

## Blackboard Observer

An *observer* is a special type of user account that has view-only access to content.

### Observer Access to a Blackboard course

The Observer tool is used by athletic advisors (academic counselors) on campus to see individual student-athlete grades in Blackboard. By default, Observer access is On in Blackboard courses, which enables advisors to view the My Grades area for a specific student in a Blackboard course.

Some details about the default settings for Observer access:

- Observers are not able to see courses in Blackboard until they are made available by the instructor.
- An instructor can limit the content that observers can see for a particular course.
- Advisors are only able to view grade information for specific students in Blackboard (student-athlete code)
- Instructors can see which students have an “advisor” by viewing the course Users list under the Observer column
- Advisors are not able to see anything in the course outside of the student advisee's My Grades window
- The Observer role is read-only, and Advisors cannot make any changes in Blackboard
- Advisors are not able to see any information on other students in the course
- Observers cannot export or copy course content
- Observers cannot add other users to the course

### Use of Blackboard Observer

- Quicker, more accurate information for advisors to utilize for reporting performance and attendance
- Support for quicker, more in-depth intervention for academic performance to adjust academic support for students as necessary
- Athletics academic staff already utilize grade information for reporting

### Confidentiality

- Student-athletes already sign an academic consent release (FERPA release) that permits academic staff to access grade information and reporting
- Only academic staff would have log-in Observer access