

Overview

Asynchronous teaching and learning activities occur online and not in real-time (synchronously). An important distinction of asynchronous learning is that it is *not* self-paced learning. Instructor presence in asynchronous learning is vitally important, and deadlines and time limits are just as important to move learning forward as they would be in a synchronous course.

Canvas Tools to Promote Asynchronous Student Engagement

There are many tools within Canvas that can promote asynchronous student engagement. For this guide, we have provided five popular tools and practices that assist with teaching asynchronously. Each tool discussed also includes links to support guides for additional information and instruction.

Panopto is a media platform that supports student engagement with course content. Using Panopto, you can record and upload media – including video (mp4), screencasts (mp4), and audio (mp3) – into Canvas; you can insert quizzes to check for understanding. When creating media in Panopto, think about creating shorter (15 minutes or less) key concept video and then assembling several pieces into a playlist. This approach can also be more user-friendly for students with varying technology hurdles. For more information, go to [ID On Demand](#) and search for the following guides:

- Record Panopto Video
- Upload Panopto Video
- Upload a Panopto Video Assignment

Groups in Canvas are used to encourage students to engage with each other. Creating groups allows for group assignments and provides each group with its own robust digital workspace in Canvas. Please Note: while Canvas prompts you to create a group set within the assignment itself, you will need to set up each group in the **People** tab of your Course Navigation (see images right).

The screenshot shows the Canvas 'People' tab interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various course tools, with 'People' highlighted. The main area displays a table of users with columns for Name, Login ID, and SIS ID. In the top right corner, there are buttons for '+ Group Set' and '+ People'. A red arrow points from the '+ Group Set' button to a 'Create Group Set' dialog box that is open. The dialog box contains a 'Group Set Name' field, a 'Self Sign-Up' section with options for 'Allow self sign-up?' and 'Require group members to be in the same section', and a 'Group Structure' section with radio buttons for 'Split students into 0 groups', 'Split students into groups with 0 students per group', and 'I'll create groups later' (which is selected). 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons are at the bottom right of the dialog.

Groups can be created either manually, automatically, or via self sign-up. Before assigning a group assignment or discussion, it is a good idea to confirm that all students are placed in a group. For more information, select the links below.

- [How do I add a group set in a course?](#)
- [How do I view content and student activity within a group as an instructor?](#)

ASYNCHRONOUS TEACHING & LEARNING

Discussions is a Canvas tool that can promote student engagement with the content, the instructor, and peers, at the same time. Choosing a discussion prompt that is authentic, does not have a clear right answer, provokes different perspectives, and encourages students to apply their knowledge in the content area. Discussions can be graded or ungraded, focused or threaded, and assigned to a group or to the entire class. For more information, select the links below.

- [How do I create a discussion as an instructor?](#)
- [How do I create a group discussion in a course?](#)
- [How do I grade a graded discussion in SpeedGrader?](#)

Wikis can be established in Canvas pages. Instructors have the option to turn any Page, or set of pages, into a Wiki by giving students the right to edit the page(s). To do this, instructors can go into any page and select Edit. Underneath the Rich Content Editor, under the Options feature, select:

1 – Teachers and students as the Users allowed to edit this page.

2 – View Page History to make or track any changes within the page. Changes can be tracked via timestamps as each timestamp is accompanied by the name of the individual who made the changes on the page.

3 – Restore this revision to update a page with its specific revisions.

For more information, select the links below.

- [How do I edit a page in a course?](#)
- [How do I view the history of a page in a course?](#)

The image shows a screenshot of the Canvas page editor interface. It is divided into three numbered callouts:

- 1:** A red box highlights the 'Options' menu in the bottom right corner. A dropdown menu is open, showing 'Users allowed to edit this page' with three options: 'Only teachers', 'Teachers and students' (which is highlighted in blue), and 'Anyone'.
- 2:** A red box highlights the 'View Page History' option in the top right corner of the editor, which is part of a dropdown menu that also includes 'Delete' and 'Use as Front Page'.
- 3:** A red box highlights a specific revision in the 'Revision History' window. The revision is dated 'Dec 4, 2020 at 8:11am' by 'Cathy Cassidy' and has a 'Restore this revision' link next to it.

Instructor Feedback is one of the main keys that turns a good online instructor into a great online instructor. There are many places within a Canvas course where you can build in feedback, such as quiz questions, discussions, and grading tools. As with other assignments in Canvas, you can attach a rubric to a graded discussion and provide feedback in SpeedGrader. You can also leave automated feedback text within quiz questions. For more information, select the links below. As each quiz question type has a different method for entering feedback text, we have provided a link below to the Multiple Choice questions type to get you started.

- [How do I create a Multiple Choice quiz question?](#)
- [How do I add a rubric in a course?](#)
- [How do I use SpeedGrader?](#)
- [How do I use a rubric to grade submissions in SpeedGrader?](#)
- [How do I leave feedback comments for student submissions in SpeedGrader?](#)
- [How do I leave comments for students in the Gradebook?](#)
- [How do I send a message to students from the Gradebook?](#)