

Canvas Dates Decoder

Know which date sets expectations and which date controls access

FTCC NOTE: This resource follows the workshop checklist. It does not include Classic Quizzes or Canvas-integrated AI features.

Date settings at a glance

Setting	Meaning	Controls access?	Faculty question
Due date	When work is expected.	No, not by itself.	When should students complete it?
Available from	Earliest access or submission time.	Yes.	When may students begin?
Until	Final access or submission time.	Yes.	When must access close?
Module unlock date	Date a module becomes available.	Yes.	When should this learning unit open?
Course dates	Overall course participation window.	Often, depending on settings.	When is the course generally active?
Section dates	Participation window for a specific section.	Can override course dates.	Does this section need different dates?

Examples

- A paper due Friday at 11:59 p.m. may remain available until Sunday if late submissions are accepted.
- An exam available from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. closes at 10:00 a.m., even if the due date is later.
- A module unlock date can keep an entire module closed even when an item inside it has already opened.
- A student may still be blocked by a prerequisite even when all dates are open.

Date check before publishing

- ☐ The due date matches the syllabus and course schedule.
- ☐ Available-from and until dates reflect the intended access window.
- ☐ Module unlock dates do not conflict with item dates.
- ☐ Course or section dates do not close access unexpectedly.
- ☐ Copied items no longer contain dates from a prior term.
- ☐ The student-facing wording explains any late-work expectation.

Official resources

[Canvas Instructor Guide](#) (external)

[Student View](#) (external)

Guide-ready recording script

Scene	On-screen action	Voiceover
1	Open an assignment and select Edit.	Identify the due date as the expected completion date.
2	Show the Assign To area.	Compare due, available-from, and until dates.
3	Open the module settings.	Show how a module unlock date adds another access control.
4	Enter Student View.	Verify the dates from the student perspective.