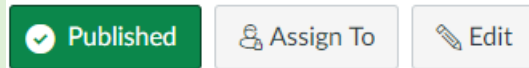# All About Assignments

Last Modified on 03/12/2025 12:50 pm EDT

As of August 30, 2024, the place for entering due and availability dates while editing assignments or quizzes has returned to its original location in Canvas.

It's also possible to set due or availability dates *without* editing the assignment. Use the **Assign To** button which currently appears to the left of the **Edit** button on any assignment or quiz page:

A similar **Assign To** choice appears in the options (three dots) drop-down menu for each assignment listed on the Assignments tab.

This article covers the basic and advanced features of assignments and assignment groups, as well as downloading files students have submitted to an assignment.

Before You Start

You will need a Canvas site.

Published assignments will appear appear in assignments, as well as syllabus and course calendar. The assignment will appear on the students' dashboard and in the **Upcoming Assignments** sidebar a week before the assignment is due; a week after, the assignment will appear in **Past Assignments**. Canvas will also notify students. Unpublish assignments or restrict to prevent student access.

Assignment Basics

When creating an assignment, you can take advantage of the following features:

Advanced Features

Assignments offer a number of advanced features.

Assignment Groups

Enhance your grading with assignment groups.

Download Submissions

Download the files students submit to an assignment.

Discussions as Assignments

Discussions are a good option for certain kinds of assignments and learning activities in which students are required to interact with each other.

TIP: Use student view to see assignments as students do.

Questions?

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