What is ConnectYard?

ConnectYard is a communication tool that is available in Blackboard to increase student engagement and retention. Before ConnectYard, students had to log in to Blackboard to receive important course information. However, with ConnectYard, students can receive this information through a variety of channels, if they wish.

Use of ConnectYard is optional, and students have the ability to choose which notification methods they wish to use. Notifications can be received through text message, alternate (non-campus) email, Facebook and Twitter. Students will receive Course Announcements through the selected notification channels. Discussion Board posts can be read/replied to from any of the selected notification channels as well.

Privacy

Using ConnectYard, even with Facebook or Twitter, does not reveal your contact information (phone number, email address, Facebook username, etc.) to others, and does not post the message to a user’s Facebook wall where others can see it. No friending or following is required. Contact information and methods are stored within ConnectYard, but not distributed, and not visible to others.

Configuring ConnectYard

You can set your preferences for ConnectYard by selecting Tools from the Course Menu and clicking on ConnectYard. The first time, you will be prompted to choose your notification methods. Please keep in mind that you will receive a notification through each channel you choose. Using all notification methods for the same course is not recommended.