

Top 10: New Things You Can Do in Blackboard Learn Ultra Today



1. [Multiple Grading Schemas](#)

Instructors want to ensure students achieve multiple course objectives during a specific course. In order to do so, different types of assessments are required, and instructors can now choose the best grading schema for each assessment in a course.

In the past, Learn Ultra courses allowed only one grading schema per course. Now instructors can add, copy, and edit up to 100 grading schemas per course. Items copied from other courses will keep their grading schemas. When copying, any configured schemas copy even if they are not aligned to gradable items.

VD - Astronavigation Physics 1: Vector Spatialization

Grade Schemas

Course Schemas ⊕ Add

- Pass/Fail
- Satisfaction Scale
- Alphabetic Grading**

Alphabetic Grading 🔗

Grade Name	Grade Range %	
A+	90% and 100%	...
A	80% and less than 90%	...
A-	70% and less than 80%	...
B+	60% and less than 70%	...
B	50% and less than 60%	...
B-	40% and less than 50%	...
C+	30% and less than 40%	...
C	20% and less than 30%	...
C-	0% and less than 20%	...

Grading schema creation

VD-Astronav-1
VD - Astronavigation Physics 1: Vector Spatialization

Content Calendar Discussions **Gradebook** Messages Analytics

Search gradebook

Students	Overall Grade	Celestial Navigatio...	A Discussion in a C...	A journal on naviga...	Multiple attempts ...	Content no in Grad...	Golf Explained - Ru...	Group discussion	Attendance	LTI Content	Grid V
14 Students	19 Items	3 Graded 2 Posted	11 Gra... 10 Post...	4 Graded 1 Posted	13 Gra... 3 Posted	9 Graded 9 Posted	12 Gra... 11 Post...	10 Gra... 0 Posted	4 Graded 4 Posted	0 Graded 0 Posted	0 Graded
Carolina Gutt_Prev...	C-	Grade Now	Automatic zero	Pass	Pass	0 Automatic zero	Grade Now		Grade Now	Grade Now	Gr
Samuel Adams	A	A Posted	New Submission	Pass Posted	Pass Posted	Grade Now	70	New Submission	75 Posted	Grade Now	Gr
Pyoro AI	B	A+	Exempt	Grade Now	Pass Posted	0 Automatic zero	80 Posted		66.66 Posted	Grade Now	Gr
Parfet Balblair	B+	Grade Now	Grade Now	Fail	Pass	Grade Now	70 Posted		100 Posted	Grade Now	Gr
Misty Cornwell	A+	A+ Posted	Automatic zero	Fail	Pass Posted	0 Automatic zero	70 Posted		50 Posted	Grade Now	Gr
Jura Eiden	C+	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt	Pass Exempt	0 Automatic zero	70 Posted		Grade Now	Grade Now	Gr
Bart Garsus	C+	Grade Now	Automatic zero	Grade Now	Pass	0 Automatic zero	80 Posted		Grade Now	Grade Now	Gr

Instructor view - grading schema Gradebook grid view

VD-Astronav-1
VD - Astronavigation Physics 1: Vector Spatialization

Content Calendar Discussions **Gradebook** Messages

Samuel Adams Current Grade **A**

Item Name	Due Date	Status	Grade	Feedback
Celestial Navigation Quiz 1 3 attempts possible	7/14/25	Graded	A	
A Discussion in a Course First participated on 9/29/22 (Late)	8/23/22	Graded		
A journal on navigation 1 attempt submitted	11/30/24	Graded	Pass	
Multiple attempts assignment 2 attempts submitted	8/31/24	Graded	Pass	
Content no in Gradebook	10/4/22		- / 100	
Golf Explained - Run-time Basic Calls Attempt 2 started	9/1/24	Draft saved	100 / 100	
Group discussion First participated on 10/11/22	10/1/24	Submitted	Not graded	
Attendance	Ongoing		75 / 100	
Grid View Column	10/1/24		- / 100	
Anonymous Grading 1 attempt submitted	11/3/22	Submitted	Not graded	
Youtube video assignment	12/17/22	Draft saved	Not graded	

Student view - grading schema

2. Progress Tracking (by item, by student, student overview page)

Instructors can leverage Course Activity Data to understand learners' performance and take action to support struggling students based on their grades, hours in course, and days of inactivity, among

other metrics. To offer more flexibility and make navigation even more intuitive, we have released the following improvements:

[Course Activity page:](#)

The course activity page helps instructors understand students' performance. With this information, instructors can:

- Identify struggling or high performing students based on their grade, hours in course, or days of inactivity
- Message students who have a low grade and/or have not accessed the course recently
- Receive alerts when a student has not accessed their course in a while or if a student's grade has dropped

With this update, we have made the following improvements:

- **New Table** - Updated to be more consistent with other features
- **New Days of Inactivity Column** - The number of days since a student last accessed a course
- **Access Student Overview** - Click or tap a student's name to see their grades, progress, and activity over the weeks
- **More student information** - Accommodations, name pronunciation, and pronouns are now visible

1189-1
Biology

Content Calendar Discussions Gradebook Messages Analytics Student Preview

Course Activity Premium Reports Question Analysis SCORM Reports

This report shows student performance and activity in your course. Overall grade and hours in course updates every 24 hours. [Learn more](#) Alert Settings

Send message Download

Student	Overall Grade	Hours in Course	Days of Inactivity
Dume Abara D o o m - A b a r a he/him	100%	10.8	3
Luke Lucas ... L o o k u h s he/him	90%	12.67	0
Alicia Devi	30%	5.9	15
Malika Farsi	14%	2.5	4

Course Activity Report - new table capabilities and metrics

[Student Progress Tab:](#)

The Student Progress tab helps instructors track individual student progress in a course. An instructor can see completed and outstanding tasks for each student. Now instructors can change the Student Progress view to see a student's progress against everything on the Course Content page. This view includes items not visible to the student. This helps instructors better understand students' progress by considering all course content.

Viewing with the "Visible to Students" filter:

- This is the default filter for the Student Progress tab
- The view displays only items visible to the student
- The display indicates items that the student cannot yet access because they do not meet release conditions

Viewing with the "All" filter:

- The entire Course Content page is displayed

- Items the student cannot see are indicated with a not visible icon
- An item can be hidden from a student's view for two reasons:
 - It is not available to students
 - Settings indicate the item should be hidden when release conditions are not met

Biology

Kim Lee

Current Grade 40%

Last access: 1/6/23, 10:52 AM

Username: std3

Student Activity Accommodations Send Message

Grades Student Progress

Content availability
Visible to students

Item name	Status
Term 1	Started 12/21/22, 12:50 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading: Genetics and Evolution	Marked complete 12/21/22, 12:50 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Activities	Unopened
Term 2	Unopened

Student Progress tab with the “Visible to students” content availability filter applied; the instructor only sees content visible to this student

Biology

Kim Lee

Current Grade 40%

Last access: 1/6/23, 10:52 AM

Username: std3

Student Activity Accommodations Send Message

Grades Student Progress

Content availability All

Item name	Status
Term 1	Started 12/21/22, 12:50 PM
Reading: Genetics and Evolution	Marked complete 12/21/22, 12:50 PM
Extra Activities	Unopened
Quiz: Genetics and Evolution	Completed 9/9/22, 10:28 AM
Final Exam	Unopened
Term 2	Unopened

When the “All” content availability filter is applied, the instructor sees all Course Outline items; the view indicates the items that are not visible to the student

For administrators: Progress Tracking is available behind a feature flag. Administrators must enable it.

[Group Progress:](#)

Instructors need clear information about the status of group progress on an assessment. In the past, the submission view of assessments and discussions included two status columns:

- Student status
- Grading status

Now we also show both in the group submission page. This gives instructors greater clarity about group work status. We also separated the filter to allow compound filtering of student and grading statuses. The default filter shows everything. The filter resets every time an instructor accesses the submission view.

Introduction to Emotion Regulation

Case study: mindfulness

Visible to students

Content and Settings Submissions

1 of 3 SUBMITTED 1 TO GRADE 0 TO POST

Search by group name Group Status All Group Statuses Grading Status All Grading Statuses 25 items per page

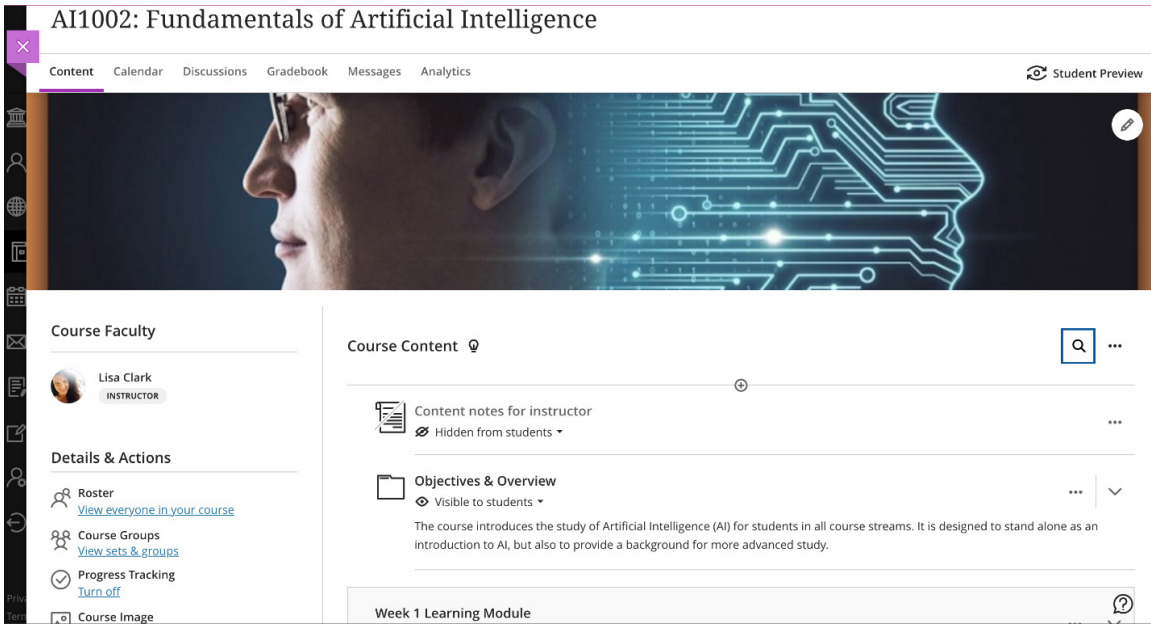
Group	Group Status	Grading Status	Grade
New Group 1 4 members (Show) Attempted on 12/5/22, 3:34 PM	Submitted	Needs Grading	Attempt to grade -- / 100
New Group 2 3 members (Show) Unopened	Needs Posting	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
New Group 3 2 members (Show) Unopened	No Submission	Nothing to grade	-- / 100

Group submission filters

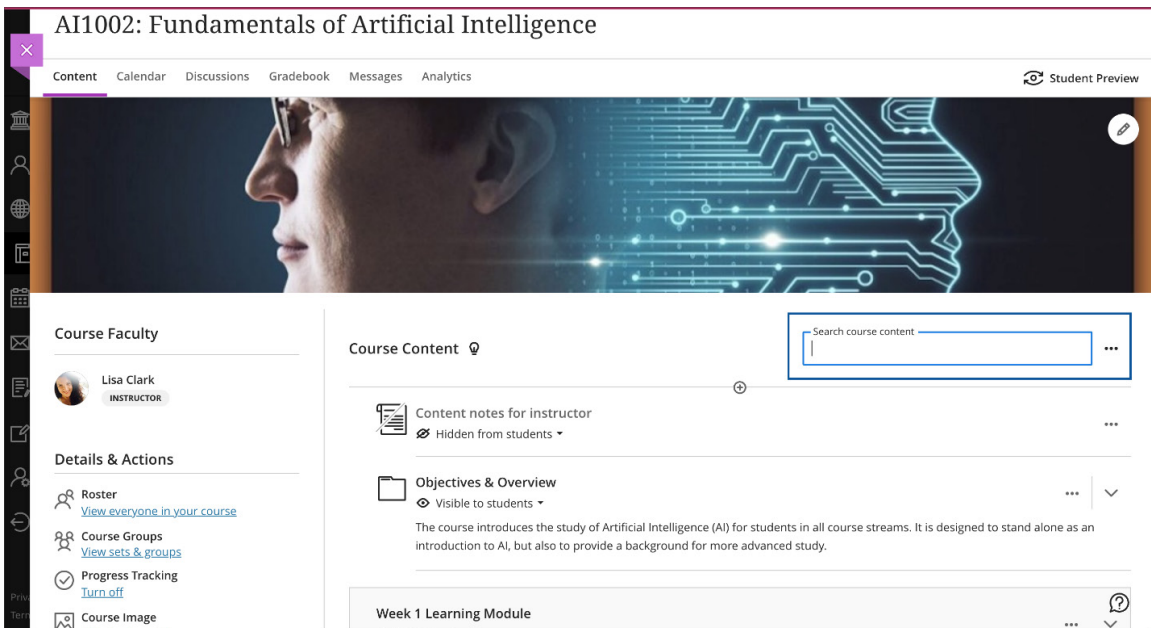
3. [Course Content Search](#)

It can be difficult to remember the location of a course item. In the past, locating an item was a time-intensive, unintuitive task. Searching for the item would involve opening every folder or learning module to find the item.

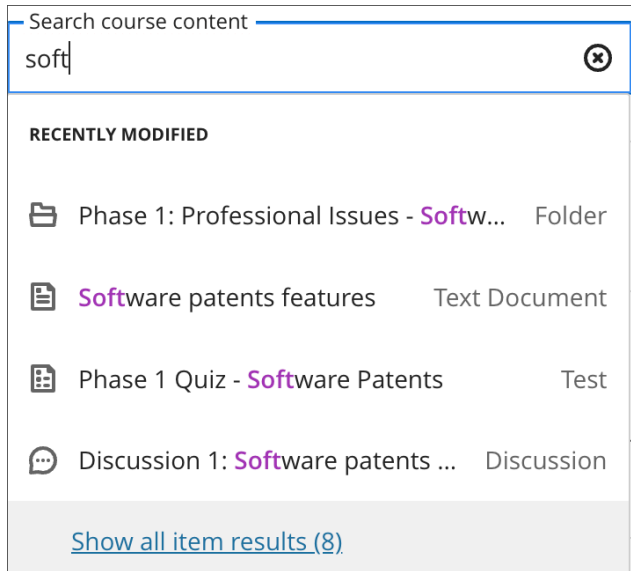
You can now search course content titles to find these items on the course content page. The course search icon, a magnifying glass, is easy to find at the top of the course content page. When a user types in a few letters, the course search function displays a list of matching items by title. A user may expand the search results to view more information related to the course item(s).



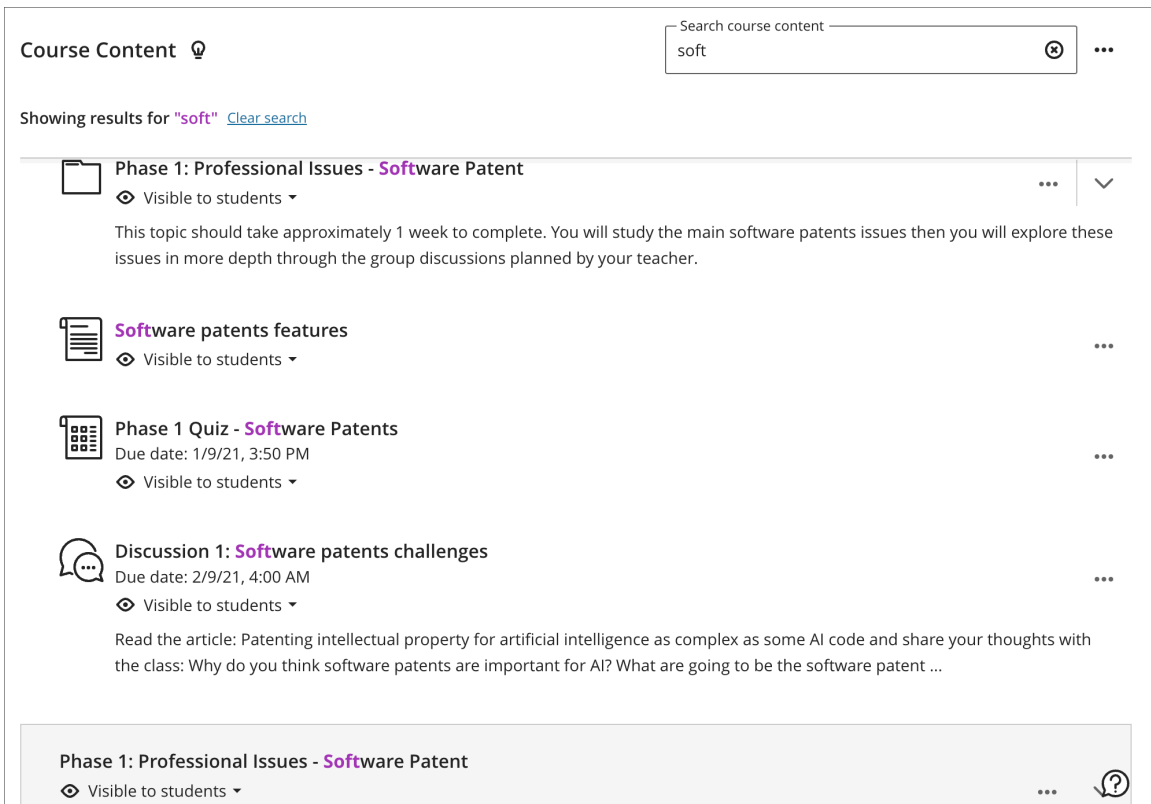
Course content with course search icon in top right



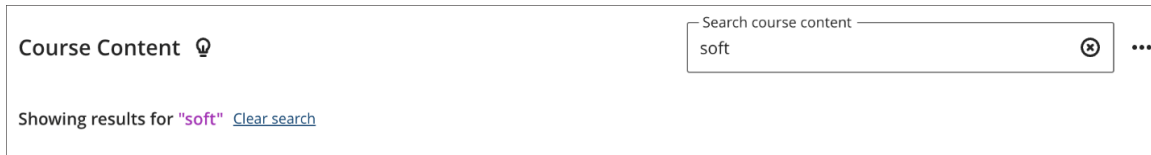
Course search text box



Course search findings



"Show all item results" window



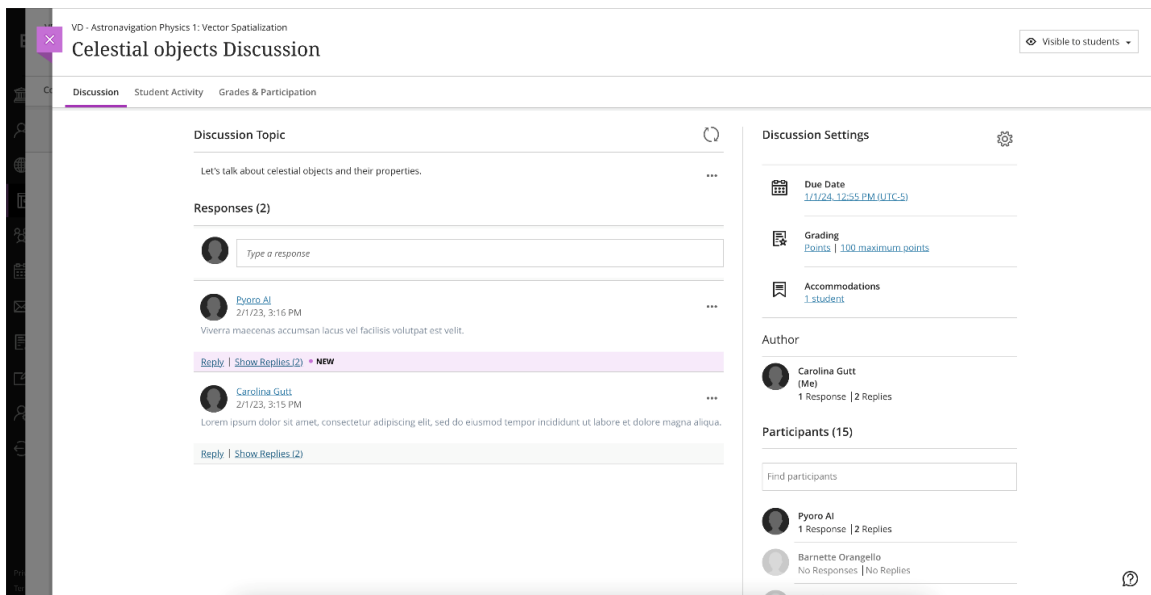
“Clear search” option

4. Discussion Navigation Improvements

Instructors often review various aspects of course discussions to assess and engage students. To improve navigation and increase visibility, we have introduced new tab navigation:

- Discussion
- Student Activity
- Grading & Participation

The Grading & Participation tab appears only when the discussion is marked for grading.



Discussion tab

VD - Astronavigation Physics 1: Vector Spatialization

Celestial objects Discussion

Visible to students

Discussion Student Activity Grades & Participation

Active students: 1 of 13

Average posts per student: 3

Average word count: 8.67

Average discussion grade: N/A

7% participation

7% opened discussion

Students who haven't participated

Bart Garsus, Dita Liebely, Ezra Viel, Hibiki Tokai, Jura Elden, Meia Gisborn, Misty Cornwell, Paiway Underberg, Parfet Balblair, Samuel Adams, Tatanka Smith, Rhoshandiat... Wolfeschleg...

Responses with the most replies

"Viverra maecenas accumsan lacus vel facilisis volutpat est velit." By Pyoro AI | 2 Replies

Top participants

Pyoro AI | 1 post, 2 replies

Student Activity tab

VD - Astronavigation Physics 1: Vector Spatialization

Celestial objects Discussion

Visible to students

Discussion Student Activity Grades & Participation

1 of 14 PARTICIPATING

1 TO GRADE

0 TO POST

Search by student name

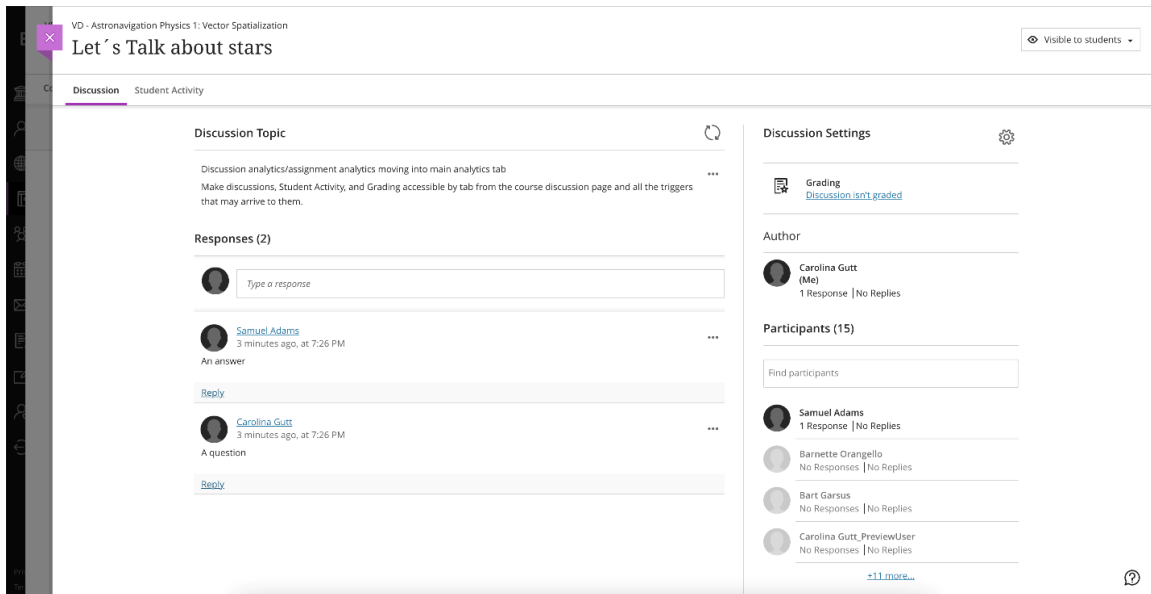
Student Status: All Student Statuses

Grading Status: All Grading Statuses

25 items per page

Student	Student Status	Grading Status	Grade
Carolina Gutt_PreviewUser	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
Pyoro AI	Entry made	1 to grade	-- / 100
Samuel Adams	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
Parfet Balblair	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
Misty Cornwell	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
Jura Elden	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100
Bart Garsus	No Entry	Nothing to grade	-- / 100

Grades & Participation tab



Tab options when a discussion is not marked for grading

5. [Primary Instructor Improvements](#)

The Learn Ultra Course View supports the designation of a primary instructor. In the past, when a course contained more than one instructor, any instructor could change the primary instructor setting. To support diverse needs regarding changes to this designation, now administrators may grant this as a privilege for system and course roles:

"Course/Organization Control Panel (Users and Groups) > Users > Set instructor as primary in Ultra Course View"

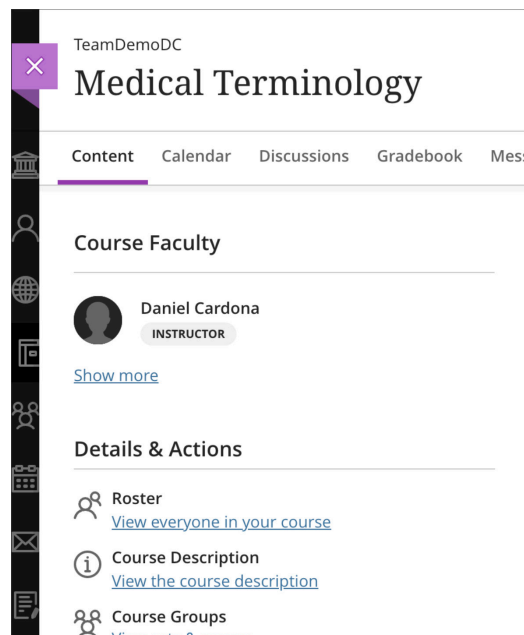
Administrators can now manage primary instructor designations through SIS integration and REST API integration frameworks. The SIS integration framework supports the primary instructor indicator on course memberships through the flat file and XML formats.

The primary instructor designation impacts how course instructors display for a course:

- When no instructor is selected as primary, the first two instructors display based on alphabetical order in Learn Ultra courses.
- When there is more than one instructor and only one is designated as primary, only one instructor displays in Learn Ultra courses. The other instructors display when users select "Show more".

- When there is more than one instructor and two or more are designated as primary, at most two instructors display in Learn Ultra courses.
- Course cards in the Base Navigation course timeline display primary instructors first for both Learn Ultra and Original courses. Original courses do not have a user interface to set primary instructor, however, so these must be set through integration.

To better support enrollment state management for archive/restore and course copy, we made a change so that now, when membership records are stored/retrieved, the primary instructor indicator is also stored/retrieved. Primary instructor designations are reflected as expected.



In the course faculty only one instructor of many displays if one is indicated as the primary

For administrators: This feature is available for all Learn Ultra courses and organizations. A user that needs to modify the primary instructor flag will need this new privilege: **“Course/Organization Control Panel (Users and Groups) > Users > Set instructor as primary in Ultra Course View”**. The primary instructor flag can be set for Learn Original courses using data integration only. This will impact name order in Base Navigation.

6. [Extra Credit Question in Assessments](#)

There are times when instructors allow students to overachieve on an assessment. Some instructors may allow students to earn back points lost on other assessments or activities.

Now instructors can designate one or more questions as extra credit in an assessment. A correct answer results in adding the extra credit points to the overall score earned for the assessment. Students are not penalized for incorrect answers to an extra credit question. In other words, points are not deducted because the question is excluded from the assessment's possible points. If a student answers extra credit questions correctly, it may be possible for the student to earn a score greater than 100% on the assessment.

Students can see how many extra credit points are available on an assessment. While students are taking an assessment, they can identify questions designated as extra credit. Students can also filter the test to find extra credit questions if present.

The screenshot displays the 'Question 1' editor in Blackboard. At the top right, a teal-bordered box contains a green checkmark icon followed by the text 'Extra Credit' and a rounded rectangle containing '5 points'. Below this, the question text reads 'How many rings does Saturn have?'. Underneath, the instruction 'Choose at least one correct answer' is shown. Three choice options are listed: '3', '5', and '8'. Each option has a checkbox to its left and a trash icon to its right. The checkbox for '8' is checked with a green checkmark. Below the choices is a blue link labeled 'Add Choice'. At the bottom left, there is a toggle switch for 'Automated Feedback' which is currently turned off. At the bottom right, there is a toggle for 'Available after submission' which is turned on, and two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Save'.

Instructor view – assign one or more questions in an assessment as extra credit

Astronomy 101

Check your knowledge

2 OF 2 QUESTIONS REMAINING

Extra credit questions only

Test Content

Question 1 5 Points

How many rings does Saturn have?

(A) 3

(B) 5

(C) 8

Details & Information

Assessment due date
1/11/23, 12:00 AM (GMT)

Attempts
Unlimited

Grading

Maximum points	10 points
Extra Credit	5 points

Navigate:

All questions

Unanswered questions

Filter question types:

Essay questions only

Extra credit questions only

[Clear filters](#)

Questions Filter (1)

Save and Close Submit

Student view – students can identify which questions are extra credit and the total amount of extra credit available on the assessment

7. Hotspot Question Type (circle and polygon shape)

Instructors may want to assess a student's knowledge of visual content. The hotspot question type is popular for this type of assessment. This question type is also good for reducing the potential of cueing or guessing.

Hotspot questions present an image without any answer options for students to choose. Students must mark a certain area of the image that is within the area the instructor defined as correct.

We have added two enhancements to this question type:




- A new polygon and circle shape selector can be used to draw more complex shapes
- Improved keyboard controls - instructors can now create and place new hotspot shapes on the image canvas directly via the keyboard
- Now when students select the image, a pin is automatically placed on the selection

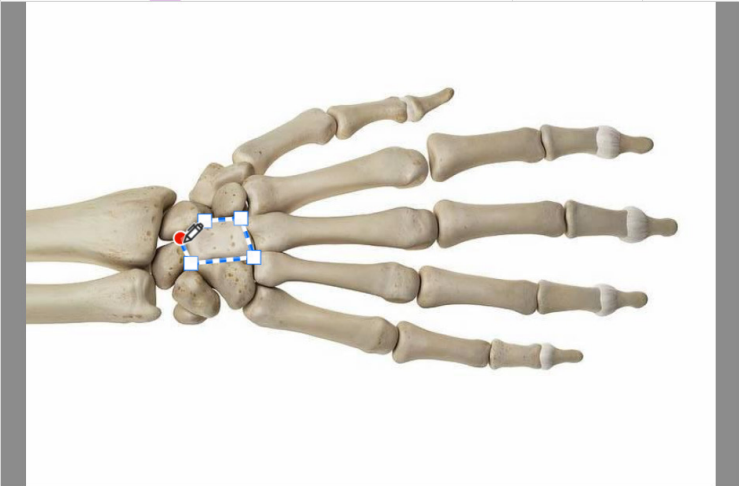
Question 1 Extra Credit **10 points**

* Write the question text

Identify the capitate bone.

* Add hotspots on the image to add answer options. Keyboard controls ⓘ

Add a Hotspot   Erase Hotspots  Delete all



Show hotspots to students

Automated Feedback Available after submission ⓘ


Cancel **Save**

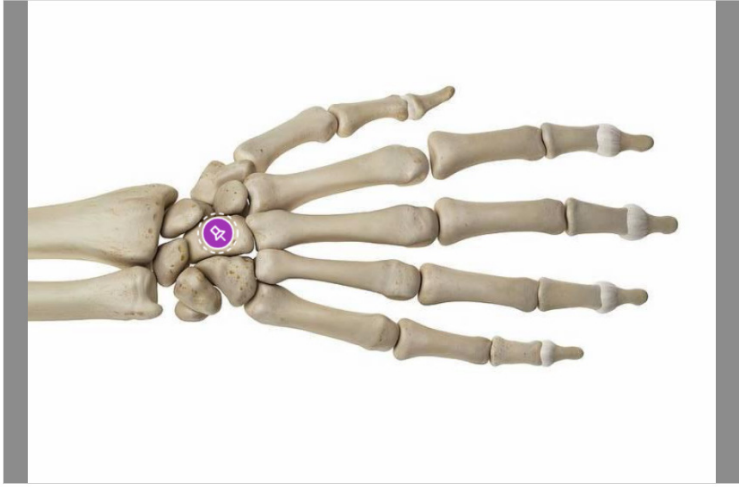
Instructor view - add one or more polygon hotspots to an image

Question 1 10 Points

Identify the capitate bone.

Keyboard controls ⓘ

Add selection  You can add and move any pin on the image  Clear selection



Student view – students may add a pin to the image to mark their selection

Question 1 10 points ...

Which of these planets is Mercury?

① Mercury Correct answer

② Mars

Instructor view - add circle hotspots to an image

* Write the question text

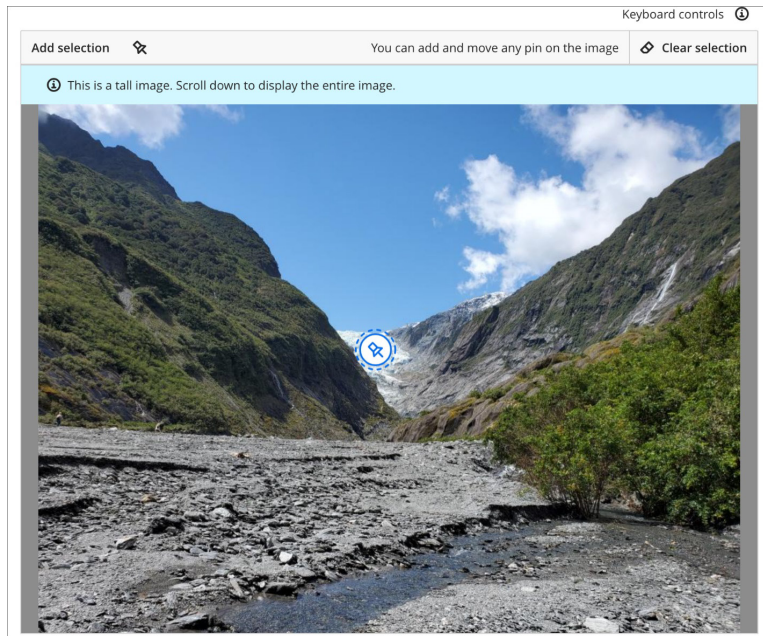
Where is the glacier

* Add hotspots on the image to add answer options. Keyboard controls ⓘ

Add a Hotspot 📏 ○ 🌟 Erase Hotspots 🗑️ Delete all

Show hotspots to students

Instructor view – color change for first point in polygon shape



Student view – color change when student selects a pin

8. [LoginAs \(Impersonate\) Tool](#)

Institutions want a way to maximize support to their end users. This needs to happen without sharing or exchanging login credentials. In the past, Blackboard Learn administrators might have used a community-created Building Block (B2)—LoginAs and Impersonate are two examples. These allowed an administrator to impersonate an end user for troubleshooting purposes. This category of third-party add-ons had the highest adoption volume in our global client base. The request to add this feature to Learn was ranked #1 in our Idea Exchange for more than 12 weeks in 2022.

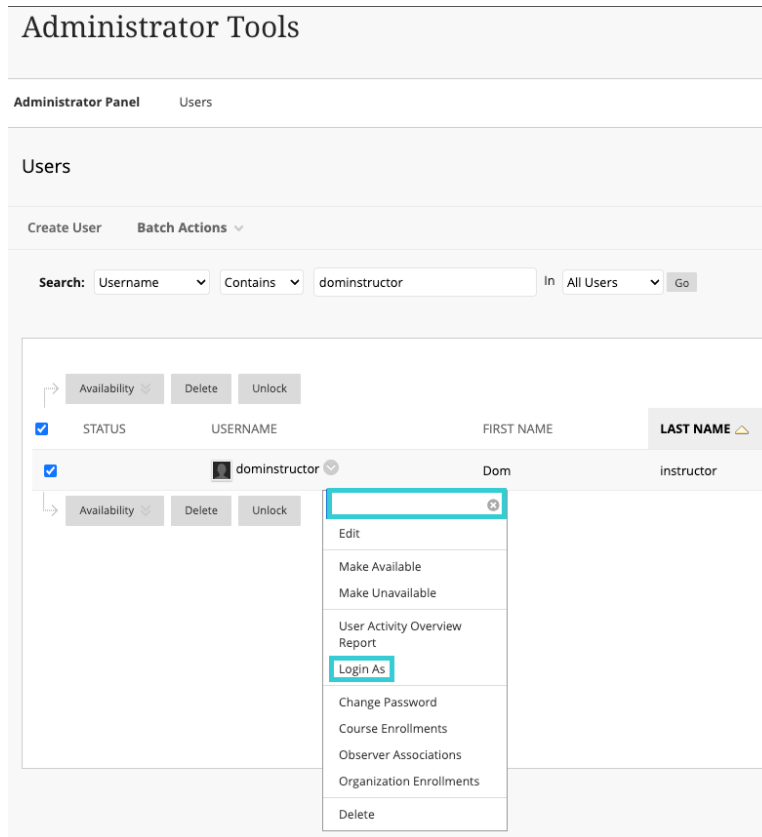
We prioritized client feedback and are happy to share that the ability for an admin to log in as a user is now available.

Administrators can:

- Search and select a user to impersonate
- Add in a reason for logging in as that user for institutional audit purposes
 - This is optional; institutions may wish to determine a policy for the use of this feature
- Start the session as that user

To login as a user:

- Search for a user in Administrator Panel > User
- Open the dropdown menu for the user
- Select the “Login As” option
- When done, logout



The screenshot displays the 'Administrator Tools' interface, specifically the 'Users' section. At the top, there are tabs for 'Administrator Panel' and 'Users'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Create User' and 'Batch Actions'. A search bar is present with the following configuration: 'Search: Username' (dropdown), 'Contains' (dropdown), 'dominstructor' (text input), 'In All Users' (dropdown), and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar is a table of users. The table has columns for 'STATUS', 'USERNAME', 'FIRST NAME', and 'LAST NAME'. A single user is listed: 'dominstructor' with first name 'Dom' and last name 'instructor'. A dropdown menu is open for the 'dominstructor' user, showing options: 'Availability', 'Delete', 'Unlock', 'Edit', 'Make Available', 'Make Unavailable', 'User Activity Overview Report', 'Login As' (highlighted with a red box), 'Change Password', 'Course Enrollments', 'Observer Associations', 'Organization Enrollments', and 'Delete'.

Search for a user and select the Login As option

Log in as another user acknowledgement


Log in as another user allows you to temporarily sign in as a different user from your institution. Administrators with log in as permissions can act on behalf of other users in your institution and only when the said user has asked for it, or solely for the purpose indicated by them or when permitted by the Institutions policies.

Use this feature responsibly and according to the instructions provided or as allowed by the Institution. You understand that you are solely responsible for all actions taken while using the log in as feature.

Best Practices:

- Only use this feature when necessary
- Use it as instructed by the user or as strictly required per Institutions policies
- Use it with the express written permission of the person you are portraying or within the permitted use cases of the Institution
- In the "Reason for logging in as another user" reference the user permission or the Institution authorization

Login as

 Dom instructor
No student id

Reason for logging in as another user

Provide a brief reason for accessing the logging in as user feature as outlined by your institution.

Cancel Start Session

End user acknowledgement and session start

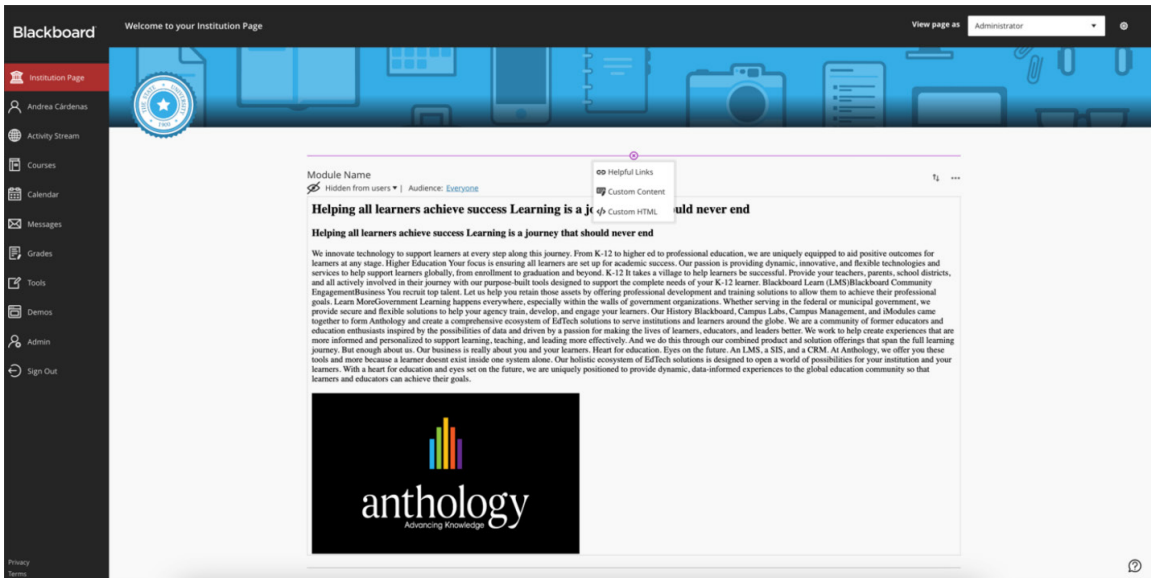
For administrators: This release has certain constraints:

- “Login As” is available only for the full System Administrator (Z) role. We have plans to support permissions for this feature that can be assigned to other support roles.
- Administrators can access log data, including who logged in as whom and reasons for the login, using the Learn “Sessions” public API. Documentation is at <https://developer.anthology.com/portal/displayApi>. We have plans to provide access to this data in the admin user interface.

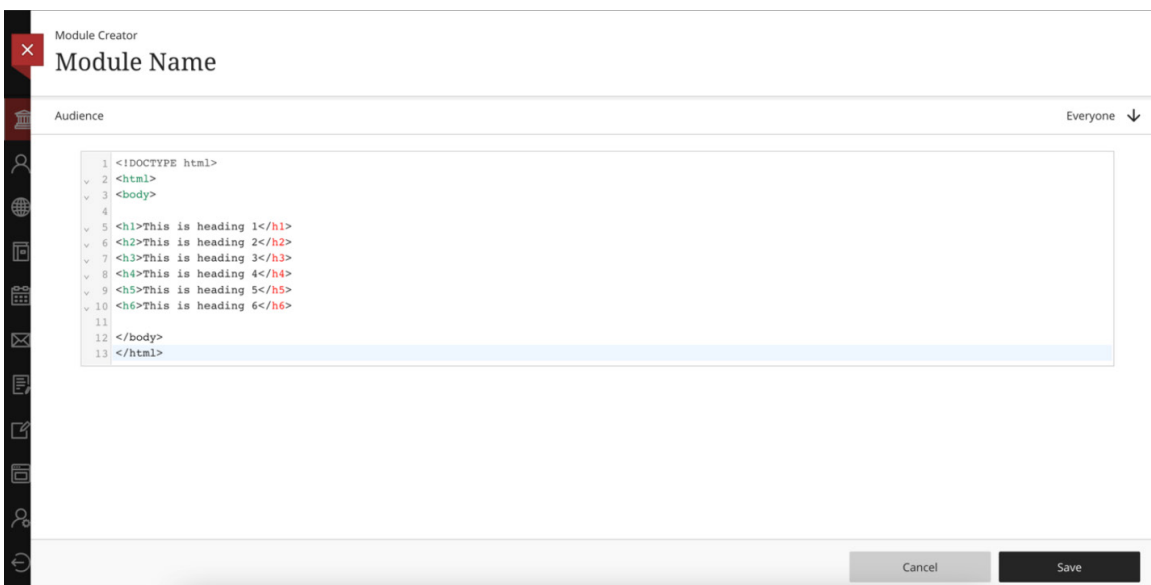


9. [HTML Institution Pages](#)

Institutions can target personalized content to users with Institution Pages. Now administrators can create custom HTML/CSS content blocks in Institution Pages for even greater flexibility. Content blocks will size automatically for better display. Content blocks are served in an iframe from a separate domain to keep Blackboard Learn secure.



Custom HTML content type in Institution Pages



HTML module authoring page for Institution Pages

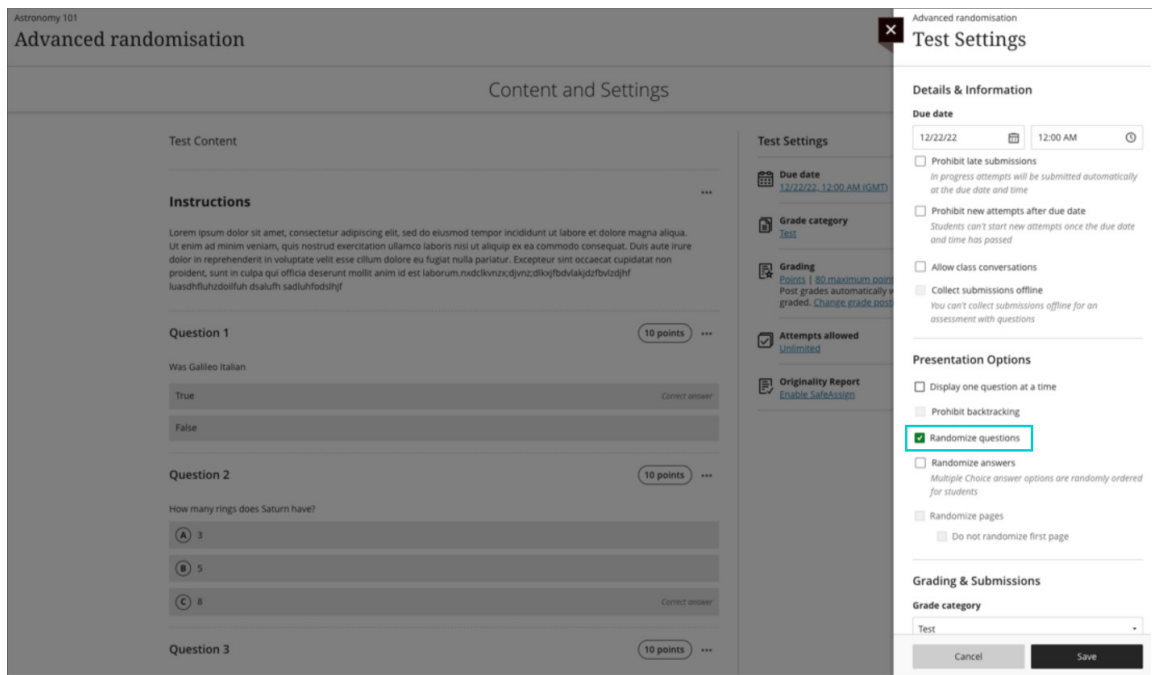
For administrators:

- You'll see the Add HTML option in Institution Pages if an alternate domain is configured.
- Contact product support for help if an alternate domain isn't configured. Browser security can prevent external links from opening in an iframe. We recommend configuring your HTML to open links in a new browser window.

10. Test Question and Page Randomization

Instructors randomize test questions to improve academic integrity. In the past, instructors couldn't randomize questions if the test contained text blocks, files, or images.

Now instructors can enable randomization when the test has text blocks, files, or images. The non-question elements are locked in place. The test randomizes questions between those non-question elements.



Instructor sets randomize option for a test with non-question elements

Instructors can also randomize questions in a test that contains page breaks. Questions randomize within their assigned page. If a page contains non-question elements, the questions randomize between those elements.

When there are pages for the test, instructors can also randomize page order. If instructors randomize the page order, they can also lock the first page into position. This is useful when the first page is a cover page or contains test instructions.

Astronomy 101
Advanced randomisation

Content and Settings

Test Content

All questions are randomly ordered for students

Page 1 of 2

Instructions

>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.nxdckvnxzcdjvzdlkxjfbvkljdzfbvzdfhf luasdhfuhzdoifuh dsalufh saduhfodshfj

Combine pages (1 and 2)

Page 2 of 2

Question 1 10 points

Was Galileo Italian

True Correct answer

False

Question 2 10 points

How many rings does Saturn have?

Test Settings

Due date
12/22/22 12:00 AM (GMT)

Grade category
Test

Grading
Points | 80 maximum points
Post grades automatically
graded. [Change grade post](#)

Attempts allowed
[Unlimited](#)

Originality Report
[Enable SafeAssign](#)

Advanced randomisation Test Settings

Details & Information

Due date
12/22/22 12:00 AM

Prohibit late submissions
In progress attempts will be submitted automatically at the due date and time

Prohibit new attempts after due date
Students can't start new attempts once the due date and time has passed

Allow class conversations

Collect submissions offline
You can't collect submissions offline for an assessment with questions

Presentation Options

Display one question at a time

Prohibit backtracking

Randomize questions
With test pagination, questions will be randomized within the page.

Randomize answers
Multiple Choice answer options are randomly ordered for students

Randomize pages
 Do not randomize first page

Grading & Submissions

Grade category

Cancel Save

Instructor selects to randomize both questions and pages