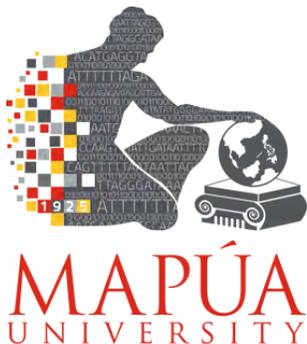


Blackboard®

Mapúa University Advances Its Digital Learning Environment



Mapúa University leads from the front as it advances its signature digital learning environment with a number of effective implementations. Since celebrating its designation as a university in 2017, Mapúa University has featured Digital Days and Digital Weeks, the debut of its fully online graduate program in engineering, as well as the STEM Teach training program.



- › Founded in 1925 by Tomas Mapúa, the first architect from the Philippines
- › Two campuses in Intramuros, Manila
- › 32 undergraduate programs
- › 900 faculty
- › 15,000 students
- › Serves as a premiere higher education institution offering engineering and technology programs

A solution for outages: Digital Learning with Blackboard Collaborate

As a regular part of Mapúa University's preparedness for the typhoon season as well as other periodic outages, the university schedules periodic Digital Days. Such days allow the entire student and faculty body to participate in online teaching and learning using Blackboard Collaborate™. The initiative has been so successful that the university has included Digital Rush where they offer fully online courses during rush hour times (early in the morning and late in the afternoon) as an alternative in order to avoid traffic.

In February 2018, the Yuchengo Group of Companies (YGC) awarded Mapúa University with the Project Improvement award for their execution of Digital Days and Digital Rush.



“Working with Blackboard has enabled us to quickly deploy and scale our learning technology requirements. We have also been able to extend Blackboard Learn’s functionality with a variety of tools and technologies which can integrate easily with the platform.”

Sir Brian O. Co.
Chief Information Officer,
Mapúa University

Strategic administration through wide-scale integrations

To drive utilization, executive leadership supported a policy requiring faculty members to submit their final grades through Blackboard Learn™. In turn, IT Systems Management created a REST API that transfers reports to their administrative system. This integration has centralized the institution’s data to empower institution-wide decision-making.

Since Blackboard Learn now manages all pre-entrance diagnostic exams for recruitment purposes, Mapúa University has been able to close down its satellite testing centers. This return on investment allows the institution to prioritize other education initiatives.

On the ground, Mary Christine A. Tomas, or “Tin”, Director of Center for Teaching & Learning, has demonstrated how faculty can use course reports to trace activities and learner development throughout the course experience. Such data has helped to empower curriculum revision.

Extending its global reach - Mapúa University debuts with the first fully online graduate program

With smoother and tighter technological workflows, Mapúa University launched its Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering (MEP-IE) in 2018. Under the direction of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Bonifacio T. Doma, Jr. this fully online graduate program responds to the demand from its alumni who now work overseas in Singapore and throughout the Middle East.

The rigorous program, the first of its kind in the Philippines, focuses on production technologies, strategic planning, information systems, quality management and operations research. Graduate students benefit from lecture capture, Wiley and Cengage content integrations, as well as online activities and assessments within an outcomes framework upheld to international industry standards. Working students can finish the program in two years. Mapúa University will roll out more fully online engineering and technology graduate programs by the end of 2019.



“Mapúa University pioneered its outcomes-based education system (OBE) in 2006. Over the last few years we have digitalized this framework as we pilot the Goal Performance Dashboard for certain programs.”

Dr. Arnold C. Paglinawan
Director of Outcomes-Based
Education Initiative, Mapúa University

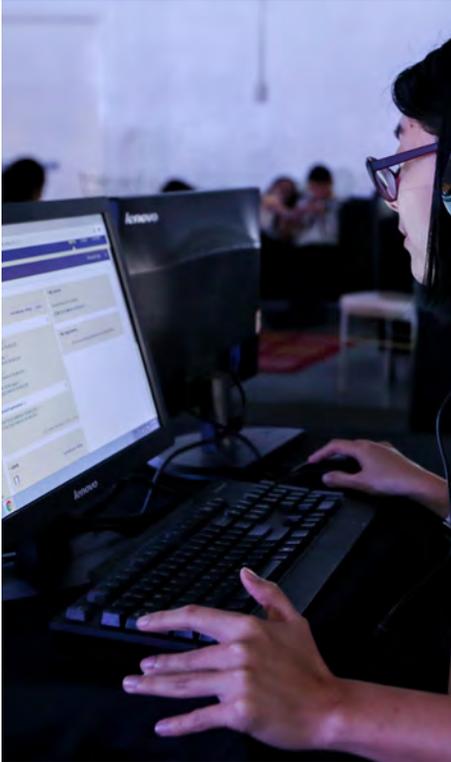
Did you know?

Mapúa University deploys Blackboard Learn and Blackboard Collaborate for the country-wide National Service Training Program, a community outreach initiative that provides civic welfare training. Every year program participants become skilled in disaster preparedness, distribution of medical services and food to more than 43 communities in Manila. With caring as the main driver, the students also donate seedlings and plant gardens in metro areas. This one-year course utilizes multiple tools to deliver and moderate curriculum that details a visual history of Intramuros and utilizes assessments, attendance, examinations and the Blackboard Grade Center.

Empowering hundreds of high school educators with STEM Teach Mapúa

In partnership with the Department of Education, Mapúa University produced STEM Teach Mapúa, a free online training program offered through Blackboard Learn. The program empowers pedagogy and practice within the disciplines of calculus, physics, chemistry, biology and statistics. Hundreds of high school educators have engaged in the asynchronous training, which amounts to 24 hours of contact time. For many of the participants, STEM Teach Mapúa has served as their first digital learning experience as both an instructor and a student. Enrollment continues as the program has gained sustained interest and value.

With such an array of digital learning victories, due to teamwork between administration, faculty and technology professionals, it makes sense that Mapúa University decided to transition to SaaS, the largest and most established integration ecosystem.



Transition to SaaS

I.T. leadership and management recognised how Mapúa University's digital learning ecosystem would reap the benefits of migrating to SaaS deployment for Blackboard Learn. Therefore, in August 2018, they began the conversation with the Blackboard team to assure a seamless transition onto the modern cloud computing technology stack. In 2019, Mapúa University made the move to SaaS and now experiences zero downtime updates, continuous delivery and enjoy the latest features and security. The community now enjoys the features of the Ultra Base navigation, which includes streamlined updates based on in-course analytics. The success of the Mapúa University's SaaS deployment positions the institution to make choices regarding the eventual implementation of Ultra course view in the future.

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One may say that Mapúa has sought to deploy its considerable online capability via Blackboard to deal with the sometimes harsh realities of life in the Philippines. And our reality is class-suspending events such as typhoons and flooding, political rallies and big religious processions. For this we have Digital Day. Very heavy rush hour traffic is a part of our daily lives. Thus, Digital Rush. In the face of weak STEM secondary school programs, we also successfully conceptualized and implemented STEM Teach Mapúa.”

Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea
President
Mapúa University

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