



iLearn: Setting up Group Discussions

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Discussion topics can be restricted to a group that has been set up in the course site.

Setting up Group Discussions

Note: Groups *must* be created before creating group discussion topics. See [Creating Groups](#) for more information.

1. Click **Discussions** in the course navigation bar
2. Click the dropdown arrow beside the topic.
3. Select **Edit Topic**.
4. Select **Availability Dates & Conditions**
5. Under "Group and Section Restrictions" select **Manage Restrictions**.

The screenshot shows the 'Manage Restrictions' interface for a discussion topic. On the left, there is a form with fields for 'Topic Title' (containing 'Untitled'), 'Forum' (with a 'Change Forum' link), 'Grade Out Of' (set to 'Ungraded'), and a 'Description' area with a rich text editor. On the right, a sidebar titled 'Availability Dates & Conditions' is expanded. It contains sections for 'Start Date' and 'End Date', both with calendar icons and 'M/D/YYYY' input fields. Below these is the 'Release Conditions' section, which states 'Users are not able to access or view the discussion topic unless they meet the release conditions.' and includes an 'Add Release Condition' link. At the bottom of the sidebar is the 'Group and Section Restrictions' section, which says 'Restrict this topic by group or section' and features a 'Manage Restrictions' link highlighted with a yellow circle.

Figure: Manage Restrictions to assign to groups.

6. Choose from the two options [1]:
 - a. **Restrict topic to only selected groups:** Users in the selected groups can view this topic and all of its threads.
 - b. **Separate threads to create small group discussions:** Users in the selected groups can view this topic but will only see threads from their group.

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7. Choose the group under **Group or Section Category** [2].

Group and Section Restrictions ×

Restrict topic
Users in the selected groups/sections can view this topic and all of its threads. **1**

Restrict topic and separate the threads
Users in the selected groups/sections can view this topic but will only see threads from their group/section.

Select who will see this topic

▼ - Project Groups

2 Group 1

Group 2

Figure: Modify Group Restrictions

8. Click **Add**.
9. Modify any other settings for the discussion. When complete, click **Save and Close**.