

How To Use Blackboard with PRS

The Blackboard PRS Building Block was developed as a bridge between PRS and Blackboard. It ensures that the data that is moved back and forth between the two applications, PRS and Blackboard, is structured in a way that each application can directly import the data without having to manipulate it. You can download a class roster from Blackboard and merge it directly into a PRS Class Roster. You can export the contents of a PRS Gradebook and the results of Marked Sessions for use in Blackboard grade books. The combination of PRS and Blackboard affords the best of both worlds when it comes to managing your courses.

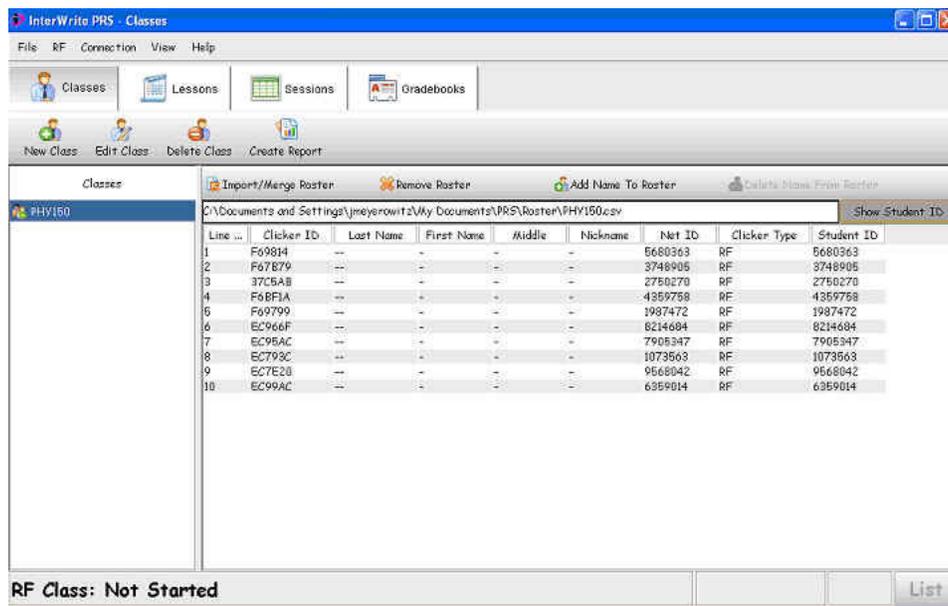
Note

The latest version of the Blackboard PRS Building Block must be installed on your Blackboard system before you can take advantage of the features discussed in this tutorial. Check our Web site at www.gtcocalcomp.com to ensure you have the latest version of the Blackboard PRS Building Block.

The installation of the Blackboard PRS Building Block is described in Chapter 7 in the *InterWrite PRS User's Guide*, where it is referred to as the *PRS Blackboard Registration Application*.

Merging Blackboard Class Rosters with PRS Class Rosters

In the *How To Create and Manage a PRS Roster* tutorial, you learned how a basic RF Class Roster can be created on-the-fly during a PRS Session. The on-the-fly Roster will resemble the example shown here.



Line ...	Clicker ID	Last Name	First Name	Middle	Nickname	Net ID	Clicker Type	Student ID
1	F09814	--	--	--	--	5680363	RF	5680363
2	F67879	--	--	--	--	3748905	RF	3748905
3	37C5A8	--	--	--	--	2750270	RF	2750270
4	F0BF1A	--	--	--	--	4359758	RF	4359758
5	F09799	--	--	--	--	1987472	RF	1987472
6	EC966F	--	--	--	--	8214684	RF	8214684
7	EC95AC	--	--	--	--	7905347	RF	7905347
8	EC793C	--	--	--	--	1073563	RF	1073563
9	ECTE20	--	--	--	--	9568042	RF	9568042
10	EC99AC	--	--	--	--	6359014	RF	6359014

The Blackboard PRS Building Block makes it possible to merge the more complete student profiles in the Blackboard class roster with the bare bones, on-the-fly Roster created during a PRS Session to produce the following Class Roster in PRS.

Line	Clicker ID	Last Name	First Name	Middle	Nickname	Net ID	Clicker Type	Student ID
5	F99790	Anderson	Tom	-	-	tanderson	RF	1937472
3	37C6A8	Bloom	Sam	-	-	sbloom	RF	2750270
2	F57B79	Clark	Ben	-	-	rc Clark	RF	3746905
4	F6BF1A	Davis	Quinten	-	-	qdavis	RF	4359758
1	F99814	Elkton	Paul	-	-	pelkton	RF	5680363
10	EC99AC	Ferber	Omar	-	-	oferber	RF	6359014
7	EC95AC	Greaves	Nancy	-	-	ngreaves	RF	7905347
6	EC966F	Harris	Mary	-	-	mharris	RF	8214684
9	EC7E20	Iverson	Larry	-	-	liverson	RF	9568042
8	EC793C	Jacobs	Kelly	-	-	kjacobs	RF	1073563

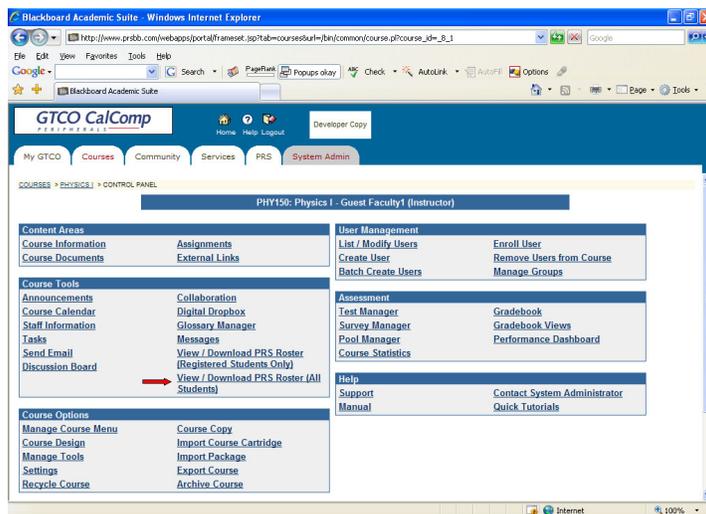
Here's how it is done.

- 1 In order to get to the PRS Download page and access the Blackboard grade book, you have to get into the *Control Panel* for the specific course.



If students participating in the PRS Class are using IR Clickers, they must register their Clickers in Blackboard. These students should be instructed to log into their Blackboard accounts and click on the PRS tab to get to the registration site. This step is not shown in this tutorial.

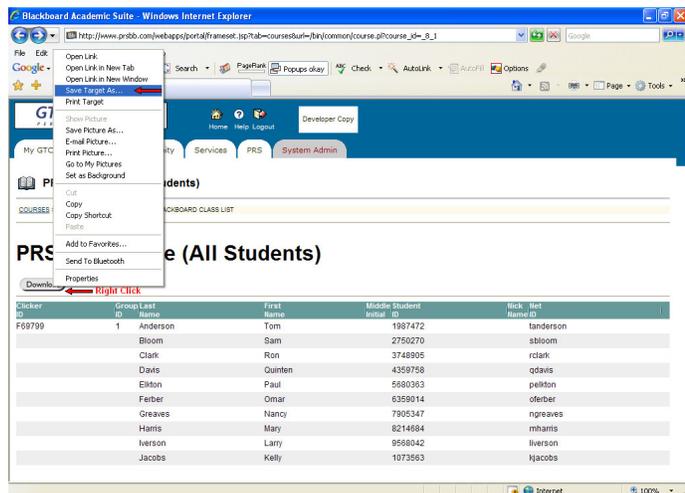
- Go to the *Course Tools* section of this page. Click on the *View / Download PRS Roster (All Students)* link to display the PRS Roster File page.



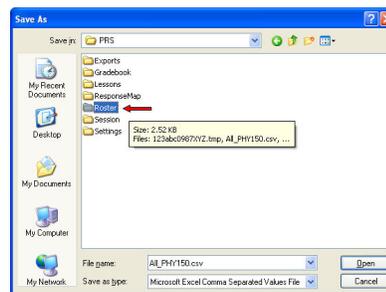
Download the Blackboard PRS Roster on Internet Explorer

All of the students enrolled in the class will be displayed on this page. The students who have registered their PRS Clickers – optional for those students with RF Clickers, required for those with IR Clickers – will have included the Clicker ID in their student profiles.

If you were to left-click on the **Download** button when using the Internet Explorer browser, the .csv file would be automatically opened and displayed on the Web page. However, the intention here is to *download* the file, not open it.



- Right-click on the **Download** button.
- Select the *Save Target As...* menu option.

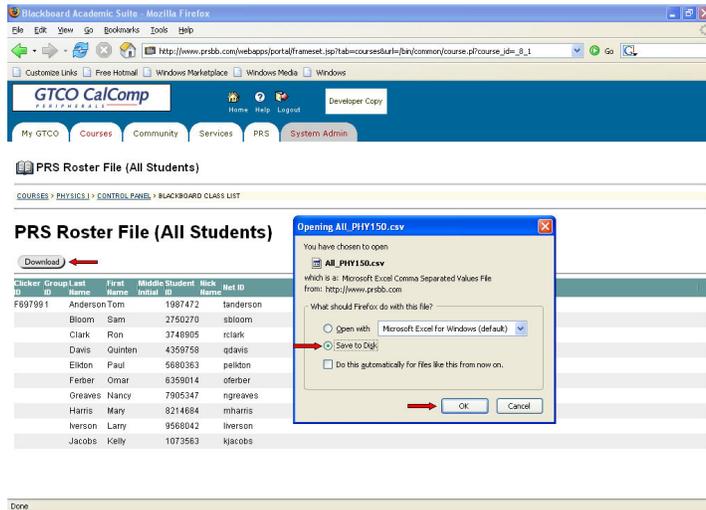


A **Save As** dialog will display. We recommend saving the file in the **C:\My Documents\PRS\Roster** directory.

Download the Blackboard PRS Roster on Firefox

All of the students enrolled in the class will be displayed on this page. The students who have registered their PRS Clickers – optional for those students with RF Clickers, required for those with IR Clickers – will have included the Clicker ID in their student profiles.

When you click on the **Download** button, Firefox gives you the choice of opening the .csv file or saving it. The intention here is to *download* the file, not open it, so you want to click on the *Save to Disk* radio button.



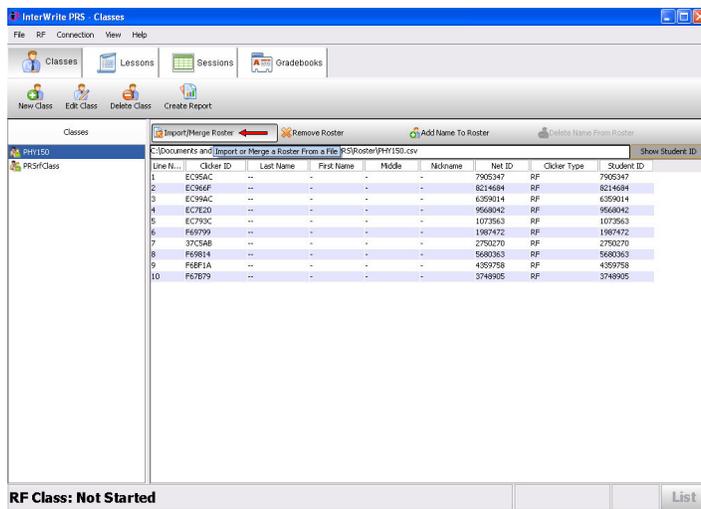
3 Click on the **Download** button.

4 Select the *Save to Disk* radio button and click on the **OK** button.

Depending on how you have Firefox set up, either the file will be downloaded automatically to a predetermined location, or you will be prompted to select the location where the file is to be saved. We recommend saving the file to the **C:\My Documents\PRS\Roster** directory.

Merge the Downloaded Roster into PRS

The downloaded Blackboard class roster will contain the First Name, Last Name and Net ID information that is currently missing from the existing on-the-fly Roster created during the PRS Session. The goal is to merge the information from the Blackboard class roster into the PRS Roster.

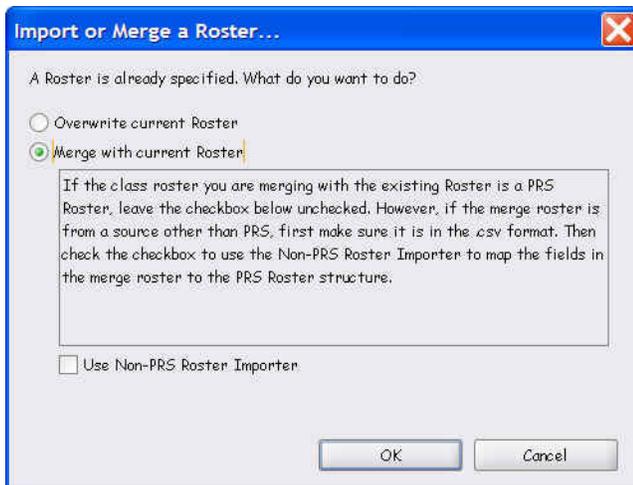


1 Click on the **Classes** tab in PRS.

2 In the Classes List Window, click on the name of the Class with which you want to merge the downloaded Blackboard roster.

3 Click on the **Import/Merge Roster** Function Button.

The **Import or Merge a Roster** dialog will display. You have the choice of *overwriting* the existing Roster with the downloaded Blackboard roster or *merging* the Blackboard roster with the existing Class Roster. The merge operation allows you to combine the information in the two rosters, rather than replacing the information in the PRS Roster with the information in the Blackboard roster.

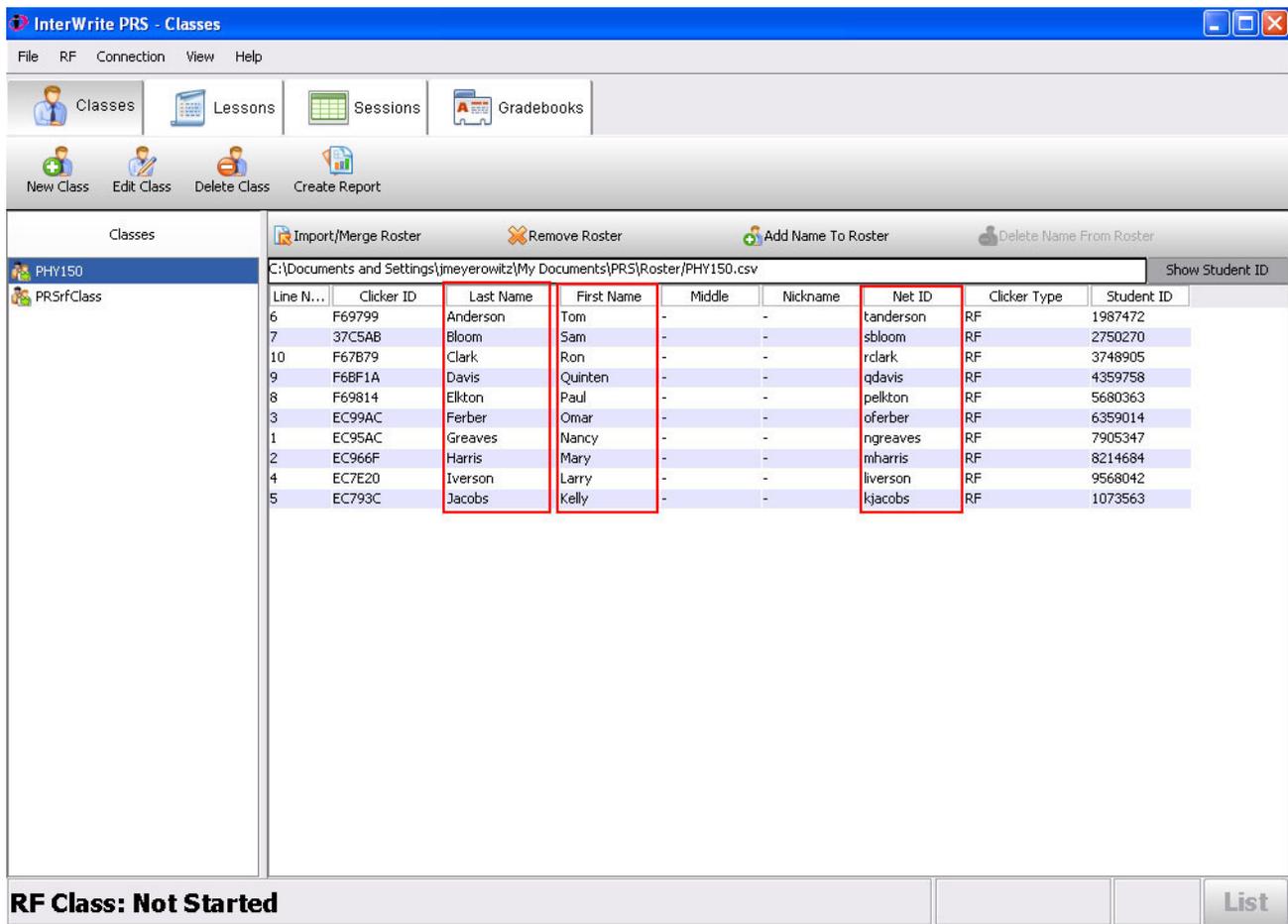


- 1 Click on the *Merge with current Roster* radio button.
- 2 Click on the **OK** button.

The downloaded Blackboard roster will have the proper file format and file structure for import into PRS. It is not necessary to use the *Non-PRS Roster Importer* to restructure the Blackboard roster file for import.

- 3 Navigate, if necessary, to the downloaded Blackboard class roster.
- 4 Select the file and click on the **Open** button.

PRS will merge the downloaded Blackboard class roster with the existing PRS to create a complete Roster, as shown below.



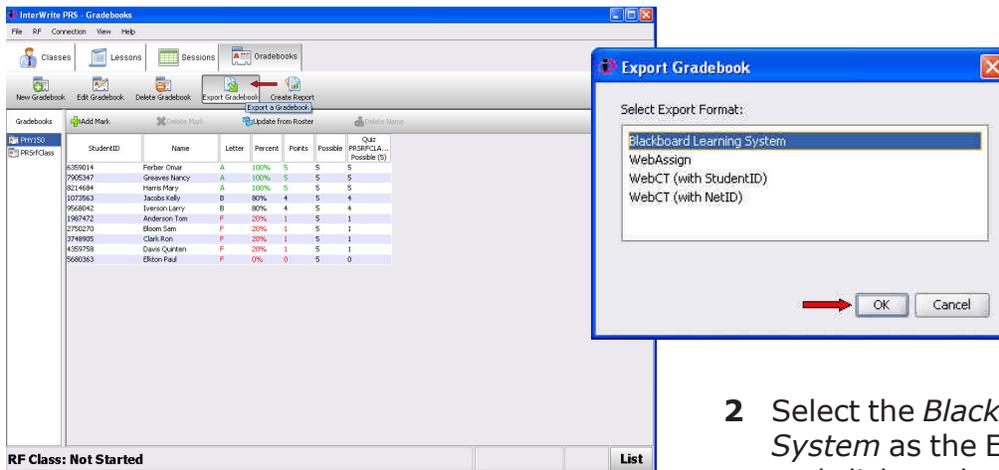
Export a PRS Gradebook

PRS Gradebooks contain the results of Marked Sessions. The process begins when you run a Session for the Class. Responses to the Questions posed during the Session are saved in a Session file. The Session results are *marked*, and the Mark is added to a Gradebook. The Marks in a PRS Gradebook can be exported for use in a Blackboard grade book. If you have questions about the PRS Gradebook, please refer to the *How To Use the PRS Gradebook* tutorial. The following instructions describe how to export Gradebook Marks from PRS to Blackboard.

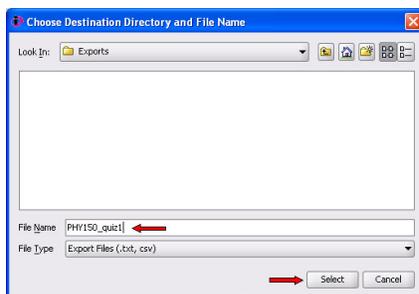


The Roster in the PRS Gradebook must be up-to-date and mirror the Blackboard class roster.

- 1 Click on the Export Gradebook Function Button to display the following dialog.



- 2 Select the *Blackboard Learning System* as the Export Format and click on the **OK** button to display the **Choose Destination Directory and File Name** dialog.



- 3 Specify a name for the file that will contain the Gradebook data. We recommend the name be descriptive of the Class and the Marks you are exporting.

- 4 Click on the **Select** button.

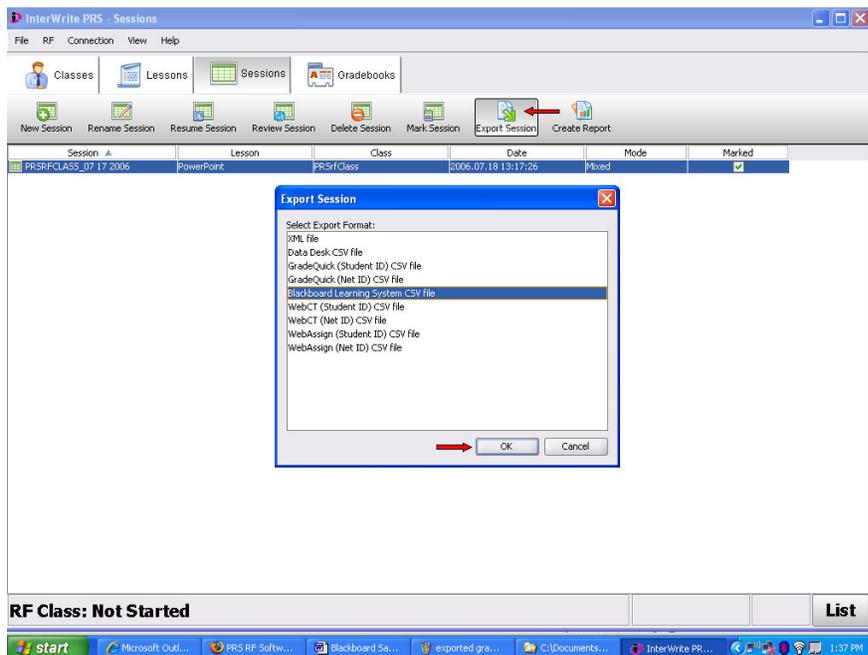
A prompt will appear confirming the name of the exported file and its directory path.

Export a PRS Session

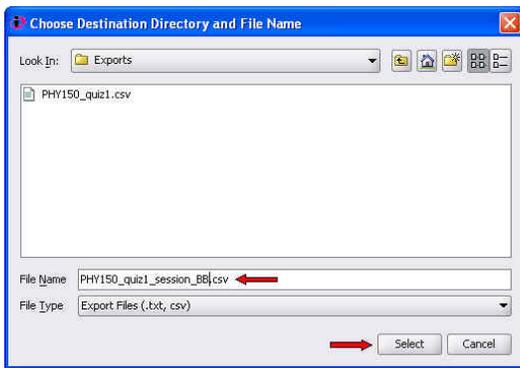
Marks can be exported from a PRS Session as well from a PRS Gradebook. The Session file must be *marked* before the Session can be exported for use in Blackboard. Each Session that has been marked displays a green check in the **Marked** column in the Sessions List Window.

Blackboard uses the **Net ID** to index the data imported from a PRS Session. There are two ways to get the Net ID into the PRS Roster:

- Students are instructed (*RF Clicker User's Guide* and *How To Use Your RF Clicker* tutorial) to enter their *Student ID* into their RF Clicker's **ID** field. When the Clicker is used during a Session, the value in the ID field accompanies each transmission. This value becomes part of the Class Roster and PRS automatically uses the value to populate both the **Student ID** and the **Net ID** fields in the student's roster profile. Under this circumstance, the value in the Net ID field of the student's PRS profile is not the value required by Blackboard. However, this situation is corrected when the Blackboard class roster is merged with the PRS Roster (described on page 2 of this tutorial). The Net ID is overwritten with the correct value required by Blackboard. You cannot import Marks from Sessions until the Blackboard class roster has been merged with the PRS Roster.
- Students can be instructed to enter their *Blackboard Net ID*, rather than their Student ID, into their RF Clicker's **ID** field. PRS will automatically populate both the **Student ID** and the **Net ID** fields in the PRS Roster with this value.



- 1 Select the Session in the Sessions List Window you want to export.
- 2 Click on the **Export Session** Function Button.
- 3 Select the *Blackboard Learning System CSV file* option from the list of **Export Formats**.
- 4 Click on the **OK** button to display the **Choose Destination Directory and File Name** dialog.



5 Specify a name for the file that will contain the exported Session data. We recommend choosing a name that is descriptive of the Class and the Marks you are exporting.

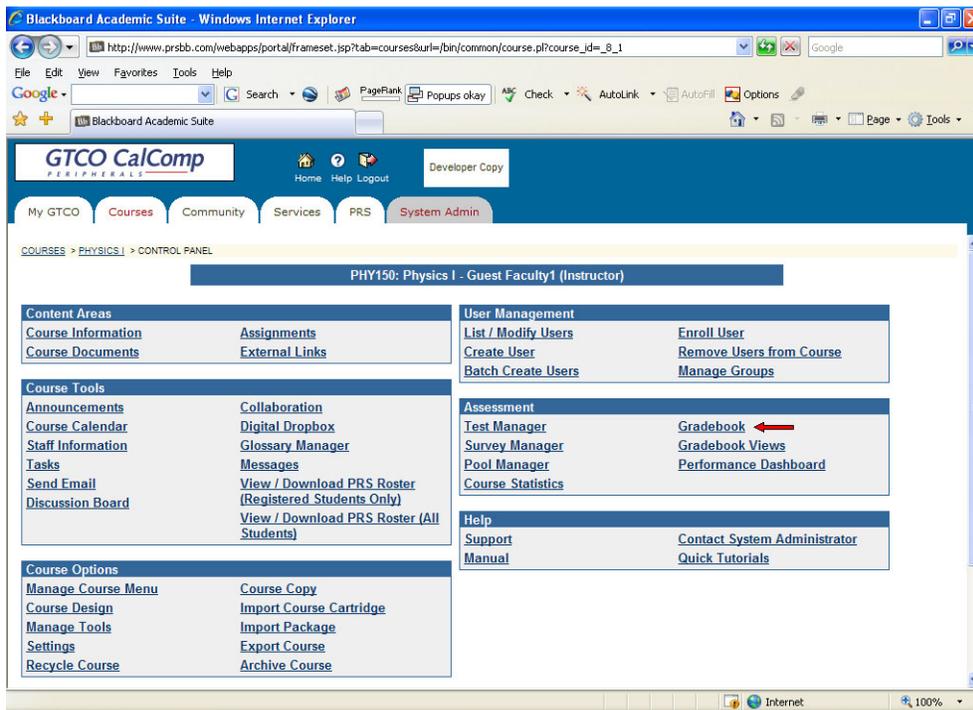
6 Click on the **Select** button.

A prompt will appear confirming the name of the exported file and its directory path.

Import PRS Marks into Blackboard

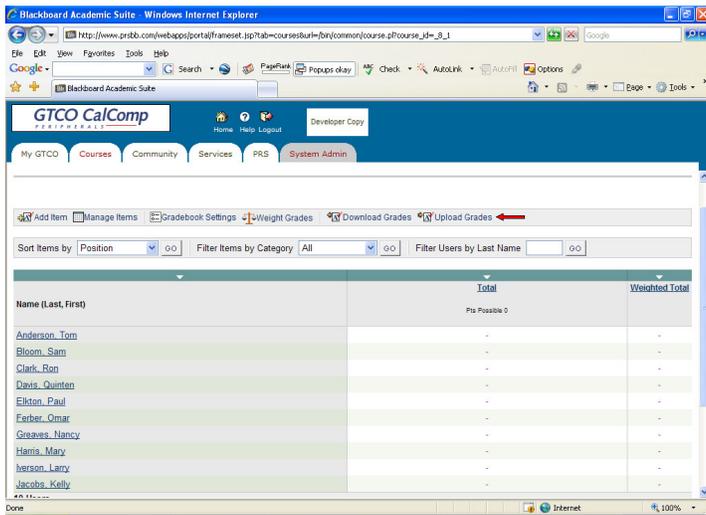
The exported files described in the previous section prepare the PRS Session and Gradebook data for import directly into Blackboard.

- 1 Log into Blackboard using your Faculty account.
- 2 From the **My Courses** section, select the course for which the PRS files will be imported.
- 3 From the home page for the selected course, click on the *Control Panel* option.

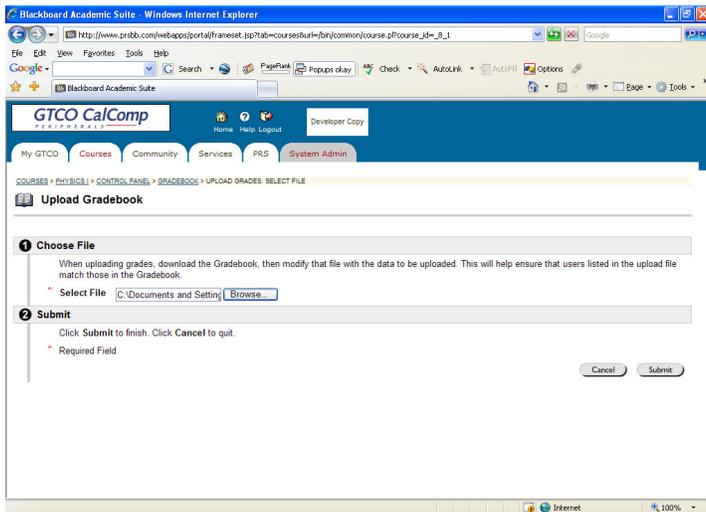


- 4 In the **Assessment** section of the Control Panel, click on the *Gradebook* link.

The sample screen shot below shows the Blackboard Grade Book for the selected course with the class list and no grades.

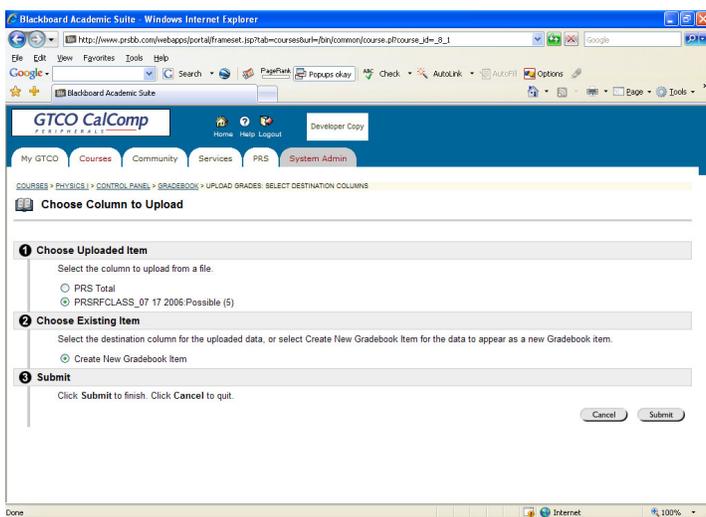


5 Click on **Upload Grades** to display the Upload Gradebook panel.



6 Click on the **Browse** button and navigate to the location of the PRS Gradebook file you exported.

7 Select the file and click on the **Submit** button to complete the file import.

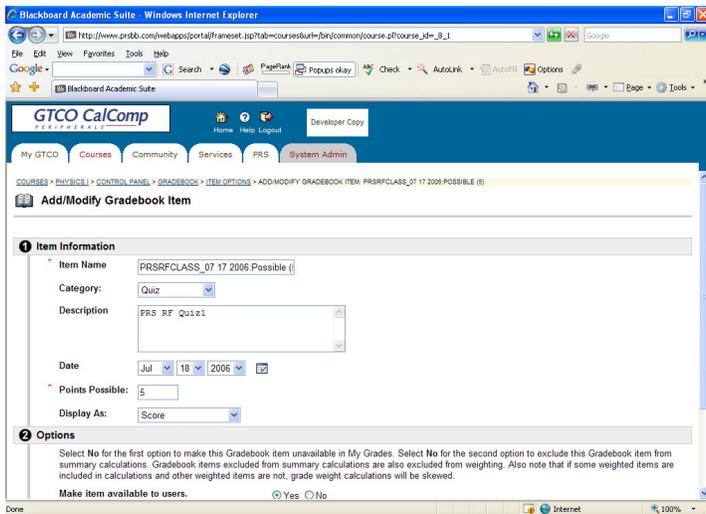


8 In the **Choose Uploaded Item** section, click on the radio button for the column that has the word *Possible* in its name. This is the column that contains the student marks.

9 In the **Choose Existing Item** section, click on the *Create New Gradebook Item* radio button.

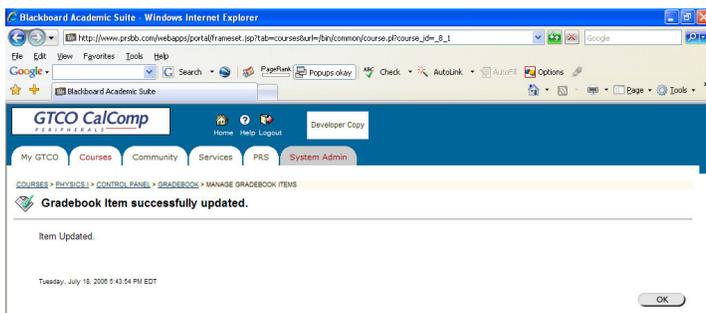
10 In the **Submit** section, click on the **Submit** button to complete the Column Upload.

The **Add/Modify Gradebook Item** panel will display.



- 1 Specify the **Item Name**. The existing column name will display in the field. You can edit it if you choose.
- 2 Select a **Category** from the drop-down list.
- 3 Enter an optional **Description** in the text box.
- 4 Enter a value in the **Points Possible** field that matches the value in parentheses following the word *Possible* in the Item Name. It is vitally important that the value you enter in the Points Possible field exactly matches the Possible Points value for the uploaded column from the exported PRS Gradebook.
- 5 Keep all other default values and click on the **Submit** button.

You will receive confirmation that the Gradebook Item successfully updated.



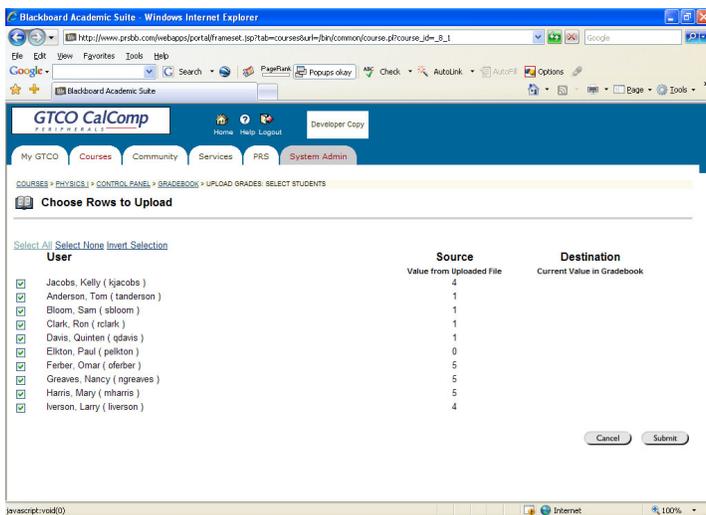
- 6 Click on the **OK** button to accept it.

- 1 In the **Choose Rows to Upload** panel, click on the *Select All* link.

This will select the marks for all the students in the list.

- 2 Click on the **Submit** button.

You will receive confirmation that the Gradebook Item was successfully updated.



The sample screen shot below shows the Blackboard Gradebook with the class roster and the PRS marks for each student in the roster.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Academic Suite interface in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: http://www.prsbb.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=_8_1. The page title is "Blackboard Academic Suite".

The main navigation bar includes "My GTCO", "Courses", "Community", "Services", "PRS", and "System Admin". The "PRS" tab is selected.

The breadcrumb trail is: COURSES > PHYSICS I > CONTROL PANEL > GRADEBOOK. The page title is "Gradebook View Spreadsheet".

Below the title is a toolbar with the following options: Add Item, Manage Items, Gradebook Settings, Weight Grades, Download Grades, and Upload Grades.

Below the toolbar are filters: "Sort Items by" (set to Position), "Filter Items by Category" (set to All), and "Filter Users by Last Name" (empty).

The main content area is a table with the following data:

Name (Last, First)	Quiz: PRSRFCCLASS_07_17_2006: Possible (5) Pts Possible 5 Weight 0%	Total Pts Possible 5	Weighted Total
Anderson, Tom	1	1	Not Applicable
Bloom, Sam	1	1	Not Applicable
Clark, Ron	1	1	Not Applicable
Davis, Quinten	1	1	Not Applicable
Elkton, Paul	0	0	Not Applicable
Ferber, Omar	5	5	Not Applicable
Greaves, Nancy	5	5	Not Applicable
Harris, Mary	5	5	Not Applicable