

# Groups and Sections v8.3.0

**User Guide**  
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## Managing Groups

The Manage Groups tool is used to create group work areas for users. Groups can be used to organize users' work on projects or assignments, or to create special work areas for users with different learning needs.

Users can belong to any number of groups in the same course. For example, a user could belong to a group for each class project, a special interest discussion group, and a group for advanced users all at the same time. Each group can have its own discussion forums, dropbox folders, and locker area to work in. Members of groups can be graded as a team or individually.

### Accessing the Manage Groups tool

Access the Manage Groups tool by:

- Clicking **Groups** on the navigation bar
- Clicking **Edit Course** on the navigation bar, and selecting  **Groups** from the list of course admin tools
- Clicking **Groups** on the **Org Unit Administration** widget
- Clicking the **Manage Groups** button in the Classlist

### Understanding how groups are set up

Before setting up groups you should know how you want them to be organized. A number of things can affect how users are enrolled in groups:

- Were groups set up before or after you enrolled users?
- Are users auto-enrolled in groups?
- Are course participants placed in groups randomly?
- Can users self-enroll in groups?
- What Enrollment Type did you choose?

**Tip** In most cases it is better to set up groups after the majority of users are enrolled in your course. This gives you a better idea of how many users you are organizing and how many groups you need. Setting up groups after enrollment can also ensure better distribution of users between groups.

**Warning** In order for users to be enrolled in groups automatically the 'Can be auto-enrolled' option must be enabled. Contact your site administration if you are having difficulties.

The following descriptions explain the options available when creating new groups and provide conceptual information on when they should be used.

### Enrollment Type

**# of Groups – No Auto Enrollments** A specified number of groups are created, which you can add any number of users to through the Enroll Users page.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many groups you want to create and which users you want in each group. This option could be used when you have a teaching model that divides course participants into specific learning levels or when you want to divide users by skill or interests.

**# of Groups** A specified number of groups are created.

- If 'Can be auto-enrolled' is turned on, they are added using a brick laying algorithm, regardless of whether they enrolled before or after the groups were created. For example, if a class has 23 users and 5 groups, the first user is added to Group 1, the second to Group 2, etc. The sixth user returns the enrollment sequence to Group 1. Groups 1, 2, and 3 have 5 users and Groups 4 and 5 have 4 users. If a new user enrolls later, they are put in Group 4.
- If 'Can be auto-enrolled' is turned off, the specified number of groups are created with no users enrolled in them. You can enroll users using the Enroll Users page.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many groups you want to create, but want the system to place users in groups for you. This option could be used when you want group membership to be indiscriminate, or when classroom, resource, or teaching assistant availability restricts the number of groups you can have.

**Groups of #** The minimum number of groups needed to place users in groups of a specified maximum size are created. More groups are created when they are needed to accommodate users.

- If users are enrolled before groups are set up and 'Can be auto-enrolled' is turned on, users are added using a brick laying algorithm. For example, if a maximum group size of 5 users is chosen for a class of 23, then 5 groups are created. The first user is added to Group 1, the second to Group 2, etc. The sixth user returns the enrollment sequence to Group 1. Groups 1, 2 and 3 have 5 users and Groups 4 and 5 have 4 users. If a new user enrolls later, they are put in Group 4.

**Note** If you have **Auto Enroll New Users** selected and all of the existing groups have reached their maximum size, new users are added to a new group. Because there is no way to know how many new users will join, all new users are added to the same group until it is full. This is called a bucket-filling algorithm because the limits of one group must be met before another group is started.

- If users are enrolled after groups are set up, users are added to groups using a bucket-filling algorithm because there is no way for the system to determine how many groups in total are needed. For example, if a maximum group size of 5 users is chosen for a class in which 23 users eventually enroll, the first five users are added to Group 1, the sixth through tenth user to Group 2, etc. After 23 users are enrolled, groups 1-4 have 5 users and Group 5 has 3 users.

- If 'Can be auto-enrolled' is turned off, the minimum number of groups needed to create groups under the specified size are created with no users enrolled in them. If no users are enrolled in the course, one group is created. You can enroll users using the Enroll Users page.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many users you want in each group. This option could be used when you have assignments that require work to be divided between a specific number of users, or when you can only accommodate a set number of users in a lab or work area at one time.

**Groups of # - Self Enrollment** The minimum number of groups needed to accommodate users in groups of a specified maximum size are created automatically. Users choose the group they wish to enroll in from their My Groups page, accessible from the classlist.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many users you want in each group, but you want to allow users to choose their own groups. This option could be used when you want users to choose their groups based on friendship, learning style, schedules, or geographic location.

**Note** If users are not already enrolled in your course, then only one group is initially created. You can use the Edit Category page to add additional groups. You may want to add additional groups even if users are already enrolled to ensure all users have options when forming groups.

**# of Groups – Self Enrollment** A specified number of groups are created, which users enroll in from their My Groups page, accessible from the classlist.

Use this enrollment type when you want to make a specific number of groups available for users to join. This option could be used for organizing groups on specific topics, which users could join based on interest, or for creating groups that are responsible for specific aspects of a larger project, which users could join based on knowledge or task preferences.

### Advanced Properties

**Auto-Enroll New Users** New users are automatically added to the group with the least users, or to a new group if the maximum size of all existing groups has been met.

Use this option when you don't want to manually add new users to groups.

**Note** If you choose the enrollment type **Groups of #** you may end up with a group that has only one or a few users in it. You can manually change group enrollment, including adding users to full groups, using the Enroll Users page. (See *Enrolling users in groups*, p. 9, for more information.)

**Randomize users in groups** Users are added to groups based on a random order. If this option is not selected, users are added to groups alphabetically based on their order in the classlist.

### Additional Options

**Setup Forums** Allows you to select or create group specific discussion forums and topics.

Use this option when you want users to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss material using the Discussions tool.

**Setup Locker** Allows you to create a locker area for each group.

Use this option when you want users to store their work in a group work area where other members of the group can view and modify it.

**Setup Dropbox** Allows you to create dropbox folders for each of the groups. A group can have multiple folders belonging to different categories.

Use this option when you want each group to have its own folders for submitting assignments to. This could be helpful if different users are responsible for grading different groups.

## Enrollment Scenario 1

You have a class of 185 users.

Your latest assignment requires users to use a software program that is only available in certain labs which must be booked and supervised. You book 4 labs that can hold 50 users each and create 4 corresponding groups.

You select group options as follows:

- For the **Enrollment Type** you select **# of Groups** and set the **Number of Groups** to 4.
- You leave both **Auto-Enroll New Users** and **Randomize users in groups** unchecked because new users will not be joining your course and you are not worried about having an unbiased distribution of users, since group membership will not influence users' grades.
- You select the **Setup Forums** option and create discussion forums where users can post and answer questions about the computer software.
- You leave **Setup Locker** and **Setup Dropbox** unchecked because you do not want users collaborating on their projects and you already have your dropbox folders organized by assignment rather than group membership.

## Enrollment Scenario 2

You have a class of 29 users.

Your latest assignment requires that users research a particular topic, write a report on it, and hold a seminar for the class. You know that you want users to work in groups of 5, but you want to give them some flexibility in choosing both who they work with and what topic they work on.

You select group options as follows:

- For the **Enrollment Type** you select **Groups of # - Self Enrollment**. You set the **Number of Users** per group to 5 and rename each of the 6 groups after the topic the group will work on.


- Since users are selecting their own groups, the **Auto-Enroll New Users** and **Randomize users in groups** options do not apply.
- You select the **Setup Discussion Areas** option and create discussion topics for each of the groups. You associate the topics with a grade item and tell users that you expect them to communicate with each other on their progress and concerns through the Discussions tool. They receive individual grades based on their participation.
- You select the **Setup Locker** option and encourage users to save their collaborative work in their group locker area.
- You select **Setup Dropbox** and create separate dropbox folders for each group's Research Notes, Report, and Seminar Notes. You associate the folders with Grade Items and assign the same grade to all members of the group.

## Creating a category

Categories are a way of organizing and managing related groups. For example, you could have a different category for Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Seminars, Remedial Help, and Book Reviews.

If you want to create a new set of groups you need to set up a category and create restricted work areas for the groups first. All of this is done from the New Category page.

### ► To create a category

- 1 From the Manage Groups page, click the  **New Category** icon.
- 2 Enter a **Category Name**.
- 3 Enter a **Description** of the category.
- 4 Select an **Enrollment Type**. (See *Understanding how groups are set up*, p. 2, for more information on enrollment types.)
- 5 Specify the **Number of Groups** to create or the **Number of Users** per group depending on the **Enrollment Type** you chose.
- 6 Select **Auto-Enroll New Users** if you want users to be enrolled in groups automatically.
- 7 Select **Randomize users in groups** if you want users to be placed in groups randomly. If this option is not chosen, users are placed alphabetically based on the classlist.
- 8 Select **Setup Forums** if you want to associate discussion areas with the groups in the category.
- 9 Select **Setup Locker** if you want to associate locker areas with the groups in the category.
- 10 Select **Setup Dropbox** if you want to associate dropbox folders with the groups in the category.

## Creating group restricted discussion topics

When you create a new category with the **Setup Discussion Areas** option checked, you are automatically taken to the Create Restricted Discussion Areas page. From this page you can create a separate topic for each group within an existing or new forum.

### ► To create group restricted discussion areas

- 1 Select the **Forum** you want from the drop-down list if you have already created a forum in the Discussions tool.
- 2 Click the **New Forum** link to create a new forum for the category. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for detailed instructions on setting up a forum.)
- 3 Click **Add Another** if you want to add more than one discussion forum.
- 4 Click **Create** or **Create and Next** when finished.

**Note** Clicking the **Skip** button takes you to the next page in the groups setup process without creating any restricted discussion areas.

## Editing discussion forums

You can edit group enrollment in restricted discussion forums and topics from the Groups tool. To add, edit, or delete forums or topics restricted by group you must use the Discussions tool. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for more information.)

- 1 From the Manage Groups page, click the name of the category that contains the discussion forum you want to edit.
- 2 From the Edit Category page, click the **Edit Discussion Restrictions** link.
- 3 Select the Forum you want to make changes to in the **Forum** drop-down list or select 'All Forums' to edit multiple forums at once.
- 4 Use the checkboxes in the **Edit Restrictions** grid to modify group enrollment in discussion forums and topics.
- 5 Select **Automatically create restricted topics** if you want to add topics to the forums.
- 6 Click **Save**.

Forums and Topics	Restricted?	Case Study Groups							
		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
Contemporary Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Explosives and earthquakes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic Foods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farming and Horticulture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Edit Discussion Restrictions page

### Creating locker areas

If you select the **Setup Locker** option, locker areas are automatically created for each group in the category.

### Creating dropbox folders

If you select the **Setup Dropbox** option, you are automatically taken to the Create Dropbox folders page. Creating a folder from this page creates a folder for each of the groups in the category.

#### ► To create a dropbox folder


- 1 Complete the Create Dropbox folders page using the instructions in the *Dropbox User Guide* section.
- 2 Click **Add Another** if you want to create more than one folder.
- 3 Click **Create** when finished.

**Note** Clicking the **Skip** button takes you to the next page in the groups setup process without creating any shared dropbox folders.

### Workspace Summary page

The Workspace summary page lists how many groups, discussion forums, lockers, and dropbox folders were created for the category.

### Creating a group

- 1 Click the  **Add Group** icon on the Manage Groups page.
- 2 Update the **Group Name** if you want it to be different from the one provided.
- 3 Update the **Group Code** if you want it to be different from the one provided.
- 4 Enter a **Description** for the group, if desired.
- 5 Click **Add**.


### What happens when you add a new group after enrollment?

If you add a new group with **Auto-Enroll New Users** turned on, new users are automatically enrolled in the new group until users are evenly distributed between it and other groups. Once it is the same size as other groups, new users are added normally. (See *Understanding how groups are set up*, p. 2, for more information.)

### Editing groups and categories

- 1 From the Manage Groups page, click on the name of the group or category you want to edit.
- 2 Update the appropriate fields. (See *Creating a group*, p. 8, or *Creating a category*, p. 6, for detailed instructions.)
- 3 Click **Save**.

### Deleting groups and categories

- 1 From the Manage Groups page do one of the following:
  - Select the checkbox beside the group or category you want to delete.
  - Select the checkbox at the top of the list to select all groups and categories.
- 2 Click the  **Delete** icon.

### What happens when you delete a group?

- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is selected, users are automatically distributed in the remaining groups.
- If groups are set up for manual enrollment, users must be added to the remaining groups using the **Enroll Users** page.
- Group discussion forums remain available for reference. They can be deleted using the Discussions tool. (See the topic *Discussions User Guide*, for detailed instructions.)
- Group locker areas and the files they contain are deleted.
- Group dropbox folders and the files they contain are deleted.

### What happens when you delete a category?

- Users are no longer enrolled in groups because they do not exist.
- Group discussion forums remain available for reference. They can be deleted using the Discussions tool. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for detailed instructions.)
- Group locker areas and the files they contain are deleted.
- Group dropbox folders and the files they contain are deleted.

## Enrolling users in groups

Users are enrolled in groups based on the enrollment options selected on the New Category page. Use the Enroll Users page to:


- Manually enroll users in groups if you selected **# of Groups – No Auto Enrollments**.
- Manually change which group a user is enrolled in.
- Add users who enrolled late to a group if **Auto Enroll New Users** is not selected.
- Search for users who have not been assigned to a group.

The screenshot shows the 'Enroll Users - Case Study Groups' interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Category List', 'Edit Category', and 'Enroll Users'. Below that is an 'Add Group' section with 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. The main section is titled 'Enrollments' and includes a 'Category' dropdown set to 'Case Study Groups', a 'Display' dropdown set to 'All Groups', and a 'Search For' input field. There are also checkboxes for 'Search In' (First Name, Last Name) and 'Enrollment' (Enrolled, Not Enrolled). A table below shows a list of users and their enrollment status across eight groups. The table has columns for 'First Name, Last Name' and 'Group 1' through 'Group 8', each with a 'Users' count. Checkboxes in the table indicate enrollment status for each user in each group.

First Name, Last Name ▲	Group 1 Users: 2	Group 2 Users: 2	Group 3 Users: 2	Group 4 Users: 2	Group 5 Users: 2	Group 6 Users: 0	Group 7 Users: 0	Group 8 Users: 0
Vickie Brewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Catcher 📄	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danielle Fleur 📄	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harold McLellan 📄	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miguel Mendoza 📄	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Parker 📄	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Enroll Users page for Groups

#### ► To modify or add enrollment

- 1 From the Manage Groups page, click the  **Enroll Users** icon.
- 2 Select whether you want to **Display** 'All Groups' or a specific group.
- 3 Enter information in the **Search For** field to search for a specific user.

**Tip** Use the **Not Enrolled** advanced search option to find users that still need to be added to a group.

- 4 Enroll users or adjust enrollment using the checkboxes in the **Enroll Users** grid.
- 5 Click **Save** when you are finished.

**Tip** Manually enrolling users allows you to exceed the enrollment limit for a group.

#### What happens when you move a user to a new group?

- Discussion messages remain in the old group and do not count towards a user's grade if the forum or topic is associated with a grade item. The user must satisfy the discussion message requirements in the new section. You can override a grade using the Grades tool. (See the section *Grades User Guide*, for more information on editing a user's grade.)
- Locker files remain in the old group. Users must add any files they wish to keep to the new locker area themselves.
- Dropbox files submitted for the old group remain with the old group. The user receives the grade achieved by the new group on any group assignments. You can change the user's grade back to the original group's mark in the Grades tool. (See *Grades User Guide*, for more information on editing a user's grade.)

## Deleting a user from a group

When a user is deleted from a group, all of their files remain in the system, including: discussion messages, dropbox folders, and locker files.

### ► To delete a user from a group

- 1 From the Enroll Users page, clear the checkbox for the group beside the user's name.
- 2 Click **Save**.

## Enrolling users that can lead courses into groups


How a user that can lead courses is enrolled in groups depends on whether they have access to all groups or only select groups. Users should have access to all groups if they are responsible for mediating, grading, and working on material for the entire class. They should have access to select groups if they are only responsible for mediating, grading, or working on material for a particular group.

### Best Practices

- Add staff that will be working with select groups the same way you add users.

**Warning** If the 'Can be auto-enrolled' option is selected for users that can lead courses and assisting users are added to groups at the same time as users; all or most of your staff may end up in the same group. Make sure you even out enrollment using the Enroll Users page.

### ► To modify or add enrollment for users that can lead courses

- 1 From the Manage Groups page, click the  **Enroll Users** icon.
- 2 Search for the user you want to add in the **Search For** field.
- 3 Select the checkbox for the group you want to add the user to in the Enroll Users grid.
- 4 Click **Save**.

**Tip** Use the **Not Enrolled** search option to see a list of users that need to be enrolled.

## Setting up self-enrollment

Self-enrollment allows users to enroll in groups on their own. Use this option when you want users to have the freedom to choose their own group members or to be a part of a group on a topic that interests them.

Users can self enroll in groups by clicking the **Choose Group** link beside the name of a group category set up for self enrollment. The link displays at the top of the user's Groups page when self-enrollment is available.

**Groups**

**My Groups**

**Note:**

- You are not enrolled in a group from the 'Industry Mentors' group category [\[Choose Group\]](#)
- You are not enrolled in a group from the 'Peer Review' group category [\[Choose Group\]](#)

**My Groups**

Groups	Members	Dropbox	Discussions	Locker	Email
<b>Case Study Groups</b>					
Group 3	2				
<b>Contemporary Issues Discussion Groups</b>					
Group 1	4	Discussion Ref...	<a href="#">Genetically Mo...</a>	<a href="#">Group Files</a>	
<b>Group Presentations</b>					
Group 1	2	2	<a href="#">Explosives and...</a>	<a href="#">Group Files</a>	
<b>Rebuttal groups</b>					
Group 3	1	Case Studies			

**Choose Group - Industry Mentors**

Select a Group From the Following

Select a group to enroll in from the group category: Industry Mentors

Group	Description	Members
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Group 1		2
<input type="radio"/> Group 2		2
<input type="radio"/> Group 3		4
<input type="radio"/> Group 4		0
<input type="radio"/> Group 5		2

Close Select

User view of the Groups page and Choose Group page

**Note** If a group is full, the total listed in the **Members** column appears in red with the word 'Full' beside it.

**Tip** Clicking on the total listed in the **Members** column opens the Group Members pop-up containing a list of current group members.

#### ► To set up self enrollment


- 1 Follow the instructions in the *Creating a category*, p. 6 section.
- 2 Select 'Groups of # - Self Enrollment' or '# of Groups – Self Enrollment' from the **Enrollment Type** drop-down list.

## What users see

Course participants access the Groups tool through the Classlist or by clicking the **Groups** link on the course navigation bar.

From the Groups page, users can:

- Select the **Choose Group** link beside an enrollment message to enroll in a new group.
- Click on the number in the **Members** column to view the Member List for a group.
- Click on a dropbox folder to view its contents.
- Click on a discussion forum to view its postings.
- Click on a link to a group's locker files.

- Click the  **Email Group** icon to email all of the members of a group.

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## Managing Sections

The Manage Sections tool lets you divide your class into sections to help manage large enrollments. Sections make it easier to organize assistants, assignments, and grades.

When sections exist for a course, users only see learning materials and other users in their own section. If you want users to see all users and content for a course, but be a part of a group for a specific project or activity, use the Manage Groups tool. (See *Managing Groups*, p. 13, for more information on setting up and managing groups.)

### Accessing the Manage Sections tool

Access the Manage Sections tool by:

- Clicking **Edit Course** on the navigation bar, and selecting  **Sections** from the list of course admin tools.
- Clicking **Sections** on the **Org Unit Administration** widget
- Clicking the **Manage Sections** button in the Classlist.

**Note** The **Has Sections** option must be selected for your course offering. Contact your site administration about turning on this option.

### Understanding how sections are set up

Before setting up sections for your course you should develop a plan for how you want your sections to be organized. A number of things can affect how users are enrolled in your sections:

- Were sections set up before or after you enrolled users?
- Are users auto-enrolled in sections?
- Are users placed in sections randomly?
- What Enrollment Type did you choose?

**Tip** In most cases, it is better to set up sections after the majority of users are enrolled in your course. This gives you a better idea of how many users you are organizing and how many sections you need. Setting up sections after enrollment can also ensure better distribution of users between sections.

**Warning** In order for users to be enrolled in sections automatically, the 'Can be auto-enrolled' option must be enabled. Contact your site administration if you are having difficulties.

The following descriptions explain the options available on the Create Sections page and provide conceptual information on when they should be used.

### Enrollment type

**# of Sections** A specified number of sections are created with an unlimited number of users in each section.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many sections in total you want to create.

This option could be used when you know how many assistants you will have to assist with grading or tutorials, when you have specific classroom hours available to you, or when you are using a teaching model that divides users into a set of learning levels.

**Sections of #** An unlimited number of sections are created; each section has a specified maximum number of users.

Use this enrollment type when you know how many users you want in each section.

This option could be used if you are offering a professional development course that is always available. When enough users enroll to fill a section you could begin the course. It is also a good option when you do not know how many users are going to enroll, but you need to make sure each section is a manageable size.

### Advanced Properties

**Auto-Enroll New Users** New users are automatically added to the section with the least users, or to a new section if the maximum size of all existing sections has been met.

Use this option when you don't want to manually add new users to sections.

**Note** If you choose the 'Sections of #' option you may end up with a section that has only one or a few members in it. You can manually change section enrollment, including adding users to full sections, using the Enroll Users page. (See *Enrolling users in sections*, p. 18, for more information.)

**Randomize users in sections** Users are added to sections based on a random order. If this option is not selected, users are added to groups alphabetically based on their order in the classlist.

## Enrollment scenario – # of Sections

You create 4 sections for a course with a maximum class size of 200 users. 194 users enroll.

- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is selected, users are automatically added to sections. The first users in the enrollment list is added to Section 1, the second to Section 2, etc. This continues until a user is put in the last section in the sequence and then it returns to the beginning of the sequence. Thus, the fifth user is added to Section 1. This is called a brick laying algorithm because it is based on even distribution.

For a class of 194 users, Sections 1 and 2 have 49 users and Sections 3 and 4 have 48 users. If a new user enrolls later, they are put in Section 3.

- If **Randomize users in sections** is selected, the user enrollment list is randomized and users are added to sections using the random order. This option only works if an enrollment list exists prior to creating sections.
- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is turned off, you must manually add new users to sections using the Enroll Users page. (For information on manually enrolling users see *Enrolling users in sections*, p. 18.)

## Enrollment scenario – Sections of #

You set a maximum section size of 25 users and 140 users enroll.

- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is selected and users are enrolled before sections are defined, users are distributed evenly through the minimum number of sections possible. This is called a brick laying algorithm because it is based on even distribution.

For a class of 140 users, 6 groups are needed. Sections 1 and 2 have 24 users and Sections 3-6 have 23 users. If a new user enrolls later they are put in Section 3.

When all of the sections reach their maximum size, 25 users, then Section 7 is created. This section fills to 25 users before Section 8 is created. This is called a bucket-filling algorithm because the limits of one section must be met before another section is started.

- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is selected and users are enrolled after sections are defined, sections are filled one at a time because the system has no way of knowing how many users will enroll. The first 25 users to enroll are added to Section 1, the next 25 users to Section 2, etc. Sections 1-5 have 25 users and Section 6 has 15 users after 140 users enroll. This is called a bucket-filling algorithm because the limits of one section must be met before another section is started.

If new users enroll later they are put in Section 6 until it is full and then Section 7 is started.

- If **Randomize users in sections** is selected, the user enrollment list is randomized before users are added to sections. This option only works if an enrollment list exists prior to creating sections.
- If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is turned off, you must manually add users to sections using the Enroll Users page. (See *Enrolling users in sections*, p. 18, for more information.)

## Creating sections

- 1 From the Manage Sections page, click the **Create Sections** link.
- 2 On the Create Sections page, select an **Enrollment Type**. (See *Understanding how sections are set up*, p. 13, for descriptions of the enrollment types.)
- 3 Fill in the **Number of Sections** or **Number of Users** field depending on the **Enrollment Type** chosen.

- 4 Select **Auto-Enroll New Users** if you want new users to be enrolled in sections automatically.
- 5 Select **Randomize users in sections** if you want users to be placed in sections randomly. If you don't choose this option, users are placed alphabetically.
- 6 Select **Setup Forums** if you want to create discussion forums for the sections.
- 7 Click **Create**.

### Creating restricted discussion areas

If you select the **Setup Discussion Areas** option when creating sections, you are taken to the Create Restricted Discussion Areas page. From this page you can create a separate topic for each section within an existing or new forum.

**Tip** If you want to create forums for each section with multiple topics within the forums, use the Discussions tool. You can add, delete, and change restrictions on section discussion areas from the Discussions tool. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for more information.)

#### ► To create section restricted discussion areas

- 1 Select the **Forum** you want from the drop-down list if you have already created a forum in the Discussions tool.
- 2 Click the **New Forum** link to create a new forum. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for detailed instructions on setting up a forum.)
- 3 Click **Add Another** if you want to create multiple discussion forums.
- 4 Click **Create and Next** when finished.


**Note** Clicking the **Skip** button takes you to the next page in the sections setup process without creating any restricted discussion areas.

### Editing section restrictions on discussion forums and topics

You can edit section enrollment in restricted discussion forums and topics from the Sections tool. To add, edit, or delete forums or topics restricted by section you must use the Discussions tool. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for more information.)

- 1 From the Manage Sections page, click the **Edit overall section properties** link.
- 2 From the Edit Section page, click the **Edit Discussion Restrictions** link.
- 3 Select the forum you want to make changes to in the **Forum** drop-down list or select 'All Forums' to edit multiple forums at once.
- 4 Select **Automatically create restricted topics** if you want to add a topic for each section to the selected forum.
- 5 Use the checkboxes in the **Edit Restrictions** grid to modify section enrollment in discussion forums and topics.
- 6 Click **Save**.

### Adding additional sections

- 1 Click the  **Add Section** icon on the Manage Sections page.
- 2 Update the **Section Name** if you want it to be different from the one provided.
- 3 Update the **Section Code** if you want it to be different from the one provided. (This option may not be available.)
- 4 Enter a **Description** for the section, if desired.
- 5 Click **Add**.


### What happens when you add a section?

If you add a new section with **Auto-Enroll New Users** selected, new users are automatically enrolled in the new section until users are evenly distributed between it and other sections. Once it is the same size as other sections, new users are added normally. If **Auto-Enroll New Users** is not selected, an empty section is created that you can add users to through the Enroll Users page. (See *Enrolling users in sections*, p. 18, for more information.)


### Editing sections

- 1 From the Manage Sections page, click on the name of the section you want to edit.
- 2 Update the appropriate fields. (See *Creating sections*, p. 15, for more information.)
- 3 Click **Save**.

### Viewing sections

Use the  **View Sections** option on the Manage Sections page to view a list of the members that currently belong to each section.

### Deleting sections


- 1 Do one of the following:
  - From the Manage Sections page, select the checkbox beside the section you want to delete.
  - Select the checkbox at the top or bottom of the list to select all sections.
- 2 Click the  **Delete Sections** icon.

### What happens when you delete a section?

- When a section is deleted, users are unenrolled from the section, but not the classlist. You must manually add them to remaining sections using the **Enroll Users** page.
- Section discussion forums remain available for reference. They can be deleted using the Discussions tool. (See *Discussions User Guide*, for detailed instructions.)

## Enrolling users in sections

Users are enrolled in sections based on the enrollment options selected on the Create Sections page. Use the Enroll Users page to:

- Manually change which section users are enrolled in.
  - Add users who enrolled late to a section if **Auto Enroll New Users** is not selected.
  - Search for users who have not been assigned to a section.
- **To modify or add enrollment**
- 1 From the Manage Sections page, click the  **Enroll Users** icon.
  - 2 Select whether you want to **Display** 'All Sections' or a specific section.
  - 3 To search for a specific users, enter information in the **Search For** field.  
**Tip** Use the **Not Enrolled** search option to find users that still need to be added to a section.
  - 4 Enroll users or adjust enrollment using the checkboxes in the **Enroll Users** grid.
  - 5 Click **Save** when you are finished.  
**Tip** Manually enrolling users allows you to exceed the enrollment limit for a section.


## Enrolling users that can lead courses into sections

How users that can lead courses are enrolled in sections depends on whether they have access to all sections or only select sections. Give users access to all sections when you want them to mediate, grade, and work on material for the entire class. Give them access to only select sections when you want them to only interact with or grade a particular section of users.

### Best Practices

- Add staff that will be working with a single section the same way you add users.

**Warning** If the 'Can be auto-enrolled' option is selected for users that can lead courses and assisting users are added to sections at the same time as users; all or most of your staff may end up in the same section. Make sure you even out enrollment using the Enroll Users page.

- **To modify or add enrollment for users that can lead courses**
- 1 From the Manage Sections page, click the  **Enroll Users** icon.
  - 2 Search for the user you want to add in the **Search For** field.
  - 3 Select the checkbox for the section you want to add the user to in the **Enroll Users** grid.
  - 4 Click **Save**.

**Tip** Use the **Not Enrolled** search option to see a list of users that need to be enrolled.

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