



Issue

How do I set up groups in a course?

Solution

The group mode can be one of three levels:

- **No groups** - there are no sub groups, everyone is part of one big community
- **Separate groups** - each group can only see their own group, others are invisible
- **Visible groups** - each group works in their own group, but can also see other groups

The group mode can be defined at two levels:

1. **Course level:** The group mode defined at the course level is the default mode for all activities defined within that course.
2. **Activity level:** Each activity that supports groups can also define its own grouping mode. If the course is set to "force group mode" then the setting for each activity is ignored.

At **Settings** (within course's **Administration** panel), you can select **Separate** or **Visible** groups. You can also choose to "force" group settings throughout the course site from **Settings**.

At **Groups** (within course's **Administration** panel), you can

1. Create a group
2. Select course participants to be assigned to that group
3. Edit the group's settings.

When the course setting for groups is **Visible** and the activity setting is **Visible**, all participants can select (i.e. from a dropdown list on entrance to a forum) how much they want to see within the activity (i.e. forum): "All Participants" or a specific group. Everyone can see all participants' posts in visible group mode. However, you cannot post or reply in other people's groups. (i.e. if you are in Group 1 and you visit Group 2's forum, you cannot reply or post in Group 2 as a student).



If you set a forum to **Separate** groups, a student in a group can only view and post in his own group. That student will not see any of the others groups' postings. If posts are made before the group is introduced, for example the posts are made when the course is running under no groups, then these posts will be visible to all students after you have changed the forum setting to separate groups. Since the posts have no group (i.e. blank), then everyone can see them. However, if a student is then assigned to a group in **Separate** groups mode, that student cannot post any reply to these posts (the ones with blank groups).

You can assign teachers to groups. Editing teachers can see all groups, but if you want a teacher to be only in his or her own group, you can make that teacher a non-editing teacher. This designation can be adjusted at the course **Administration** panel: **Teachers** (or **Instructors**). He or she will not be able to see students from other groups.

Limiting access to specific documents to a single group is not possible.