

Canvas Modules Overview Transcript

In this video, you will learn how to create, modify, and add content to modules. While the term “module” can be applied generally to course design, it is also the term Canvas uses for its tool that allows you to organize your course content or create a learning pathway for students.

Modules are virtual containers that help you assemble content and orchestrate your students’ learning experience through a particular topic or theme. These containers can house content pages, course files, discussions, or any other course resources. For instance, a weekly module could contain a video lecture, a course reading, and a discussion board assignment that all support that week’s topic or learning objective. Modular course design can help you organize your instructional content in a way that scaffolds knowledge and skills to better help students master concepts.

We highly recommend the use of modules as courses with modules are more streamlined and easier for students to navigate and conceptualize. They help with time management and organization, which can be some of the greatest challenges for students with many demands on their time.

To create a new module, click the add module button and give your module a descriptive name in the name field. Take time to consider a consistent module naming structure to help students with wayfinding. If you would like to prevent students from accessing the module until a specific date and time, select the lock until option. You might do this if you

want to prevent students seeing later course materials at the start of the term. To set the unlock date, type in a date and time or select a date and time from the calendar.

You may also want your students to experience the course in a linear fashion and to complete sections before moving ahead, much as if they were working through your syllabus one step at a time. You can set prerequisites on modules by clicking the add prerequisite link to indicate that another module must be completed before a student can access this module.

Note that you will only see the add prerequisite option if you have created at least two modules. Also consider that locking subsequent modules may prevent students from accessing information in a timely manner. For example, if a student joins your class in Week 2, they will be prevented from accessing that week's content if the module is locked until they complete Week 1. Prerequisites can be added or modified later as needed. To create the module, click the add module button.

After a module is created, you can add content to it by clicking the add button. Select the content type using the add drop-down menu. You can add an assignment, quiz, file, content page, discussion, text header, external URL, or external tool. If you have previously created pages, assignments, or discussions, they will be available in the list of their type. Select the item you'd like to add to the module or, select the Create item option to create a new content item. If you choose the Create item option, you will need to complete the empty fields that appear. To indent the item in your module, click the Indentation drop-down menu. Indenting items allows you to give your modules a hierarchical structure. Click the add Item button and the content will be added to your module.

As you add and arrange content in a module, you are building the pathway through it for your students. Students can naturally move forward and backward between module content using the previous and next buttons at the bottom of module pages. Students can also pick and choose which items to view from the Module page. There may be times, however, when you'd prefer that students complete tasks in a specific order that you define. You can do this by adding requirements. Keep in mind that doing this will prevent students from being able to browse through a module and that all succeeding items in a module will be locked until the student completes the required task for that item. For example, let's say you're requiring all the items in the Start Here module to be completed in sequential order. On the first day of the course, students won't be able to jump to the Syllabus page until they've completed all the preceding requirements.

To add requirements, click the options icon for a module. Then click edit. Next, click the add requirement link. Note that content must already be added to a module before you will be able to add an associated requirement. You can then select to have students complete all requirements or just one requirement from the list. If you select the option for students to complete all requirements, you can choose to have students complete the requirements in sequential order. Click the requirement drop-down menu to select an item. Then, click the action drop-down menu to select the action that is required for the item. Repeat these steps until all requirements are defined. When you're finished adding requirements, click the update module button.

Students will have text indicators that modules and content are locked and what is required before moving on. In this example, the student can see the prerequisite of completing

the Start Here module before they can access Module 1. In Module 1, they must view the Overview page before Topic 1: Content is available. They must then Mark as Done Topic 1 before they can access the Topic 1: Reading Assignment. Submitting the Topic 1: Reading Assignment then unlocks the Topic 1: Video assignment, and so forth. You can also require a certain score for quizzes and tests before students can continue in the module. Students will see checkmarks on items they have completed. While all this can ensure that students view and complete items in a module, consider how module structure and requirements will affect students' overall experience in the course and their ability to work ahead or keep up on assignments.

From the module item options menu, you can Increase or decrease indent, edit the item, duplicate the item, move the item, remove the item or send or copy the item from the module. To rearrange module items, click the drag handle and move your content to the desired location. To publish a module, click the unpublished icon. After publishing, all items in the module will be published and students will be able to view the module and contents. To unpublish a module, click the published icon. You can also publish or unpublish individual content items within each module by clicking the item's publish or unpublish icon. Students will only see content items and modules that have been published.

In the module options menu, you can edit module settings, move module contents, move the module, delete the module, duplicate the module, or send or copy the module.

Send allows you to share Canvas modules (as well as pages, assignments, quizzes, or discussions) with colleagues for them to use in their courses. Copy allows you to directly copy content from a previous Canvas course into an existing course. You can only copy content from courses in which you are enrolled as a user with permissions to copy course content.

This concludes our overview of modules in Canvas. For additional information on this or any other Canvas topic, visit teaching.uoregon.edu.