



# What's New in D2L @ EIU for Fall 2021

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Julie Lockett, Director of Learning Innovation  
Faculty Development and Innovation Center  
August 11, 2021



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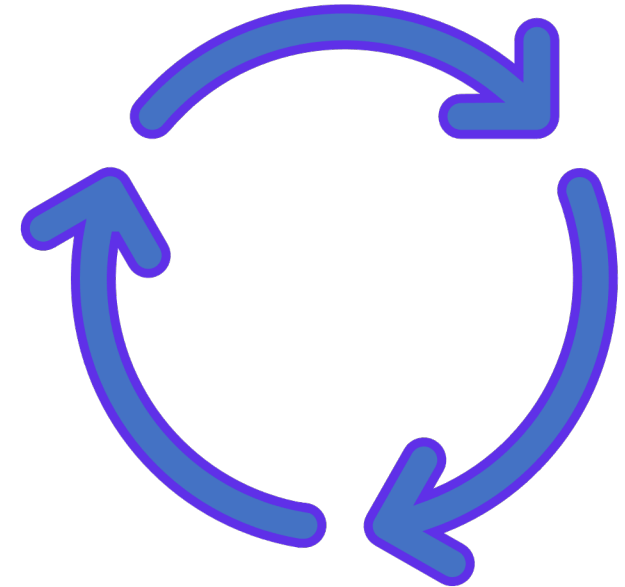
# Agenda

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Recent, current, and future feature releases and updates for D2L Brightspace.

# Continuous Delivery

- The Continuous Delivery model allows D2L to deliver updated technology to clients, enabling rapid, incremental delivery of high quality, valuable new functionality to users.
- Updates are near the end of every Month @ EIU
- The next update will be August 26.
- Continuous Delivery Release Notes  
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/All-Release-Notes>



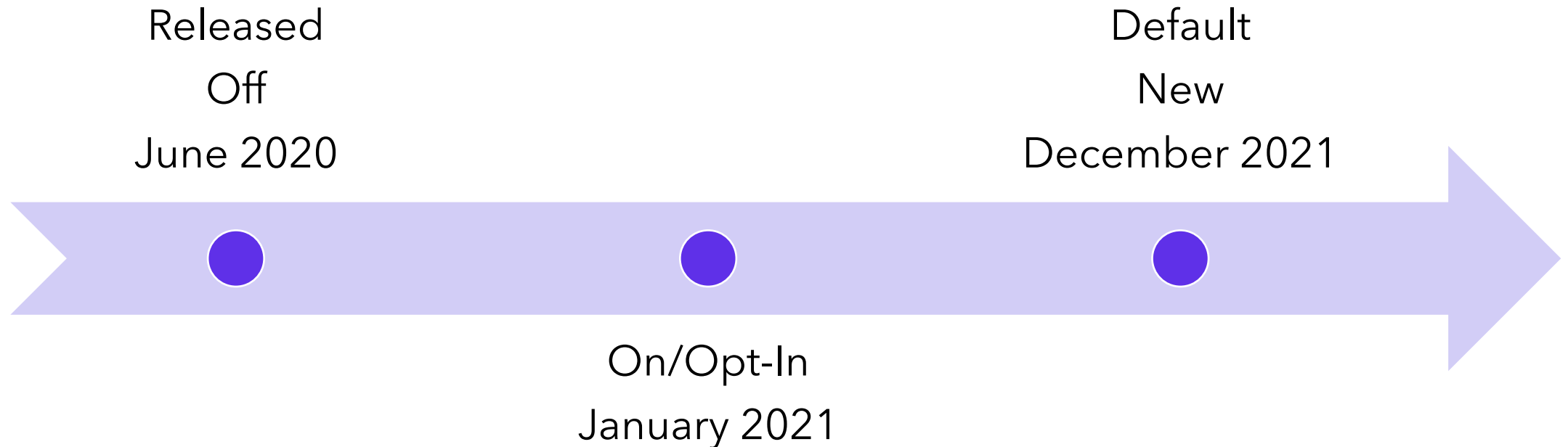


# Assignments

(Dropbox)

# New Assignment **Creation** Experience

A new create and edit experience for Assignments (Dropbox).



# New Assignment **Creation** Experience

Welcome to the new assignment create/edit experience!

The new experience is **off**.

Turning on the new assignment create/edit experience will change your assignment create/edit view. You can return to the old assignment create/edit experience at any time.

Turn it on

Leave it off

# New Assignment Creation Experience

OLD

NEW

## New Folder

Properties



Restrictions

Objectives

Turnitin®

Name \*

Instructions

    Paragraph  **B** *I* U  

Attachments

Add Attachment 

Record Video

[← Back to Manage Assignments](#)

New Folder

Name \*

Untitled

Score Out Of

Ungraded

Due Date

 M/D/YYYY

Instructions

Paragraph  **B** *I* U           

 Record Audio

 Record Video

Availability Dates & Conditions 

Always available

Submission & Completion 

File submission

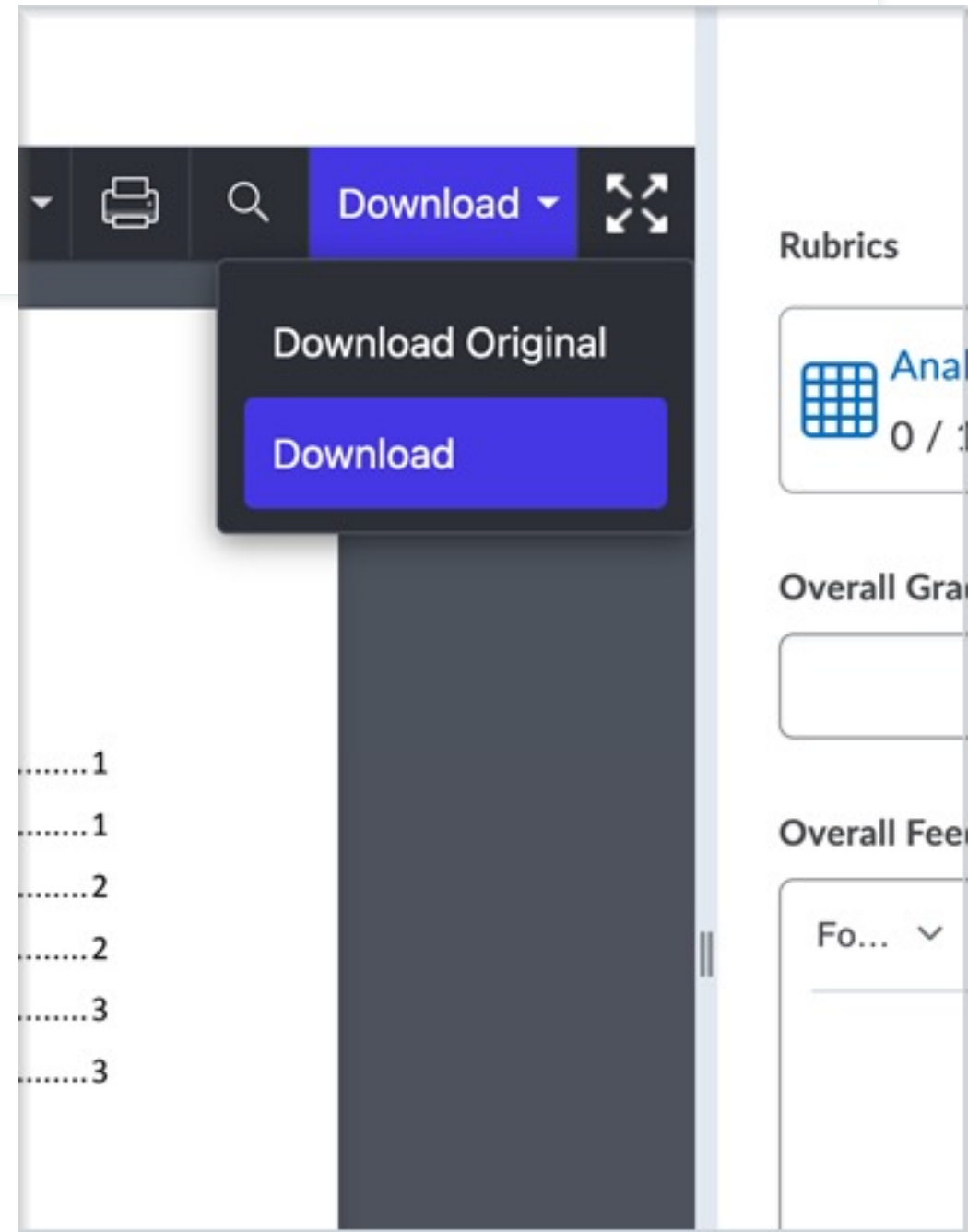
Evaluation & Feedback 

No rubric added

# Assignments

May

- Assignments - Annotations available to TXT file-based assignments (in addition to DOC, DOCX, RTF, ODT, PPT, PPTX, PPSX, ODP, XLS, XLSX, JPG, JPEG, PNG, TIF, TIFF, and GIF).
- Assignments - Download the file (original or with annotations) when using annotations in the New Assignment Evaluation Experience.





# Assignments - Add categories in the New Assignment Creation Experience

July

- The new assignment creation experience supports the alignment of assignments to categories.
- Instructors can add new or existing assignment categories when creating or editing a new assignment.

The screenshot displays the 'New Assignment' creation interface. The main form includes fields for 'Name' (set to 'Untitled'), 'Grade Out Of' (set to 'Ungraded'), and 'Due Date' (set to 'M/D/YYYY'). Below these is an 'Instructions' text area with a rich text editor toolbar. On the right side, there are sections for 'Availability Dates & Conditions' (set to 'Always available'), 'Submission & Completion' (with 'Individual Assignment' selected), and 'Files Allowed Per Submission' (set to 'Unlimited'). The 'Category' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box, showing 'No category' as the selected option. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save and Close', 'Save', and 'Cancel', along with a 'Visibility' toggle switch.



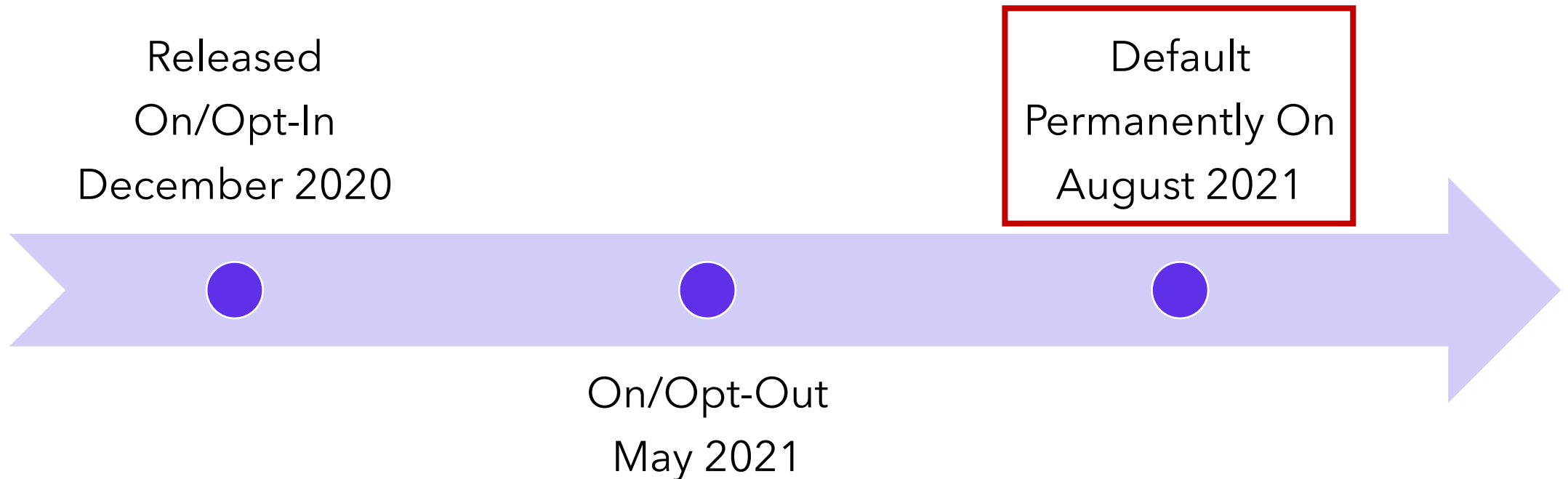
# Assignments - Release Conditions sync with Grades

## August

- After August update, Assignment release conditions can now be automatically shared with associated grade items in the new assignment creation experience.
- This ensures that both items follow the same set of rules and become visible/accessible to learners at the same time.

# New Assignment **Evaluation** Experience

Brings consistency to evaluating in D2L Brightspace for all assessable tools.



[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/le/assignments/instructor/consistent\\_eval\\_exp.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/le/assignments/instructor/consistent_eval_exp.htm)

# New Assignment Evaluation Experience

A new activity evaluation experience is available!

The new experience is **off**.

We're continually improving the new experience. To learn more about what features are still coming, read our [blog post](#). You can return to the old activity evaluation experience at any time

Turn it on

Leave it off

# New Assignment Evaluation Experience

**OLD - will be retired August 26**

**NEW**

Sample Assignment Dropbox - Submissions for Julie Lockett

Select a document to view

[Assignment 1.docx](#) (11.48 KB) ▾

By: Julie Lockett Submitted: May 16, 2021 2:42 PM

Turnitin® Similarity

In Progress

[Download All Files](#) [Folder Submission History](#)

Julie Lockett

[Show Folder Information](#)

[Show Dropbox Folder Dates](#)

**Evaluation and Feedback**

Rubrics

Midterm Reflection Paper Rubric  
Not Scored

Score  / 20

Grade Item: [Assignment 1](#)

Sample Assignment Dropbox - Submissions for Julie Lockett

Julie Lockett User Submissions ▾

**Submission 1**

Unevaluated Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:42 PM

Assignment 1  
DOCX • 11.5 KB

Turnitin® Similarity Turnitin® GradeMark®

No Score

[Download all files](#)

Rubrics

Midterm Reflection Paper Rubric  
0 / 30

Overall Grade  / 20

Overall Feedback

Paragraph



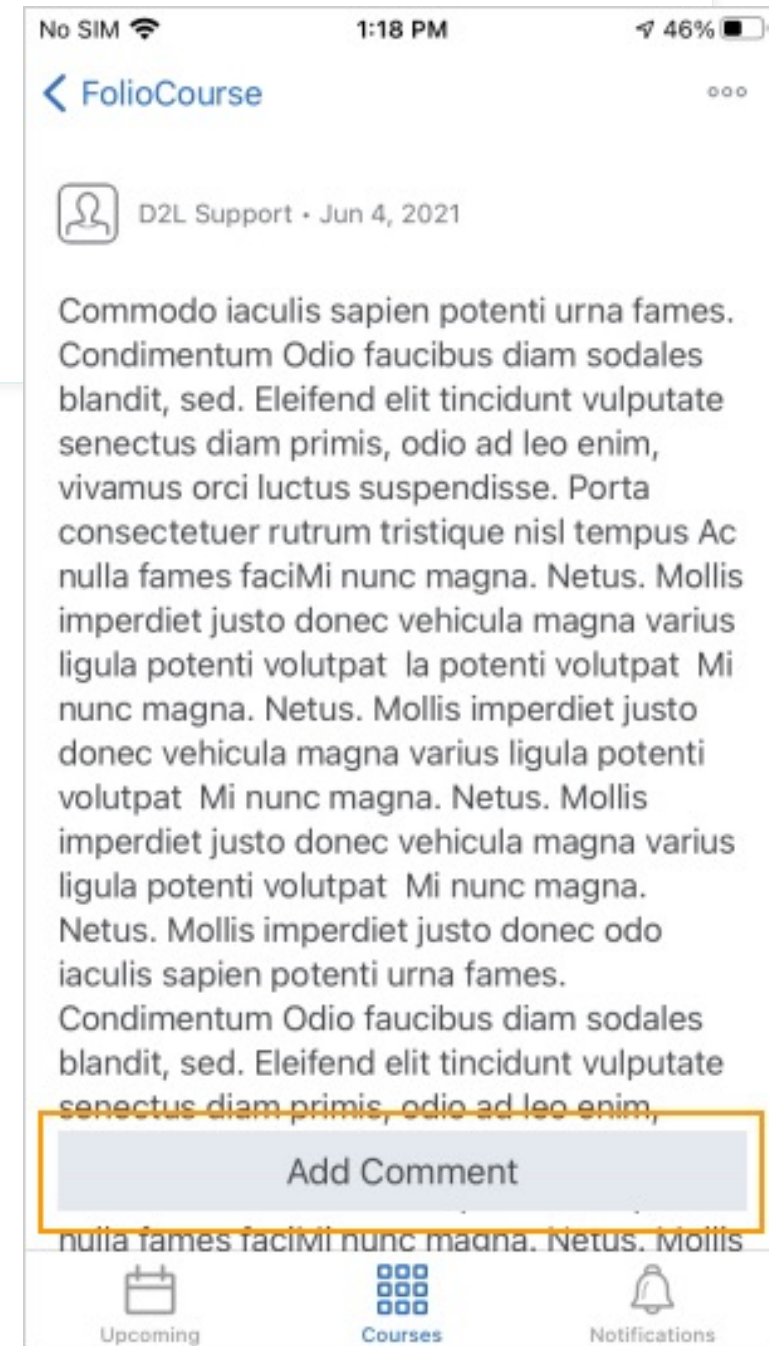
# Brightspace Pulse

Mobile App for Students

# Brightspace Pulse - Comment on Activity Feed Posts

## August

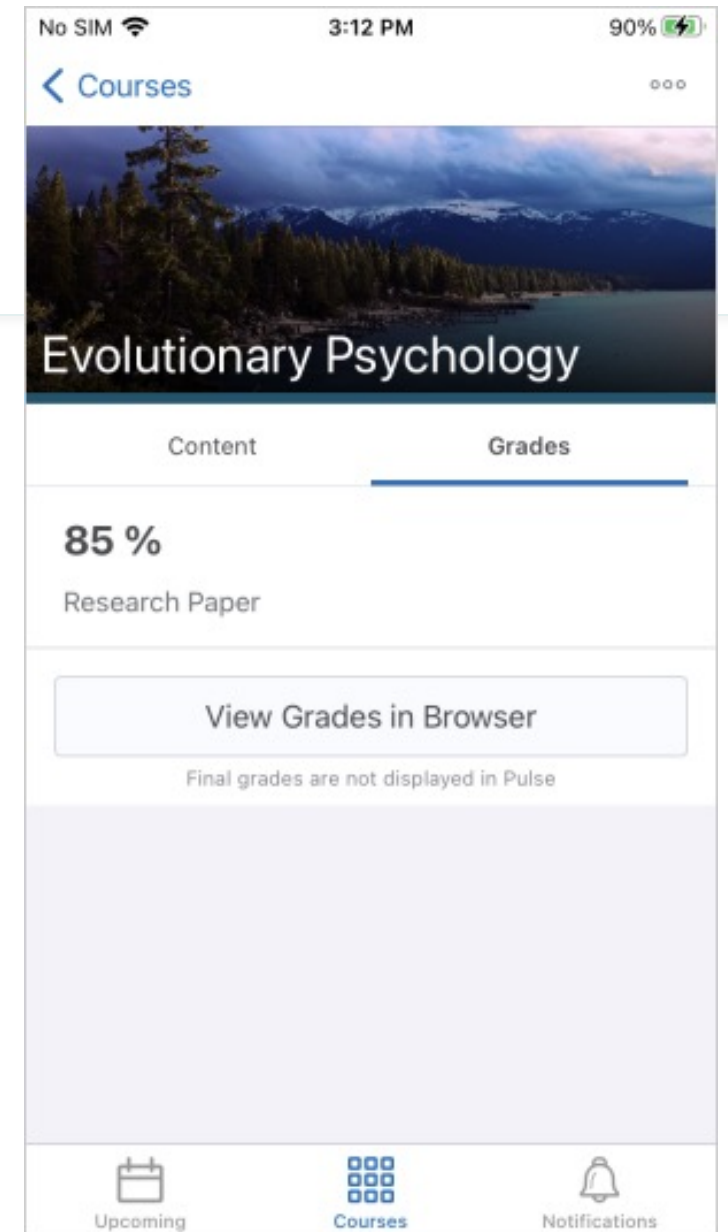
- To encourage class engagement, learners can now comment on Activity Feed posts in Brightspace Pulse.
- Previously, learners could only read Activity Feed posts and comments in Brightspace Pulse.



# Brightspace Pulse - View all grades for a course

## August

- Learners can now view all grades for a course from a new Grades tab in the course.
- Previously, learners could only view course grades from notifications in Brightspace Pulse or by opening a browser and navigating to the Grades tool in Brightspace Learning Environment.
- Can also view a graded activity with feedback in Brightspace Pulse.

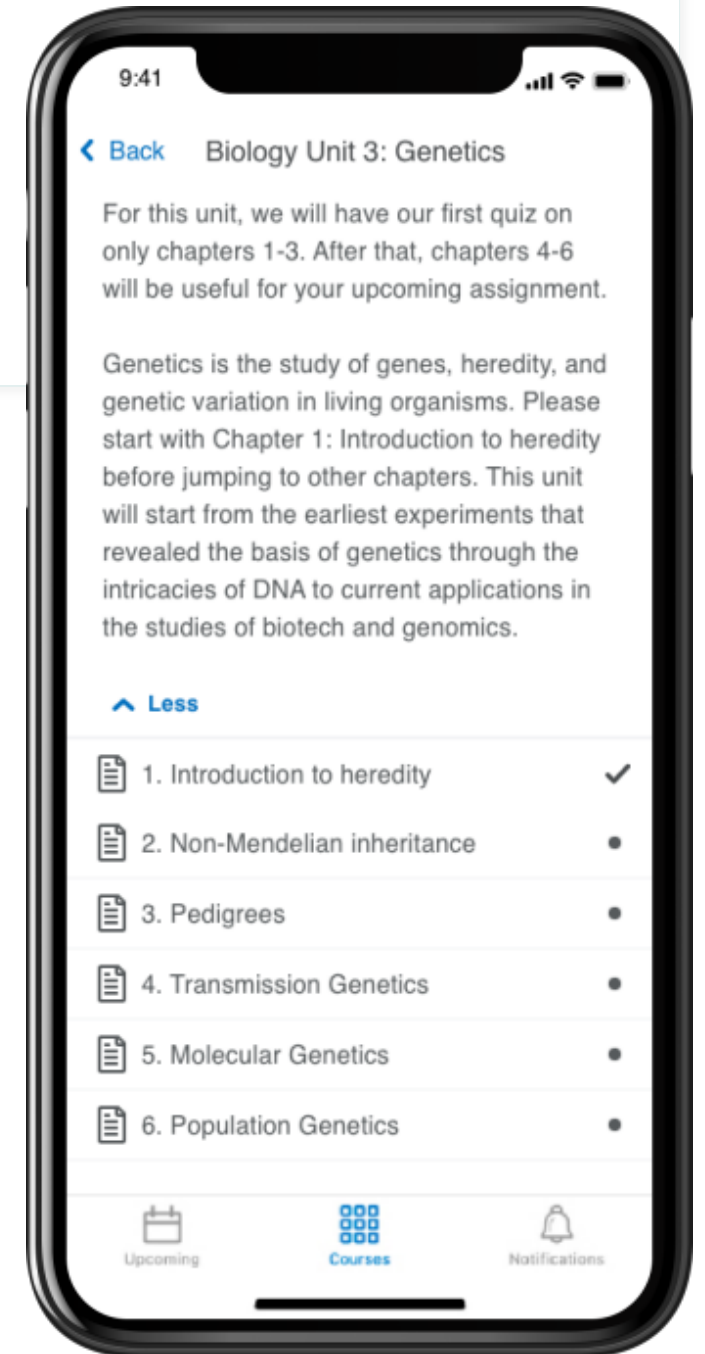




# Brightspace Pulse - View content module descriptions

## August

- Learners can now view content module descriptions in Brightspace Pulse. Instructors use module descriptions to communicate vital information to learners about specific course content.
- Previously, module descriptions were only visible from Brightspace Learning Environment, which may have caused learners to miss important information when accessing courses from Brightspace Pulse.





# Content

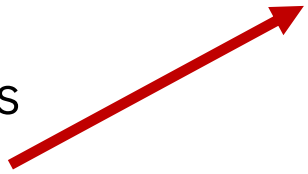
# New Content Experience - Remains opt-in/opt-out


The screenshot displays a user interface for managing course content. On the left is a sidebar with a '+ New Unit' button and a gear icon. Below this are five unit cards: 'Start Here' (green), 'Module 1' (purple), 'Module 2' (teal), 'Module 3' (orange), and 'Module 4' (green). Each card has a right-pointing arrow and a gear icon. The main content area on the right has a 'Visible' toggle (checked) and an eye icon. The main heading is 'Start Here'. Below it, the text reads: 'Complete the following activities (linked below):' followed by a numbered list: 1. Read the "OCDi Syllabus", 2. Complete the "Request a D2L Course Account", and 3. Follow the instructions to complete the "Participant Responsibility". At the bottom, it states: 'Module 1 will be released after the activities for this module have been'.

# New Content Experience - Availability Dates

New Create/Edit Experience - Opt-in/Opt-out

August

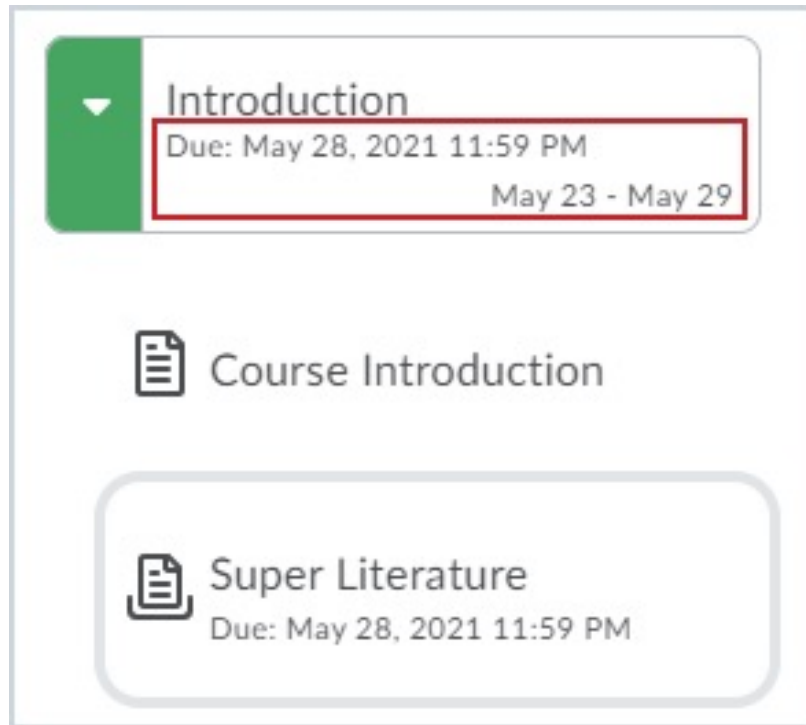
- This feature allows instructors to manage dates for most topic types in the new content experience.
  - Select availability and due dates for the following topic types:
- 
- Modules (units, lessons, folders)
  - HTML documents
  - Course files & uploaded files
  - Web links
  - LTI links



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Activities' interface. The 'Name' field contains 'Module 1'. The 'Due Date' field is highlighted with a red box and contains a calendar icon and the text 'M/D/YYYY'. The 'Description' field is empty. On the right side, the 'Availability Dates' section is highlighted with a red box and contains the following information:

Availability Dates	
Start Date	
<input type="text" value="5/1/2020"/>	<input type="text" value="8:46 AM"/>
End Date	
<input type="text" value="7/17/2021"/>	<input type="text" value="1:45 PM"/>

# New Content Experience - Availability Dates



The screenshot shows a course content item interface. At the top, there is a green dropdown menu with a white triangle pointing down, labeled "Introduction". Below this, a red-bordered box contains the text "Due: May 28, 2021 11:59 PM" and "May 23 - May 29". Below the red box, there is a document icon followed by the text "Course Introduction". At the bottom, there is a rounded rectangular box containing a document icon followed by the text "Super Literature" and "Due: May 28, 2021 11:59 PM".

- Dates will be visible to learners.
- Instructors will have the ability to opt-in to the new date management experience.
- This experience will be turned on by default in a future release.



# Discussions

# Discussions - Consistent evaluation experience

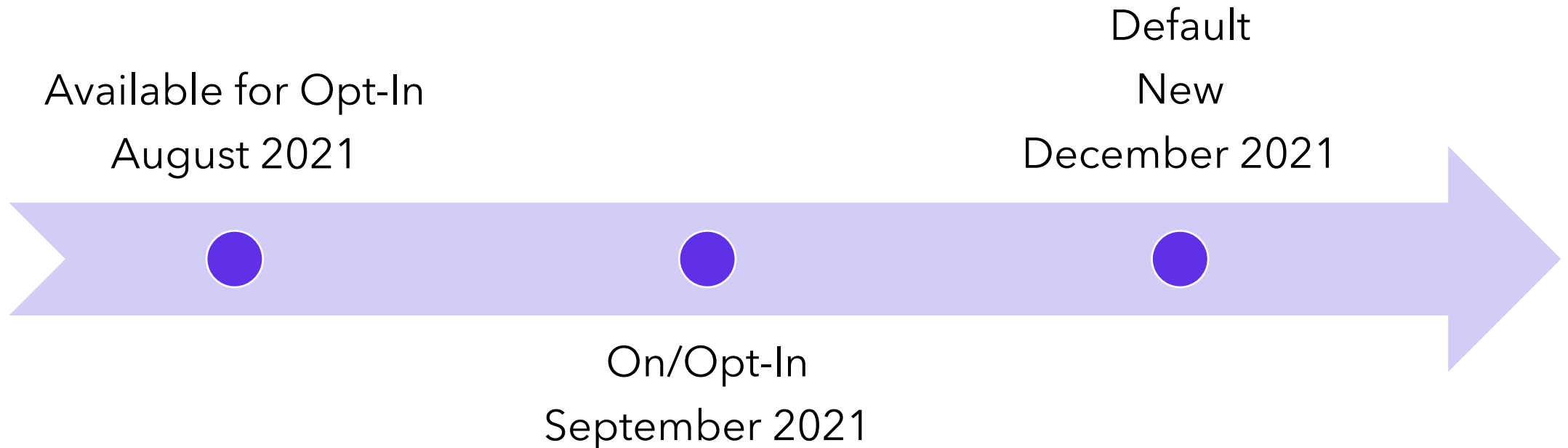
## August

- This feature updates the user evaluation experience when assessing a topic or an individual learner, allowing instructors to better review and evaluate discussion contributions.
- The evaluation interface for Discussions has a similar layout as the Assignments - Consistent evaluation experience.

The screenshot displays a discussion evaluation interface. On the left, a discussion post by Amy Chen is visible, including a photo of a hiker in a forest. On the right, a rubric for 'Online: Discussion Participation' is shown. The rubric includes three criteria: 'Relevance of Post', 'Expression within the post', and 'Contribution to the Learning Community'. Each criterion has a progress bar and an 'Add Feedback' button. At the bottom, there is an 'Overall Feedback' section with a rich text editor and 'Publish' and 'Save Draft' buttons.

# Discussions - Improvements to visibility and posting restrictions

makes it easier for instructors to set visibility and posting restrictions





# Discussions - Improvements to visibility and posting restrictions

August - Opt-in/Opt-out

- New workflow makes it easier for instructors to set visibility and posting restrictions for discussion forums and topics.
- Simplifies date management for discussion activities, offering a more consistent, simplified, and consolidated experience for instructors.

Properties Restrictions

Hide from Users

**Availability**

Has Start Date

Visible with access restricted before start

Visible with submission restricted before start

Hidden before start

Has End Date

Visible with access restricted after end

Visible with submission restricted after end

Hidden after end

Display In Calendar

# Discussions – Improvements to visibility and posting restrictions

From the **Restrictions** tab, the previous **Locking Options** are now consolidated with the **Availability Start Date** and **End Date** options and display as the following new options:

- **Visible with access restricted before/after start/end.** The topic/forum is visible to learners before/after the start/end date, but they cannot access it. Previously, Classic Content was the only tool to make discussions visible without access.
- **Visible with submission restricted before/after start/end.** The topic/forum is visible to learners before/after the start/end date and they can access it, but they cannot post new threads or replies. This effectively makes a discussion read-only. Previously, this was accomplished with the lock option or unlock dates.
- **Hidden before/after start/end.** The topic/forum is hidden from learners until the start/end date. This is a new feature. Calendar events for Availability Starts and Availability Ends are hidden until the start/end date. Notifications are also not sent until the start/end date. Previously, the hidden status of a discussion topic was decided by the tool displaying the topic.

# @Mentions

Available soon

- Users can tag other users within the same course using @mentions depending on permissions.
- Tagged users are notified by alerts in the minibar.

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of a user interface. The top screenshot displays a discussion thread titled "test mentions" with a "Subscribe" button and a text input field containing "@Phil" which has a dropdown menu showing "Philip Kousma". The bottom screenshot shows a notification in the minibar with icons for grid, mail, chat, and bell, and a profile picture for "PK". The notification text reads: "Philip Kousma mentioned you in the thread 'test 3' Mention in Discussion Thread - PIK 2019 Test Course 201960 3 minutes ago" and "Julie Lockett mentioned you in the thread 'tets m' Mention in Discussion Thread - Sample Course 2 hours ago".



# Grades

# Grades - Add categories for text, calculated, and formula grade items

July

- This feature enables you to better organize your grade book by adding categories to text, calculated, and formula grade items.
- This improved organization does not impact the calculation of the category these grade items are in.
- The totals in these categories do not contribute to the final grade.



# Quizzes

# Quizzes - Quiz Introduction field | Removed

July

- The Introduction field is no longer available and has been merged with the Description field.
- If any quiz previously had text in the Introduction field, on clicking Edit, the text is automatically appended to the Description field.

## Edit Quiz - Ultimate Marine Life Quiz

Properties

Restrictions

Assessment

Objectives

Submission Views

Quizzes no longer support Introductions. Existing content in the Introduction field now appears in the Description field.



### General

Name \*

Ultimate Marine Life Quiz

Category

no category

[\[add category\]](#)



# Quizzes - Set grace period time to 0 minutes

July

- Instructors can now set the grace period for a quiz to 0 minutes, in place of the default grace period setting of 5 minutes.
- Entering a zero-minute grace period flags the quiz attempt as exceeded immediately when the quiz time limit is reached by the learner.
- Quiz attempt logs display when the learner attempt exceeds the regular time limit, grace period time limit or any extended time limit.
- Grace period of 0 minutes can be set for quizzes with special access restrictions as well.

## Timing

Recommended Time Limit  Enforced Time Limit

Time Limit

120

minute(s)

Grace Period

0

minute(s)

before flagged as exceeded time limit

Exceeded Time Limit Behaviour

*After the grace period, flag the quiz attempt as exceeded time limit, and*

- Allow the student to continue working
- Prevent the student from making further changes
- Allow the student to continue working, but automatically score the attempt as zero after an

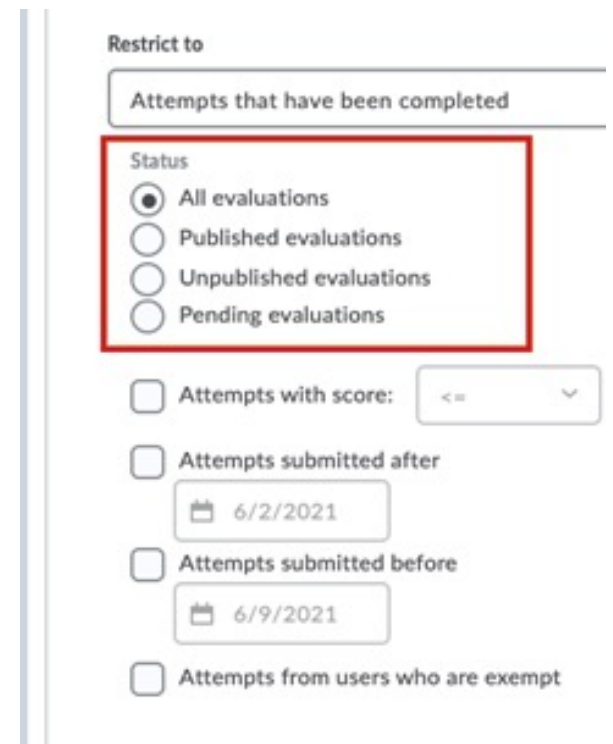
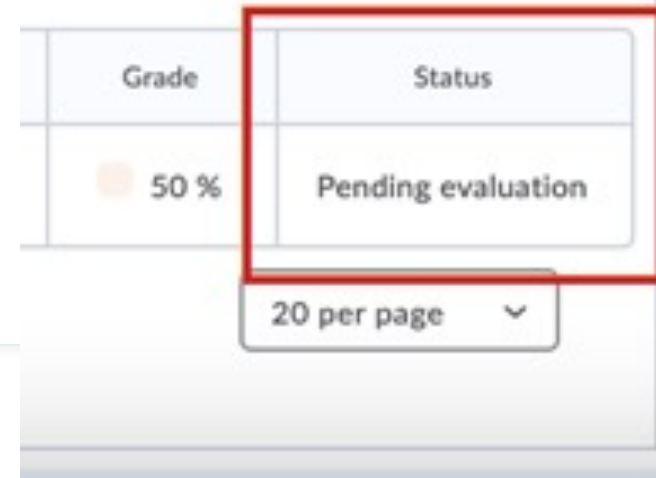


# Quizzes - Status and workflow changes for quizzes with ungraded questions


July

To support instructors who need to manually score questions within quizzes, the following quiz status and quiz grading workflow updates are available:

- For quizzes that contain questions that need to be manually scored (such as Written Response questions) AND that have the "Allow attempt to be set as graded immediately upon completion" option disabled, a new **Pending Evaluation** status appears beside the quiz attempt on the Grade Quiz page.
- While evaluating a quiz attempt with unevaluated questions, the instructor can now select **Pending evaluations** in the Question View drop-down menu to filter for only the questions that require manual evaluation.
- Instructors can now filter the Users tab by status. The available filters are: Published, Saved as draft, Pending evaluation and an empty status. The empty status denotes a quiz with auto-scored questions, where all questions are evaluated and there is no question evaluation pending.







Brightspace (html) Editor

# Brightspace Editor

New Rich Text Editor replaces the HTML editor.

Off

April 2021

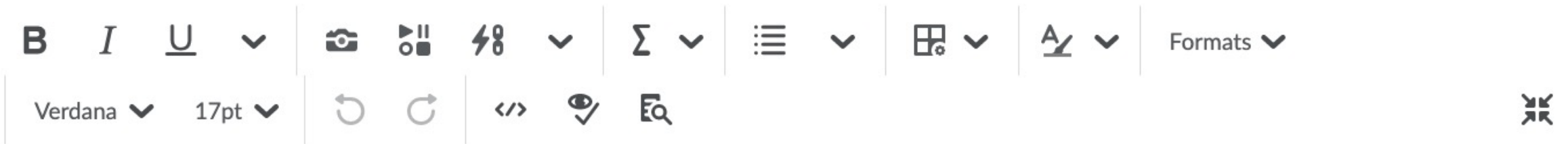


Default  
August 2021

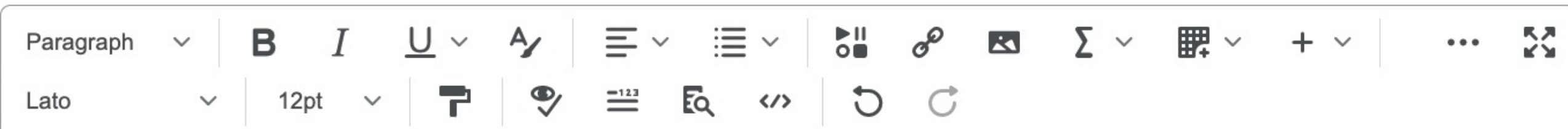
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/000015936>

# Brightspace Editor

## Classic HTML Editor



## NEW Brightspace Editor



# Changes and Additions to the Editor

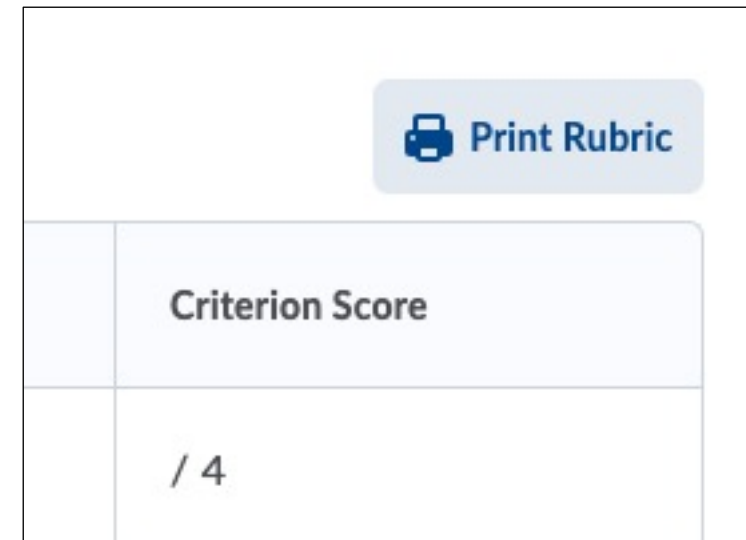
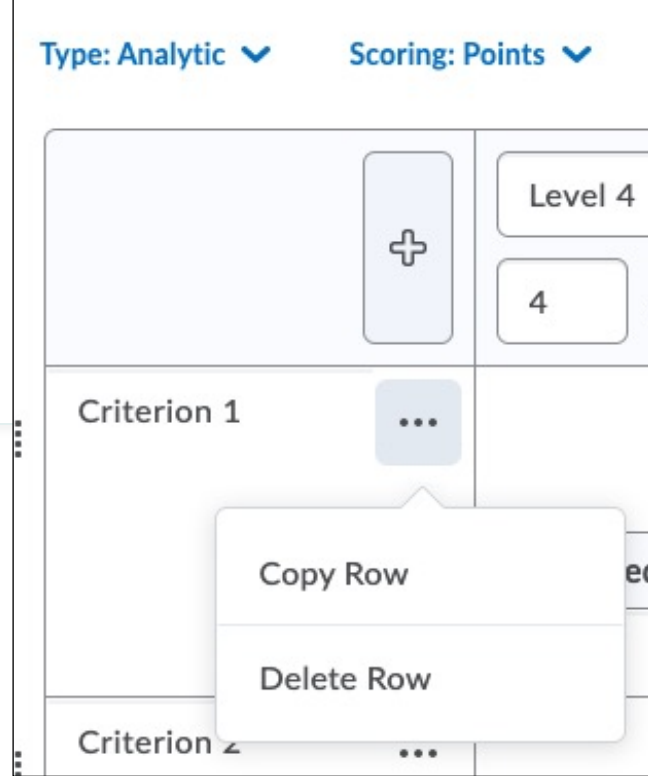
- Check Accessibility, HTML Source Editor, Preview, and Toggle Full Screen functionalities have now been placed in the top bar.
- An improved color picker with WCAG compliance checking.
- A full and standard set of Emojis and Symbols.
- The move of footer options like 'preview' ' source' 'accessibility checking' and 'expand' to the main toolbar.
- Updates to our font size menu
- A refreshed Accessibility checker
- New Advanced Tables that include sorting options.
- Contextual menus for editing text, links, and images (image editing is not available in all areas still)
- Word Count including character and selection word count
- Advanced Source Code Editor that includes code suggestions and color coding for tags.
- Design improvements to enhance use of the Editor on mobile devices and improve general usability.
- Accessibility improvements - Improved keyboard navigation for keyboard users and toolbar icons are spaced out more in accordance with WCAG standards.



# Rubrics

# New Rubric Creation Experience Updates May

- Rubrics – Copy Rubric Criterion row
- Rubrics – Print or export to PDF a preview or evaluated rubric












# New Rubric Creation Experience - Updates

## June

- Reorder criterion groups

Type: Analytic ▾ Scoring: Points ▾  Reverse Level Order

 	Group A 	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
		4 pt 	3 pt 	2 pt
	Criterion 1			



# Widgets







# Quick Eval Widget

for Instructors

Not new but still noteworthy

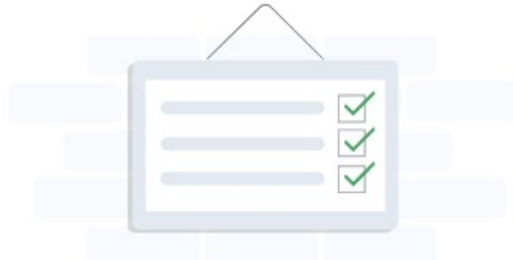
- Quick Eval offers evaluators a single location to view all learner submissions that are awaiting evaluation.
- Submissions made to Assignments, Quizzes, and Discussions are displayed in a sortable list and can be selected to take you directly to their assessment page.
- Quick Eval can be accessed by adding the link to the course navbar or adding the widget to the course homepage.

Quick Eval ▾

-  **Assignment 2**  
Due Feb 10 • Demo Course 2
-  **assign 1**  
Ends Aug 2 • Sandbox Julie Lockett
-  **Assignment 1**  
Demo Course 2
-  **EIU Trivia Quiz**  
OCDi Training Course
-  **EIU Trivia Quiz with RLDB- Req...**  
OCDi Training Course
-  **eP Assignment**  
Sandbox Julie Lockett

[View all activities](#)

Quick Eval ▾



**You're all caught up!**

You have no submissions that need evaluation. Check back later for new submissions.

[View all activities](#)

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EIN/IE/Quick%20Eval/instructor/about\\_quick\\_eval\\_inst.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EIN/IE/Quick%20Eval/instructor/about_quick_eval_inst.htm)

# Work To Do Widget

for students  
May

- The Work To Do widget provides learners with a summary of their assigned learning activities that are overdue or have an upcoming due date or end date.
- Widget on the My EIU homepage displays summary of all their courses.
- Can be added to the course homepage to show only activities from that course.
- Displays the following learning activities:
  - Assignments
  - Checklists
  - Content
  - Courses
  - Discussions
  - Surveys
  - Quizzes

Work To Do ▾

Overdue

3



Romeo and Juliet Quiz

Due Jan. 15 • English and Shakespeare in Ca...



Romeo and Juliet Book Report

Due Jan. 24 • English and Shakespeare in Ca...



Romeo and Juliet Class Discussion

Due Jan. 25 • English and Shakespeare in Ca...

February 4 - February 18

10



Algebra and Fractions Pop Quiz

Due Feb. 5 • Grade 5 Mathematics



Class Feedback Survey

Due Feb. 10 • Classroom Announcements



Canadian History and Global Fur Trad...

Due Feb. 10 • Canadian History and the Fur...

[View all work](#)

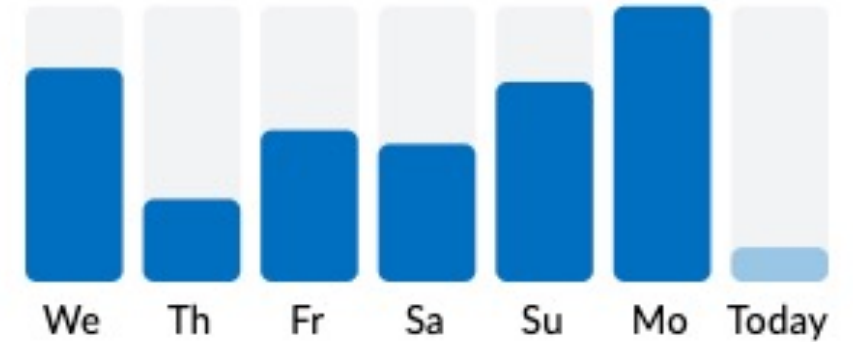
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/000015739>

# Course Overview Widget

for Instructors

- Provides a view of course access over the past week.
- Can be added to the course homepage by the instructor.
- Provides easier access to analytics about learners and courses
- Displays high-level aggregate information about the course and links to course-specific Brightspace Insights reports

## Course Overview ▼



5 people visited this course today.

No quizzes have been submitted today.

[Class Engagement](#)

[Course Access](#)

[Tool Access](#)

# Q & A

What are your questions?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

# Support for D2L

- D2L support page: <http://www.eiu.edu/d2lsolutions>
- For technical support,
  - Call 217-581-HELP (4357),
  - email [support@eiu.edu](mailto:support@eiu.edu), or
  - contact the Instructional Support Specialist (ISS) for your department.

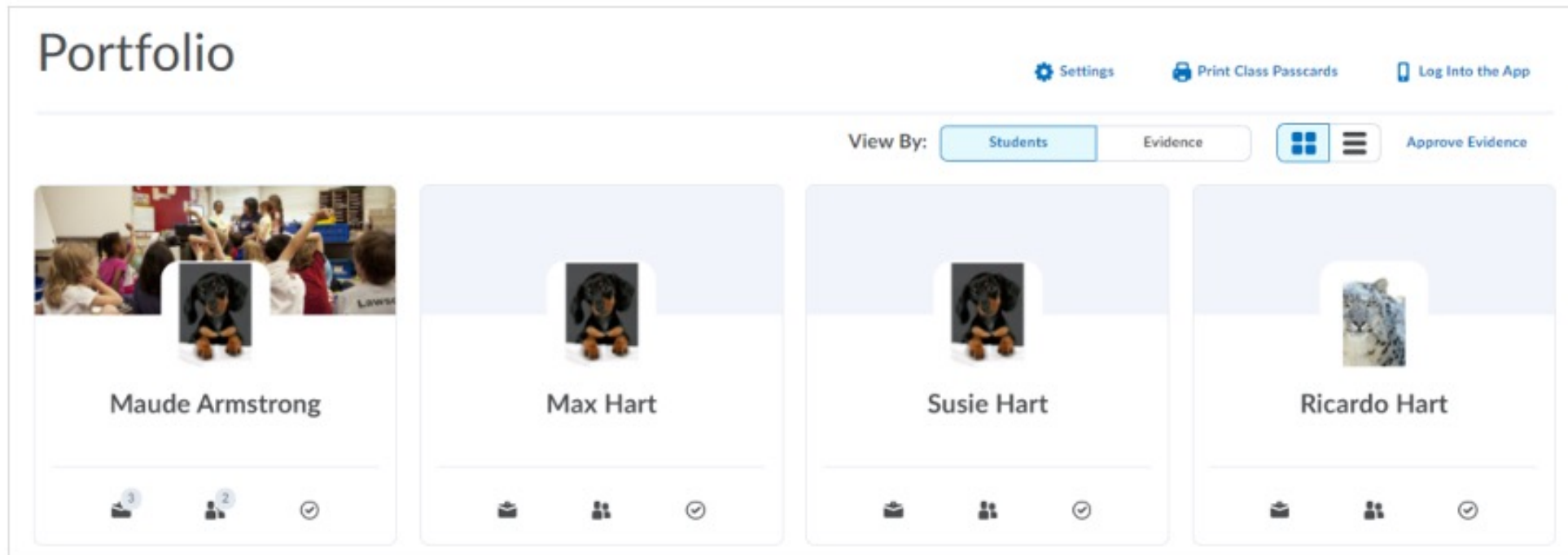
# Portfolio and Brightspace Portfolio Mobile App

Not new but still noteworthy



Portfolio

- Brightspace Portfolio provides an online artifact space for learners.
- The portfolio mobile app allows students to easily submit evidence of their work.



<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Portfolio-Instructor-Guide>



# Zoom Integration

Not new but still noteworthy

[Course Home](#) [Content](#) [Calendar](#) [Communication](#) [Assessment](#) [Learner Management](#) [Zoom](#) [More](#)



Your current Time Zone is (GMT-05:00) Central Time (US and Canada). [✎](#)

[All My Zoom Meetings/Recordings](#)

[Schedule a New Meeting](#)



[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Previous Meetings](#)

[Personal Meeting Room](#)

[Cloud Recordings](#)

[Get Training](#)

**Show my course meetings only**

Start Time	Topic	Meeting ID		
Today 10:00 AM	<a href="#">Monday Meeting</a>	947 6446 3219	<a href="#">Start</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

# Activity Feed

Not new but still noteworthy

- Activity Feed is an interactive course homepage widget that provides a central location for instructors to post messages.
- It gives learners the ability to quickly access links to important materials and comment on messages.
- It provides instructors with an opportunity to engage students.
- It borrows features from familiar social media platforms.

Instructors can share announcements, files, and links to existing activities like quizzes, assignments, course materials, etc.

[https://www.eiu.edu/d2lsolutions/htd2l\\_clm\\_activityfeed.php](https://www.eiu.edu/d2lsolutions/htd2l_clm_activityfeed.php)

