

Analysing VLE data

The virtual learning environment (VLE) captures data from student usage of resources. In this card we show how to use the dashboards available in Blackboard to explore how students are using the synchronous and asynchronous teaching resources you've created and how you can utilise this data to enhance your own teaching practice.

- A number of different ways to view analytical data in Blackboard
- What analytical data can and cannot reveal about student engagement



PREPARATION:

Schedule regular intervals at which to review analytical data



TIMING:

1-30 minutes



EQUIPMENT:

Web browser



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1

IDENTIFY STUDENT DATA

You can access data about the following for each student in Blackboard:

- Date and time of last visit
- Discussion board posts and replies (if used)
- Quiz/test scores and totals (if used)
- Number and duration of Encore video views

2

VIEWING STUDENT DATA

- Site visit data: [Gradebook Students tab](#)
- Discussion board stats: item menu under [View Analytics](#)
- Quiz/test scores: item menu under [Student activity](#) and in the Gradebook
- Video stats: see Analytics in [Encore Staff Guides](#)

Remember that student data is subject to data protection rules.

3

STUDENT DATA INSIGHTS

The data stored in Blackboard can show you if the student ...

- visited the site
- contributed to a discussion board
- answered quiz/test questions in a certain way
- clicked 'Play' on a video

4

STUDENT DATA LIMITS

The data stored in Blackboard cannot show you ...

- how long the student spent on activities or if they paid attention to a video or live session
- how the student approached a quiz/test
- contextual factors (e.g. internet connection; device; environment; distractions; tight study schedule; etc.)

5

VIEWING COHORT DATA

- Quiz/test overview stats can be found in the item menu under 'Student Activity'.
- Video stats: see Analytics in [Encore Staff Guides](#)

6

USING COHORT DATA

Cohort data can give you an idea of:

- How well students are grasping quantifiable content (tests)
- How many times a video was viewed and the drop-off rate
- ...but not necessarily the reasons behind this information

7

FURTHER ACTION

For individuals, start with supportive direct contact; there could be many different reasons why a student isn't engaging.

For cohorts, data can suggest changes to teaching (e.g. split videos with high drop-off into smaller chunks; revisit concepts that were not grasped in a quiz).

8

FURTHER INFORMATION

