



What is iTunes U?

iTunes U provides access to a wide range of digital audio and video content via the iTunes Store, Apple's online music, video and podcast service. FAU's iTunes U site includes:

- A public area featuring special lectures, news, athletic events, music and more (available through www.fau.com).
- A private area that includes course-based materials that are linked to Blackboard sites and are only accessible to students enrolled in those courses.

What is Podcasting and why should I do it in my courses?

Podcasts are audio and video content that you can subscribe to. Subscribing ensures you are notified when new content is available. You do not need an iPod to listen to or watch podcasts, just a computer (and it doesn't have to be a Mac). Podcasts are easy to create and are an effective means of distributing rich educational materials. Supplementing text with audio and video will help students remember what they have learned.

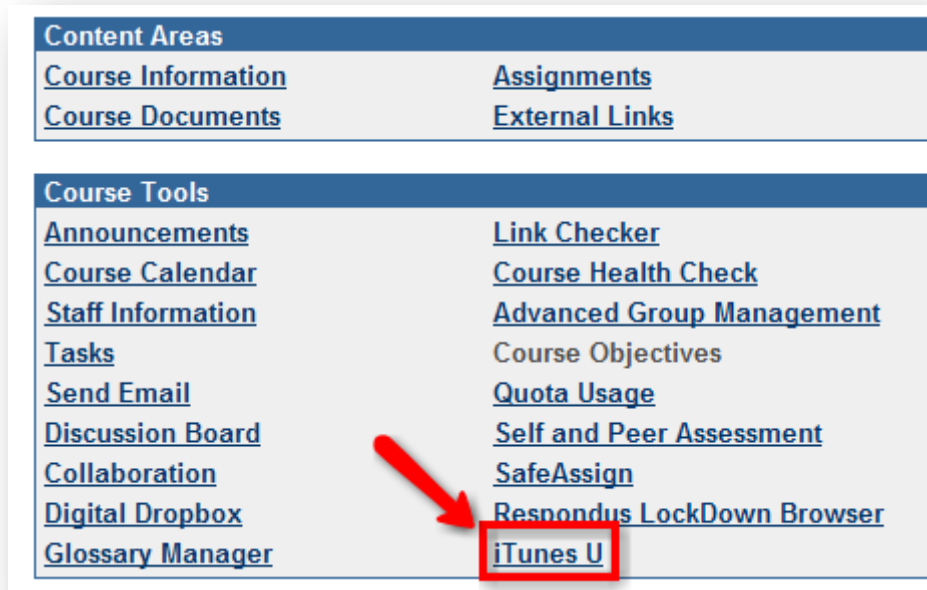
How can I use the iTunes U tool in Blackboard?

This new tool allows instructors to create a link between their Blackboard course site and private course-specific content within iTunes U without having to direct students to a separate login.

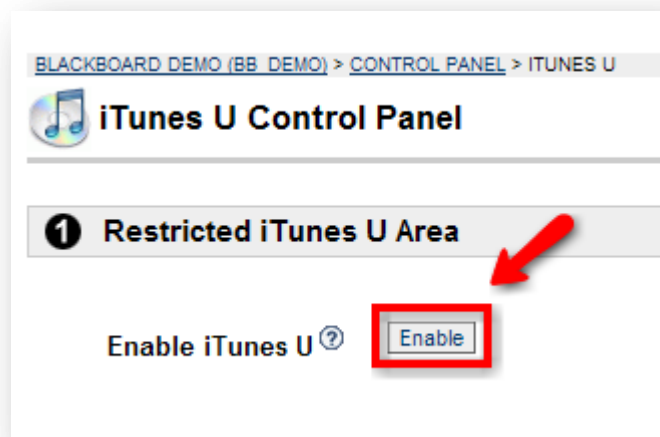
Step 1: Start by downloading the latest version of iTunes from <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download>.

Step 2: Log into Blackboard and access your course's Control Panel.

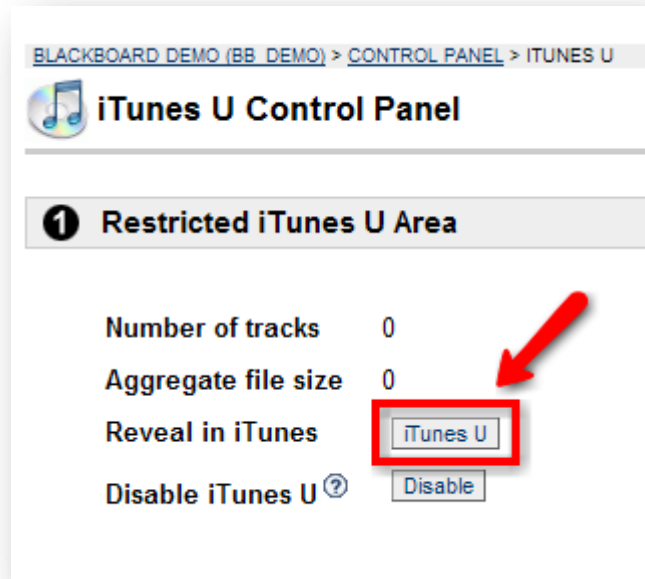
Step 3: Click on the "iTunes U" link under the "Course Tools" area of the Control Panel.



Step 4: On the next screen, click on the “Submit” button to enable iTunes U for your course (NOTE: This will happen immediately).



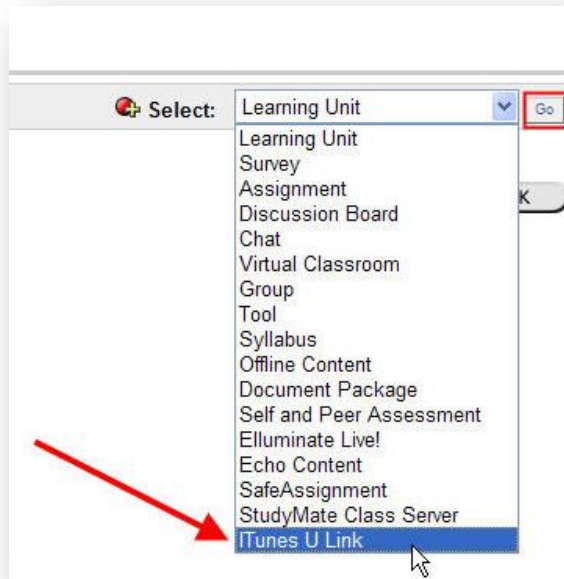
Step 5: Now you can click on the iTunes U button to access your course area within FAU’s iTunes U site (a new window will open—if it asks for permission to open a new program, click “Allow”)—this is where you’ll go to add content for your class. To add audio or video files, click the “Upload and Manage Files” link.



Step 6: iTunes will open a browser window with your course information. Click “Add New File.” Browse for the file on your computer and then click “Open.” Once you select the file, it will begin to open and you can see the progress bar at the bottom of the browser window. When the file has been uploaded, you can click on the “Return to iTunes” icon or simply close the window. The files will now be in iTunes U. You can upload multiple files at once from within this step.

Step 7: Go back to your course’s Control Panel in Blackboard.

Step 8: Go to any Content Area (for example, Assignments) and select “iTunes U Link” from the drop-down menu in the upper-right corner, then click “Go.”



Step 9: Type the name of the content in the “Name” box. If there are specific instructions, enter them in the “Instructions” box. Once you are finished, click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page.

NOTE:

- Audio files must be either AAC or MP3. They must also be named with the appropriate file extension (.m4a/.mp3).
- Video files must be either MPEG-4 or H.264 encoded. They must also be named with the appropriate file extension (.mp4/.m4v/.mov).

For more information visit the [iTunes U User Guide](#).

Video Tutorials:

[iTunes U Step 1: Initiation](#)

[iTunes U Step 2: Uploading](#)

[iTunes U Step 3: Consuming](#)

[iTunes U Step 4: Connecting](#)

What type of hardware do I need to start podcasting?

Before you get started podcasting, you’ll want to select the recording hardware that is appropriate for your needs. You may be doing all of your work from an office or you may need to be more mobile.

There are very affordable (under \$20) microphone headsets available for situations where you'll be recording from your computer and pro-quality isn't a necessity. If you need to do "field" recordings you should look for a small digital voice recorder or you can turn your iPod into a recording device with Micromemo (about \$69, see tutorial below).

Video Tutorial:

[Recording a Podcast Using an iPod and a Micromemo](#)

What type of software do I need to start podcasting?

[Audacity](#) is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder that is compatible with both Windows and Mac.

Visit [Creating Content for iPod + iTunes](#) for more information about file formats.

Portions of this content were contributed by [Vanderbilt University](#), [Spring Arbor University](#) and [Penn State University](#).