**Type:** New Feature

**Title:** Anonymous Grading

**Description/Definition:**

When creating assignments, instructors can choose to hide student names when viewing and grading submissions. To ensure anonymity, a message is displayed to students on the Upload Assignment page asking them not to include identifying information in their assignment submissions.

Instructors can also combine delegated and anonymous grading.

**Purpose/Use:**

Without knowing who submitted an assignment, you are not unduly influenced by a student's previous performance, class participation, conflicts, race, gender, or perceived student aptitude. This practice can also contribute to the student-instructor relationship because students are assured that grading was unbiased.

**Highlights/Features:**

**Related Topics:**
Anonymous and Delegated Grading
Anonymous Grading

**How-To:**

On the Create Assignment page, you can choose to hide student names when viewing and grading submissions. Students are alerted to the anonymous grading setting on the Upload Assignment page. However, in your assignment instructions, you can additionally ask students not to include any information that identifies them, such as adding their names to files they attach to assignments.

In the Grading Options section, select the Enable Anonymous Grading check box and choose when you want to automatically remove students' anonymity:
1. On specific date: Provide the date you want to disable anonymous grading. The system will automatically begin removing anonymity before the end of that date.

2. After all submissions are graded: Provide a due date. After students submit attempts, the due date passes, and you have graded the attempts, student anonymity is disabled.

You can manually disable anonymous grading at any time by clearing the Enable Anonymous Grading check box. You can turn anonymous grading on and off until a student submits an attempt. After the first submission, you can only turn it off. If you grade half of the attempts anonymously, then turn off the anonymous setting, the items graded with revealed names will not be tracked as "Graded Anonymously."
Blackboard How To: Anonymous Grading

Notifications

You are notified of needs grading status for anonymously graded assignments in the following areas:

- Needs Grading page—user anonymity is preserved in the list
- Needs Attention and Alerts modules
- Individual email notifications
- SMS, voice, and daily-digest email notifications

You can access assignment submissions that you set for anonymous grading in the Grade Center or on the Needs Grading page.

Student View

On the Upload Assignment page, students are informed if their assignments are set to be graded anonymously. They are asked not to include any identifying information with their submissions. On the Review Submission History page or in My Grades, students see a graded anonymously icon if their assignments were graded anonymously.