

Finding and Using Data in Canvas Courses

There are a variety of places in your Canvas course where you can find data or more information about your students, grades, etc. This guide contains a list of the data, grouped by the location in the course, along with links to Canvas help guides and suggestions for how you might use the data.

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Home page

The menu on the right side of your course **Home** page contains tools to help you manage the course.

View Course Stream

Click the “**View Course Stream**” button to find recent course activity, usually related to new content (e.g., announcements, assignments, discussion posts) and due date changes.

- **How it’s Useful:** Admittedly, this is probably more helpful to students than instructors, unless you're co/team teaching a course.
- **Canvas Guides:**
 - [How do I use the Course Activity Stream as an instructor?](#)
 - [How do I use the Course Activity Stream as a student?](#)

To Do list

Click on the assignment name to enter the SpeedGrader for that assignment.

- **How it’s Useful:** It lets you know how many ungraded assignments you have and quickly jump into the SpeedGrader to tackle them. If you’re looking at it from the Dashboard (not a course Home page), the course will be listed below the assignment name.
- **Canvas Guides:**
 - [How do I use the To Do list and sidebar in the Dashboard as an instructor?](#)
 - [How do I use the To Do list and sidebar in the Dashboard as a student?](#)

Course Analytics

Click the “**Course Analytics**” button (formerly “New Analytics”) for graphs and charts of the average course grade, weekly participation, materials viewed, etc. Use the tabs at the top to switch reports.

Note: The data is mainly presented in a weekly format and refreshed every 8 hours. It will only include students who are enrolled in the course, not those who have dropped/withdrawn.

How it’s Useful: Identify at risk students or track their progress and engagement. You can even message students based on criteria in Course Analytics. You can use the data to inform your course revisions and improvements for future students.

- a. **Course Grade** – Discover the average grade for each assignment, which might help you identify some that need to be revised because students struggled. Click on the

assignment's dot for a bar graph of the average, low, and high grades, along with missing and late submissions.

- b. **Weekly Online Activity** – Find out what area/item in the course has the most or least page views and participations (submissions). Is there a resource very few students have accessed? If so, maybe it needs to be surfaced or explained better. You can also click on a week's dot in the graph to find out who participated that week (and who didn't).
- c. **Students** – View the overall grade, percentage of on-time assignment submissions, participations, last participation date, and page views. You can sort by each of the columns to find outliers. The last participation date might help with NA/QA or Financial Aid reporting.
- d. **Reports** – Download a CSV file that you can open in Excel for missing, late, and excused assignments, the class roster, and course activity. Click on the info icon next to each report name to view a sample.

Canvas Guides:

- [How do I view New Analytics in a course as an instructor?](#)
- [How do I send a message to all students based on specific course criteria in New Analytics?](#)

People area

Go to the "People" area in your course navigation menu to find out more information about everyone enrolled. Students who have dropped or withdrawn will be listed as "inactive."

Last Activity and Total Activity

The date/time of last activity and total time spent in the course is shown for each person.

- **How it's Useful:** You can see which students have recently accessed the course and get a general idea of how active they are (shown in hours:minutes:seconds).
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I use the People page in a course as an instructor - View Users?](#)

Student Interactions Report

Click the "Options" three dots in the upper-right and choose "Student Interactions Report."

- **How it's Useful:** Regular interaction with students is important to help them learn. Find opportunities for additional interaction by looking at when you last interacted with each student (i.e., sent them a message or left a grading comment on an assignment), which ungraded assignments they have, and how long ago those assignments were submitted. You can individually message students from that report.
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I view a summary of all my student interactions in a course?](#)

User Details Sidebar

Click on a student's name in People and a panel will open on the right side of the screen with more details and tools.

How it's Useful:

- a. **Last Graded Items** – Near the bottom of the panel is the student's scores on recently graded assignments. Hover your cursor over the bar graph for a pop-up of the assignment name or click on it to go to the SpeedGrader.
- b. **Student Grades View** – Click the "**Grades**" button to see the gradebook the way that student would. If a student is going to meet with you to discuss their grades, this is the best place to access all the information without violating other students' privacy. You can also get to the Student Grades view through the Grades area.
- c. **Access Report** – Click the student's name at the top and then click the "**Access Report**" button on the right for a list of everything the student has accessed, including the number of views, participations, and the last viewed date/time.
- d. **Interactions Report** – Click the student's name and then click the "**Interactions Report**" button on the right to find out when you last interacted with the student and which ungraded assignments they have.

Canvas Guides:

- [How do I view a student's Grades page in a course from the Gradebook?](#)
- [How do I view the course access report for an individual user?](#)
- [How do I view my course interactions with an individual student?](#)

Grades area

There is a lot of information available from the "**Grades**" area aside from student scores and totals.

Gradebook History

Click the "**Gradebook**" link in the upper-left and choose "**Gradebook History**." You can filter by student, assignment, and date (within the past 365 days). If the "Grader" is listed as "Not available," it is likely from an automated process, such as a publisher integration, a missing submission policy, or a late policy.

- **How it's Useful:** View changes that have been made (e.g., I accidentally deleted a grade and can't remember what it was before, or the effects of regrading a quiz question).
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I view the history of all grading changes in the Gradebook?](#)

Sort by Grade

Click the "Options" three dots for an assignment or total column and choose "Sort by" then "Grade - Low to High" or "Grade - High to Low." To switch it back to alphabetical order, click the "Options" three dots for the Student Name column and choose "Sort by" > "Name."

- **How it's Useful:** If you notice some low scores or quite a few unsubmitted assignments, you can click the "Options" three dots for the column and choose "Message Students Who" to quickly contact students who haven't submitted or whose grade is lower than a certain threshold.
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I send a message to students from the Gradebook?](#)

Average Grade

Click the "Options" three dots for the assignment column and choose "SpeedGrader." The average will be listed in the upper-right area, to the left of the student's name.

- **How it's Useful:** Knowing the average grade can help you determine the effectiveness of the assignment and if students are performing as you expected. If the average is 100%, perhaps that assignment was too easy.
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I use SpeedGrader - View Assignment Details?](#)

Rubric Data

If you used a rubric to grade your students, you can download a spreadsheet of the results by clicking the "Options" three dots for the column and choosing "Bulk Download Rubrics."

- **How it's Useful:** Having a spreadsheet with the results means you can do more data analysis in Excel. This may be particularly helpful for assessment reporting.
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I download rubric assessments using Enhanced Rubrics?](#)

Outcomes Results

If your course is tied to program or DMACC competencies and has Outcomes in quizzes and/or rubrics, you can see the results by clicking the "Gradebook" link in the upper-left and choosing "Learning Mastery Gradebook." In the panel on the right, you can select the option to "Hide outcomes with no results." To return to the normal gradebook view, click the "Learning Mastery Gradebook" link in the upper-left and then "Traditional Gradebook."

- **How it's Useful:** Quickly see which students achieved mastery on the outcomes. Export a report for further analysis or assessment reporting.
- **Canvas Guide:** [How do I use the Learning Mastery Gradebook to view outcome results in a course?](#)

Quizzes

There is a lot more data available about your quizzes other than a student's score. How you access that data will depend on if you're using Classic Quizzes or New Quizzes.

Classic Quizzes

The icon to the left of the quiz name will be an outline of a rocket ship .

How it's Useful:

- a. **Quiz Results** – Find out who has/has not submitted the quiz in two columns at the top.
 - Go to the quiz (click on the quiz name from Modules, Grades, Assignments, or Quizzes), click the "Options" three dots at the top-right, and choose "Show Student Quiz Results." Click on the student's name to view their attempt.
- b. **Quiz Statistics** – Discover the average, high, and low scores, standard deviation, and the average completion time, along with a breakdown of each question. This information can help you revise and improve your quiz questions.
 - Go to the quiz and click the "Quiz Statistics" button on the right. There are buttons in the upper-right to download a "Student Analysis" (each student's attempt with the questions, answers, number correct and incorrect, and overall score) and/or "Item Analysis" (each question, how many answered it, correct and incorrect ratios, variance, standard deviation, etc.).
- c. **Quiz Log** – At the top-right of the student's attempt, click the "View Log" link to see how they progressed through the quiz. You can see if they skipped questions, how quickly they answered questions, etc.
 - **Note:** You will likely see "Stopped viewing the Canvas quiz-taking page..." repeatedly – this occurs for a number of reasons based on timing and/or clicks (e.g., the cursor hasn't moved on the page for 15-30 seconds, the tab was closed, or they clicked on something outside of the quiz tab). So, it doesn't mean they were cheating or doing anything wrong; it could just be that they were thinking/re-reading and didn't move the cursor.
- d. **Survey Results** – Getting student input on how the course is going is important to help you better engage with them and improve the course.
 - Go to the survey and click the "Survey Statistics" button on the right or click the "Options" three dots and then "Show Student Survey Results."

Canvas Guides:

- [How do I view student results in a quiz?](#)
- [Once I publish a quiz, what kinds of quiz statistics are available?](#)
- [How do I view a quiz log for a student?](#)
- [How do I view survey results in a course?](#)

New Quizzes

The icon to the left of the quiz name will be a solid-colored rocket ship . Click the “Options” three dots for the quiz and choose “Build.”

How it’s Useful:

- a. **Reports** – Click the “Reports” tab at the top. There are three types of reports available by clicking the “Generate Report” or “View Report” link. Note that reports are only available for quizzes that have three or more submissions.
 - **Quiz and Item Analysis** – Find out the mean, median, high, and low scores, average time spent, standard deviation, and the score distribution, along with a breakdown of each question. This data can be useful when revising and improving quiz questions. Click the “Export CSV” button to download and open the report in Microsoft Excel.
 - **Outcomes Analysis** – If there are outcomes in the course for DMACC/program competencies and they are tied to quiz questions, you can view the mastery results. You can also download a CSV of the report.
 - **Student Analysis** – Discover the amount of time each student's attempt took, their answers, points earned, number correct and incorrect questions, and other details. Generate the report and then click the “Export CSV” button to download it and open it in Microsoft Excel.
- b. **Quiz Log** – Click the “Moderate” tab at the top and then click the “View Log” link to see how the student progressed through the quiz. For example, if the student skipped a question and went back to it later, that might be an area where they need more learning support.

Canvas Guides:

- [How do I view reports for a quiz in New Quizzes?](#) (includes [View Outcomes Analysis](#) and [Open Student Analysis](#))
- [New Quizzes Quiz and Item Analysis](#) (contains guides such as [What is Standard Deviation?](#) and [What is Item Difficulty?](#))
- [How do I use the Moderate page in New Quizzes - View Log?](#)

Settings

Go to the “Settings” area at the bottom of your course navigation menu.

Course Statistics

Click the “Course Statistics” button on the right side of the page and then click the tabs at the top for more information.

How it's Useful: Find general stats for the course as a whole. The information may not be actionable but could help you see if there's some variety in the course and how students are submitting assignments.

- a. **Totals** – Find out the number of discussions and posts, assignments, assignment groups, rubrics, quizzes, quiz questions and submission, and active students.
- b. **Assignments** – Find the number of assignments and submissions for each Canvas type (e.g., file upload, text entry, quiz, discussion topics, etc.).
- c. **Students** – Quickly see which students have logged in most recently. You can click on their names to view the user details page. You can go to the “People” area of the course to see the last activity date/time for everyone in the course.
- d. **File Storage** – You can see how many files you've uploaded and how much total space they take up. Files that were brought in from a course copy are not included in that total (only the unique files you uploaded directly to that course). Go to the “Files” area in your course to see and manage all the files.

Canvas Guides:

- [*How do I view course statistics?*](#)
- [*How do I view course files?*](#)

Need Help?

Contact one of our [instructional designers](#).