

D2L / Canvas Tool Comparisons

D2L	Canvas	Similarity/Differences
My Home	Dashboard	Courses and important notifications displayed. In Canvas, instructors and students have the ability to select “favorite” courses to display on the Dashboard and assign a unique color to them.
Course Home	Home	Canvas uses modules as the default home page and this is the required setting based on the Course Template.
Classlist	People	Canvas has similar features as D2L, like viewing the students’ progress, but it also where Groups are created and students enrolled. This area is not visible to students.
News	Announcements	Important course related information can be displayed. Canvas can have messages posted to the students and they can reply to them. External RSS feeds can also be included.
Content	Modules	Similar to D2L, courses can be built from the Modules area with associations with other tools. Modules has Content Pages, Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes, External URLs, and External Tools. Links to other tools, uploaded files, and images can easily be added to a Content Page.
Content Manage Files	Pages Files	In Canvas, course files are housed in two separate area, Pages and Files. Pages is for all the web (HTML) pages created within the course. Files is for all of the uploaded documents or images within the course. Note: These areas will not be visible to your students.
Discussions	Discussions	Offers an asynchronous communication method. Canvas doesn’t have Forums, but there are three sections Pinned Discussions, Discussions, and Closed for Comments. The Discussions section is “Ordered by Recent Activity”, so until messages get posted, it will look like they are out of chronological order.
Dropbox	Assignments	Canvas will have other tools (Discussions, Quizzes, Surveys, etc.) listed here including submissions. New submission types are available in Canvas – No submission, Online (has multiple options as well), On Paper, and External Tool. Assignments can have Peer Review added to them.
Grades	Grades	Canvas only has one Grades screen, but grade item creation, editing, and scoring can be done here as well as in other tools. The system will automatically create a Grade Item for all assignments (Discussions, Quizzes, Surveys, and submissions) marked as graded. Can add a “Notes” column for information about the student.
Quizzes	Quizzes	Canvas has surveys created within the Quizzes tool. Canvas uses Question Banks like D2L uses Question

D2L / Canvas Tool Comparisons

		Libraries. There are only two tabs, Details and Questions, when creating a quiz.
Calendar	Calendar	The Calendar in Canvas is similar to the one in D2L but offers more options. Instructors can create placeholder assignments for each course using this tool and have them appear in that course's Assignments area. There is also a "personal" calendar instructors and students can use for non-course related events. Each course will use the color that was selected by the individual user in the Dashboard area.
Attendance	Attendance	Canvas has two views, List and Class (seating chart). When the instructor starts tracking attendance, a "Roll Call Attendance" item will be created in the Assignments and Grades areas.
HTML Editor	Rich Content Editor (RCE)	The Rich Content Editor in Canvas has similar basic formatting options like bold, text color, alignment, etc. as D2L does. It also has more advanced built into it as well.

Canvas New Tools	What They Offer
SpeedGrader	Allows instructor to use annotation when grading an assignment (submission, discussion, quiz, etc.). If a section of text is highlighted, it will create a comment area for additional information for the student.
Group Sets	Group Sets organize the groups the instructor wants to create. Each Group Set will appear as a separate tab in the People area. Each Group Set can have as many groups as needed for an assignment or project.
Collaborations	Provides a space for students to work on a project simultaneously from within the Canvas course. Google Docs is the default but our campus will use Office 365 for our Collaboration tool.
Course Link Validator	After a course has been created, copied, or imported, the Course Link Validator can be used to check links to other tools, Pages, files, etc. as well as links to outside website.