Options to Restrict Student Access to Canvas Course Sites

Overview

Canvas has introduced new options to restrict student access to course sites before the term starts, or after it ends:

(1) Restrict students from viewing course after end date
(2) Restrict students from viewing course before start date

These fields are available from the course Settings menu > Course Details tab.

- If you leave the default settings, your course site will be visible as read-only to instructor and students when the term ends for as long as the course site is retained (currently two years after the term ends). Students do not have access to quiz questions in read-only course sites. More detail here.
- **No action is required by OSU instructors to adjust these settings; we highly recommend you leave them as-is. However, if you want to make changes to student access you must do so before the term ends.** After the term ends, you cannot make any changes to course content or settings.
- No matter which options are set for student access, instructor access to past-term course sites will always be read-only.

### About Term Start and End dates

**Start date** – By default, this date is automatically set to the date the course site is published by the instructor.

**End date** – By default, this is the first day of the subsequent term (this field will be empty in OSU Canvas course sites).

These settings on the Course Details page allow instructors to enter term Start and End dates, and restrict student access to those dates.

If you want to know more about the settings and options, please read on:
Option A: Leave everything as-is *(this is recommended)*:

- These 3 boxes are not checked by default. If you leave them as-is, once the term ends students and instructor see the course listed in “Past Enrollments” and can access the course in read-only mode. Quiz contents are not accessible to students. Instructors may copy the course to a new shell.
*If you want to restrict student access to course sites to term start or end dates that you enter, you must check the “Users can only participate in the course between these dates” checkbox for both of the options that follow.

**Option B**: Select the option to restrict student access after end date:

- [ ] Restrict students from viewing course after end date
- [ ] Restrict students from viewing course before start date

**Option C**: Enter a start date and select the option to restrict student access before start date:

- [ ] Restrict students from viewing course after end date
- [X] Restrict students from viewing course before start date

Students will not see the course listed in “Past Enrollments.” If students had bookmarked the course link, they will get “Unauthorized” page. (If you want to override this behavior and open the course longer than term end date, the course end date must be set AND “Users can only participate in the course between these dates” must be checked in order to override the term end date.) Course is read-only for instructors.

Students will see the course listed in “My Courses” before the term Start date, but the course listing does not include a link. (This is actually no different from just setting the start date and checking the “Users can only participate in the course between these dates.”) Course is read-only for instructors once term ends.

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To clarify: Just having course start/end dates and “Users can only participate in the course between these dates” checked makes the course read-only outside the date range. If you check the “Restrict student” check boxes in addition to these settings, the course becomes completely inaccessible to students outside the date range.

*Note: if your course site has been made publicly visible, restrictions to access will not apply

*Note: When setting course dates, the time ALWAYS defaults to 12:00 am. Be sure to set the date according to the 12 am time setting (i.e., one day “late”!)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selections</th>
<th>Results for Students</th>
<th>Results for Instructors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Users can only participate in the course between these dates” - checked</td>
<td>If instructor enters term Start and End dates, course is read-only to students outside the date range.</td>
<td>Course is read-only for instructors once term ends</td>
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In order for the "Restrict Students" boxes to work, the “Users can only participate in the course between these dates” must be checked, and Start / End date(s) must be set.

If the “Users can only participate” option is not checked the "Restrict students" boxes will not do anything according to the course dates.

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“Restrict students from viewing course after end date” – checked and “Users can only participate” checked

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Course is read-only for instructors once term ends |

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**Resources**

- Learn@OregonState - Canvas - [http://learn.oregonstate.edu.Canvas](http://learn.oregonstate.edu.Canvas)
- Canvas Help Guides - [https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides](https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides)
- All OSU Canvas users can get technical support 24 x 7 x 365. Click the **Help** link in the lower left corner of any Canvas screen. You’ll see options for online instructions, and live support via phone, Web form and chat.