

## Canvas Pages Overview Transcript

In this video, you'll learn about using pages in Canvas. Canvas pages allow you to add, format, and display content and educational resources that are part of your course to better support student success.

By using pages, you can craft course content in meaningful ways. Putting your learning materials on pages rather than linking to them in your module allows you to frame the content as you would if you were setting up a new activity in an in-person class. For example, if you're having students watch a video, adding it to a page allows you to also add text to frame what students are going to view and how they are to interact with the media, perhaps in the form of thought questions. The video can be formatted to play directly on the page rather than requiring students to link out to an external site which helps maintain continuity with the content and prevents the temptation to stay out of Canvas to do other things.

When you're ready to create a content page, select pages from the left-hand course navigation menu. If you have a home page, it will display here. Select View All pages to see all your pages. To create a page, select add page.

You can use pages to design a course home page as the entry or starting point for your students each time they access your course. You might consider adding the following to your course home page: a course description, a link to your welcome module, a syllabus link, links to each week's module, and your contact information. Once you've created the page, you'll need to designate it as the course front page from the pages index by selecting the options menu on the right side of the page and selecting use as front page. Only published pages can be selected as front pages. The front page label will be attached to the page in the page index. You must designate a page as the front page before proceeding to the next step.

Set the course home page by selecting home from the course navigation menu. On the right side-bar (it may be at the bottom of the screen depending on your screen size) select choose home page. The home page is the first thing students see every time they access your course. Select pages front page to use your newly created front page as the home page. Click save to have the change take effect.

Now, let's talk about some best practices for creating pages. Using the rich content editor in pages, you can add text, audio and video content, images, and links to resources.

To ensure your pages are accessible for all students, follow these best practices.

Use heading structure. Using headings ensures that screen readers can read the page in a logical fashion. Canvas has a built-in heading structure. The page title is always in header 1

format. Your next heading in the body of the page will be heading 2. Body text should be formatted in paragraphs.

Don't use color alone to convey important information, Instead, opt for bold fonts, icons, or larger text sizes to off-set critical information.

Include alternative text for images. Alternative or alt text refers to invisible descriptions of images which are read aloud to those using screen readers. Adding alt text allows authors to include images while also providing the content in an alternative text-based format. Alt text should be descriptive enough to convey the image's message but not overly complex.

Use closed captions and transcripts for video and audio content. Captions and transcripts are valuable to a wide range of students. If a student doesn't have the ability to listen to a video lecture, closed captions allow them to receive the content without sound. Transcripts, when provided in an accessible PDF format, are searchable and can greatly help students review your material.

Use the same structure as much as possible for all your pages. Consistency and predictability help decrease cognitive load for students. We recommend keeping your pages about the same length and formatting them consistently. This doesn't mean that every page must look the same. However, if you have multiple pages of similar content, consider formatting all those pages uniformly.

Avoid creating PDF documents. As much as possible, post content within Canvas pages. If a PDF is necessary, link to it only as a secondary source of information.

Mixing text with images also allows you to break up material from long text blocks into shorter engaging sections within a page or a series of pages. Consider how you'd display or discuss information in a classroom and strive to replicate that using pages by incorporating text, images, and other media.

Using Canvas pages to present content and educational resources gives you some great options for flexibility and engagement in your course. For additional information on this or any other Canvas topic, visit [teaching.uoregon.edu](http://teaching.uoregon.edu).