

Moodle-to-Canvas Migration Guide

Overview

Your Moodle course export has been successfully imported into Canvas. This guide will help you navigate your new course structure and audit your content.

Pro-Tip: Keep your original Moodle course open in a separate browser tab. Comparing the two platforms side-by-side is the most efficient way to ensure your content migrated accurately.

Feature Comparison Mapping

Use the table below to find the Canvas equivalents for familiar Moodle features and tools:

If you use Moodle...	You'll want to use...
Book*, Folder, Page, IMS Content Package	Canvas Pages
Folder, Label, sub-folders	Canvas Modules
Forums	Canvas Discussions
Files & Media	Canvas Course Files
Folders & Files	Canvas User Files
Quizzes & Questionnaires	Canvas Quizzes
Competencies	Canvas Outcomes , Question Banks , Quizzes
Course Calendar	Canvas Calendar & To Do
Announcements	Canvas Notifications & Announcements
Assignments	Canvas Assignments & Speedgrader
Grades & Joule Grader	Canvas Gradebook & Speedgrader
Groups	Canvas Groups

*Books have no direct equivalent in Canvas. They can be adapted as Pages but will not have the same functionality as in Moodle.

Addressing Migration Gaps

Some Moodle features do not translate perfectly to Canvas. Review the table below for known issues and manual fixes:

Feature	Migration Status	Manual Fix
Moodle Lessons	Does not import natively.	Content may be converted to Pages/Quizzes.
Essay Questions	File attachments are lost.	Manually change the question type to File Upload in Canvas.
Multi-Answer	Mixed-type questions often break.	Manually separate into individual quiz questions.
Question Order	Randomized questions may "clump."	Reorder questions manually in the Canvas Quiz settings.
Book Activity	Converts to a wiki (no index).	Create a manual "Table of Contents" page with internal links.
Surveys	Does not automatically convert.	Rebuild using Canvas Graded/Ungraded Surveys.
Topic Labels	Converted to Pages or Headers.	If long, they become Pages; if short, they become Module Headers.
SCORM/IMS	Does not migrate automatically.	Enable SCORM in Canvas and re-upload via the SCORM tool page.
Rubrics	Do not migrate.	Build out Rubrics manually.
Course Description or Home Page	Does not migrate.	Transfer as a page at the top of the modules instead or cut it from the course.
Third-Party Tools	Do not migrate properly (or at all).	Set up third-party tools to launch correctly within Canvas.

Post-Migration Content Audit

After importing your course, use the following guide to verify that your content transitioned correctly and to identify specific areas where manual adjustments or re-organization may be required.

Quizzes and Question Banks

While the bulk of your testing data converts, specific formatting and advanced question types require a manual audit.

- **Verify Question Integrity:** Open each quiz and select the Questions tab. Ensure math formulas and images rendered correctly.
- **Math Formulas:** If formulas appear broken, use the LaTeX tool (\$...\$) within the Canvas Rich Content Editor (RCE) to re-enter them.
- **Grading Logic:** Check that "Graded Quizzes" didn't import as "Practice Quizzes."
- **Question Type Mapping:**
 - **Standard Types:** (Multiple Choice, T/F, Short Answer) generally import perfectly.
 - **Select Missing Words / Drag & Drop:** These do not import. Rebuild these using the Multiple Dropdown or Matching question types in Canvas.
 - **Calculated Multichoice:** These import as standard formula questions; you will need to regenerate the answer sets.

Files

Files embedded in Moodle (PDFs, images, PowerPoints) are now stored in the **Files Index Page** in Canvas.

- **Audit Embedded Content:** Check pages to ensure images aren't still "pointing" back to Moodle. If an image doesn't load, you may need to re-upload it from your Moodle backup.
- **Organization:** Canvas Files can be messy after an import.
 - **Pro-Tip:** Create a folder named "Discard/Unsure" for errant files.
 - **Naming:** Use clear naming conventions and organize by **File Type** (Audio, Video) or **Content Chunking** (Unit 1, Unit 2).
- **Technical Files:** Imported folders containing HTML, CSS, and JS files should remain intact.

Assignments and Discussions

In Canvas, the **Assignments Index Page** is the "brain" of your gradebook.

- **The Index Page:** All graded items (including Quizzes and Discussions) appear here.
- **Assignment Groups:** You must manually recreate your Moodle gradebook weights by creating **Assignment Groups** in Canvas.
- **Pro-Tip: Unpublish** all assignments initially. Verify the settings (due dates, points, submission types) and publish them only when they are "Canvas-ready" to keep your gradebook clean.
- **Discussion Verification:** Most Discussions import correctly (threaded replies, points), but verify that "Graded" vs "Ungraded" status is correct.

Pages and the Rich Content Editor (RCE)

Page content is generally preserved, including images and embedded files. Moodle "Lesson Headers" often appear in Canvas as individual **Pages**.

- **RCE Features:** Use the editor to add LaTeX formulas, tables, and media.
- **Integrated Apps:** You can now embed content directly from apps like YouTube or Khan Academy.
- **Display Options:** Canvas can "auto-open" (inline preview) files within a page so students don't have to download them.

Course Navigation and Modules

Canvas uses **Modules** to create a linear "flow," replacing the Moodle navigation menu.

- **Navigation Menu:** We recommend keeping only **Home, Modules, Grades, and Announcements** visible to students. Hide the rest under *Settings > Navigation*.
- **Modules vs. Moodle Tabs:** Your Moodle navigation tabs usually become Modules.
 - **Simplicity is Key:** Canvas does **not** support sub-modules (sub-folders). Focus on a flat, vertical flow of content.
 - **Organization:** Use the "Move-To" sidebar to reorder content. Collapse modules while organizing to see the "big picture" of your course.
- **Adding Content:** You can add Quizzes, Files, External URLs, and Text Headers directly to a Module. You can also create "Placeholders" for content you haven't built yet.