

# Design Options – Groups

## Purpose

Groups provide students with an area for collaborative work or group discussion.

## Canvas Design Option

In Blackboard, assignments and discussions can be created within each group, one at a time. In Canvas, once groups are created, an assignment or discussion board can be assigned to all groups simultaneously. There is also space for group specific discussions.

## More Details

To create a group in Canvas, enter the People section of the course, and select +Group Set.

In Canvas, groups always have access to their own group page, which includes Announcements, Pages (like Wiki in Blackboard), People, Discussions, Files, Conference, and Collaborations. These cannot be removed or hidden.

**Instructors can access groups** by going to the People menu item and then selecting View User Groups. They can also view assigned group discussions by going into the Discussions menu item, opening the desired discussion, and selecting the group.

**Students can access groups** by selecting their group from the Courses & Groups global menu (top menu bar).

**Assignments** can be assigned to groups by selecting, “This is a Group Assignment” when creating or editing the assignment. One group member submits the assignment on behalf of the group. You can set the assignment up to give all group members the same grade, or to grade them individually (although they cannot submit the assignment individually).

**Discussions**, like assignments, can be changed to a group discussion through the settings. Students can access these from the main discussion board or their group page. Only group members will see posts within the group’s discussion board.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Set of Groups' dialog box in Canvas. It has a blue '+ Group Set' button at the top. The dialog box contains the following fields and options:

- Name for Groups:** A text input field containing 'Project Groups'.
- Self Sign-Up:** Two checkboxes: 'Allow self sign-up' (checked) and 'Require group members to be in the same section' (unchecked).
- Group Structure:** Two radio buttons: 'Split students into [ ] equal groups' (unchecked) and 'I'll create groups manually' (checked).
- Create Category:** A blue button at the bottom right.

### Group Assignment

The screenshot shows the 'Group Assignment' settings panel. It contains the following options:

- This is a Group Assignment
- Assign Grades to Each Student Individually
- Group Set:** A dropdown menu currently showing '[ New Group Category ]'.