manage course materials, and use their time savings to focus on teaching

“Over the past decade, the amount of material you’re expected to cover has exploded, but the amount of time you have to teach a course hasn’t changed at all. From an instructor’s point of view, having WileyPLUS and Blackboard Learn has been lifechanging. WileyPLUS lets me spend classroom time of more valuable tasks than reviewing assignments, and Blackboard brings the ‘explosion’ of material together in one place.”

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