

## Virtual Learning Environment LTI/Third Party Integration Process

**Purpose:** To ensure the integrity and security of data housed within the virtual learning environments supported by the department of eLearning, any third-party application that exchanges data with an eLearning-supported system must be submitted to the Office of eLearning for evaluation before it can be registered and enabled on the production environment.

**Definitions:** An integration is defined as any external software component designed to add or enhance functionality by exchanging data with the virtual learning environment, and includes but is not limited to:

- Blackboard Learn
- Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI): a standard developed by [IMS Global](#) that allows Integration of third-party resources into Blackboard Learn in a secure and seamless way.
- REST API; allows a developer to create applications that are only loosely coupled to the Blackboard Learn server. They can live anywhere. They let the server serve information without risking possible interference with the server.

References to the virtual learning environment in this document concern any web-based educational technology used for content or learner management, curriculum planning, or electronic communication by the department of eLearning to facilitate online programs.

**Procedure for Requesting an Integration:** All integration requests must be submitted to eLearning by an active UA Little Rock faculty or staff member. Student requests or requests from individuals outside of the university must be made by a faculty or staff sponsor. When submitting an integration request, please consider the following:

- **Allow Adequate Time for Processing:** The amount of time required for evaluating and testing will vary depending on the nature of the integration and the time of year in which the request is submitted. **As a rule of thumb, integration requests should be submitted in time to allow for a minimum of 45 days between the request date and the anticipated date of adoption.**
- **Identify Responsible Parties:** Unless otherwise specified, the person(s) submitting the request will be considered the primary contact for the implementation and testing process, and will assume responsibility for coordinating any administrative duties associated with the integration.

Each Blackboard integration request goes through a review process involving a meeting of the relevant parties. Faculty making book adoptions for courses are encouraged to connect book vendors with eLearning as soon as possible (i.e. as book decisions are made). **Implementation requires a minimum 45 days to ensure proper testing and security review.**

**Support and Technical considerations:** End-user support and technical updates for a third-party integration will be provided by the developer, unless otherwise arranged prior to adoption. eLearning maintains the right to disable or remove an integration at any time after it has been deployed in the production environment. Updates to eLearning-supported virtual learning environments take priority over the functionality of a third-party integration, so that issues that may arise from such updates are the developer's responsibility to address.

To begin this process complete and submit the [LTI/Third Party Integration Request Form](#)

Contact us at [elearning-support@ualr.edu](mailto:elearning-support@ualr.edu) with any questions.