



Blackboard Focus on Feature: Adaptive Release & Dashboard

What is Adaptive Release?

Adaptive Release is a feature of Blackboard that gives instructors the ability to release content to students based on a set of rules. It creates a learning path for students to follow. Students must meet the criteria before the subsequent content will appear. The rules may be related to availability, date and time, individual users, group membership, scores or attempts on any Grade Center item, calculated columns in Grade Center, or review status of an item in the Course. (Adaptive Release and Review Status must be 'enabled' in the Control Panel/Customization/Tool Availability screen.)

Types of Adaptive Release

- **Adaptive Release (referred to as 'basic')**: Create basic rules for an item. Only one rule per item can be created, but the rule can have multiple criteria, all of which must be met.
- **Adaptive Release Advanced**: Create sophisticated combinations of release rules by adding multiple rules with multiple criteria to a single content item. Users must meet all the criteria of one of the rules to gain access.
- **User Progress**: View the details on an item for all users in a Course. This page includes information about whether the item is visible to the user and whether the user has marked the item as reviewed.

A **Basic Adaptive Release** rule consists of a set of criteria that defines the visibility of a content item to users. If a rule has multiple criteria, the user must meet all criteria before the item is available. **Advanced Adaptive Release** enables Instructors to create multiple rules for a single content item, and each rule can consist of multiple criteria.

For example, the Instructor adds a rule for an assignment to allow users in Group A to view the assignment after a specific date. This rule would consist of Membership criteria and Date criteria. Another rule for this assignment can allow all users in Group B to view the assignment once they had completed Homework #1. This rule would consist of Membership criteria and Grade Center criteria.

Note: Only one Membership criterion and one Date criterion can be created for each rule. Multiple Grade Center criteria and Review Status criteria can be added to each rule.

*Note #2: Adaptive Release rules and user progress information are only included during a **full Course Copy** with users and during archive and restore operations. Rules and user progress information are not saved during a copy of Course materials into a new Course or during a copy of Course materials into an existing Course. They are also not saved during export and import operations.*

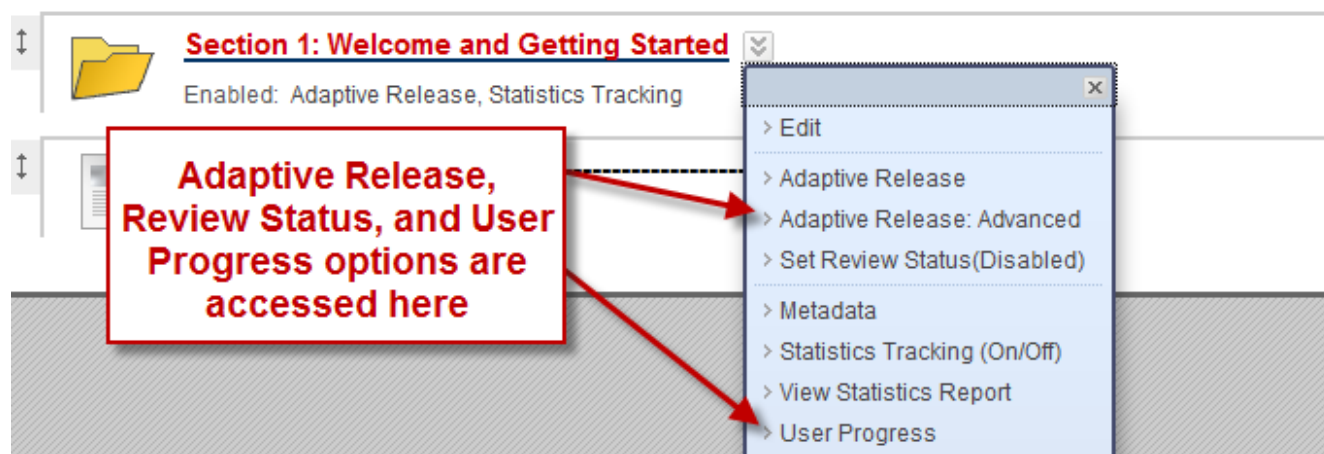
Visibility of Items with Adaptive Release Rules

Once any Adaptive Release rules have been established for an item, visibility of that item is restricted to those users who meet the criteria of those rules.

For example, the Instructor creates a content item called "Introduction" in a Content Area. At this point, all Course users would be able to see Introduction. The Instructor then creates a rule restricting the item to Group A users. Now, only members of Group A can see Introduction—all other Course users do not see Introduction. Next, the Instructor adds another criterion to this rule, restricting it to Group A members who have received at least 80 points on Test #1. Now, only members of Group A who have also scored 80 or greater on Test #1 will see Introduction. All other users, including Group A members who scored less than an 80 on the Pre-Test, will not see Introduction.

If no Adaptive Release Rules have been created, the item is available to all users in the Course depending on the item availability and date restrictions set during item creation or editing.

Note #3: If an adaptive release rule is created, but no criteria for it are defined, the content will display to all users. This is true even if there are other rules associated with the item. One blank criterion will allow the content display to all users.



View Availability of an Item on User Progress Page

Instructors can create one or more Adaptive Release rules to narrow the availability of a content item. It may be difficult to remember which users may access each piece of content. Clicking User progress displays details on the visibility of a content item and the Adaptive Release rules pertaining to it on a user-by-user basis. If Review Status is enabled for the item, an icon is displayed on the User Progress page to show if the user has reviewed the item along with a date and time stamp for when the review was registered for that user.

If no Adaptive Release rules have been created for that item, the visibility column is based simply on availability of the item itself. For example, if the item is available, the Visible icon is displayed for all users.

Differences Between Basic Adaptive Release and Advanced Adaptive Release

Basic Adaptive Release enables Instructors to create one rule for a single item. That rule can contain multiple criteria. Advanced Adaptive Release enables Instructors to create multiple rules for a single item. If an Instructor wants to create different criteria for different users on the same item, more than one rule is needed. For example, the Instructor can set up a rule for Group A that enables these users to view Test 1 after completing Assignment A. The Instructor can set up a separate rule for Group B that enables them to see Test 1 after completing Assignment B.

Unavailable Items and Adaptive Release Rules

Item availability set on the Add Item page supersedes all Adaptive Release rules. If the item is unavailable, it is unavailable to all users regardless of any rules established. This allows Course developers to build out their rules and only make items available when they are finished with rule creation.

About Adaptive Release Criteria

Criteria are the parts that define an Adaptive Release rule. Instructors can apply one or more criteria to each rule. For example, one rule may make content available after a specific date, while another rule, with multiple criteria, may make content available to a Course Group after a specific date.

The following table describes available criteria:

Criteria	Description
Date and Time	Display content based on a date or time. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a specific date • Until a specific date • Within a time frame
Username	Display content to one or more users.



Criteria	Description
Course Groups	Display content to members of one or more Groups in a Course.
Grade Center Column	Display content item to users based a grade or a calculated column.
Grade Center: Item with at least one attempt	Display content based on a recorded attempt by the user, instead of a required score. For example, the user has completed the Test or a grade has been entered for an Assignment.
Grade Center: Item with a specific score	Display content based on a required score. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less than or equal to• Greater than or equal to• Equal to
Grade Center: Item with a score between X and Y	Display content based on a range of scores. For example, if a Student scores between 85 and 100 on an exam.
Review Status an item	Display content to the user only after an associated item has been marked Reviewed by the user.

About Date Criteria

Date criteria enable content to be displayed according to date and time. Content may be displayed after a specific date, until a specific date, or within a time frame.

An Instructor can set date restrictions when creating or editing an item, when adding a Date criterion in an Adaptive Release Rule, or both. For example, an item is made available during creation from December 1 to December 30. Adaptive Release is used to extend the availability to a small group of users until January 15.

Note: If the date is changed on the item itself, for example on the Edit Item page, and Adaptive Release date criteria already exist, a warning message appears. The same is true if the Instructor attempts to add Adaptive Release date criteria and a date for the item has been set on the Add or Edit item page.

How to Add Date Criteria to a Rule

Date criteria are created with the same information for Basic Adaptive Release rules and Advanced Adaptive Release rules. Instructors may add more criteria to a rule, in addition to date criteria, to further narrow the availability of an item.

Follow the steps below to add date criteria to an advanced Adaptive Release rule:

1. Open a Content Area from the Control Panel.
2. Edit Mode is ON.
3. Select Adaptive Release: Advanced from the contextual menu for the item. The Adaptive Release: Advanced page appears.
4. Click Create Rule. The Add Rule page appears.
5. Type a name for the rule and click Submit.
6. -or-
7. Select Edit from the contextual menu for an existing rule on the Adaptive Release page to edit its criteria.
8. Select Date in contextual menu. The Date page appears.

About Membership Criteria



Membership criteria allow content to be displayed according to username and Course Group. The Instructor may set up criteria that use one or both of these options. The Instructor may make this item available to a Course Group, or the Instructor may make this item available to a Course Group and other specific individuals.

Make Content Available to Specific Users

Membership criteria are useful for making content available to a specific user or set of users. For example, if a Student requests a way to earn more points for class the Instructor may agree, but decide to not offer this option to the entire Course. The Instructor creates an extra credit content item and only releases it to the single Student through the Membership criteria.

Make Content Available to Groups

Membership criteria may be used to manage content for Groups within a Course. For example, a class is divided into three groups and each group has a different Assignment. They are instructed to learn the topic and then present the material to the entire class. The Instructor has materials for each Group. The Instructor loads the material for Group 1 as content items, and releases the material only to Group 1. Then the Instructor loads the material for Group 2 as content items, and releases that material only to Group 2. This same process is used for Group 3. When a Group presents the material to the class, the Instructor may then change the release rule on that material so it becomes available to the entire class. (Alternatively, if the Instructor knows the date of presentation ahead of time, the Date criteria may be used to make the content available for the rest of the class.)

How to Add Membership Criteria to a Rule

Membership criteria are created with the same information for Basic Adaptive Release rules and Advanced Adaptive Release rules. Instructors may add more criteria to a rule, in addition to Membership criteria, to further narrow the availability of an item.

Follow the steps below to add a Membership criterion to an advanced Adaptive Release rule:

1. Open a Content Area from the Control Panel.
2. Edit Mode is ON.
3. Select Adaptive Release: Advanced from the contextual menu for the item. The Adaptive Release: Advanced page appears.
4. Click Create Rule. The Add Rule page appears.
5. Type a name for the rule and click Submit.
6. -or-
7. Select Edit from the contextual menu for an existing rule on the Adaptive Release page to edit its criteria.
8. Select Membership in the contextual menu. The Membership page appears.

About Grade Center Criteria

Grade Center criteria can be used to release content based on item attempt, item score, or a calculated column. A number of different score values may be selected, including the following:

- A score greater than a set value
- A score less than a set value
- A score that equals a specific value
- A score that falls within a range of values

Make Content Available Based on Grade Center Attempt

Grade Center criteria are useful for Instructors who want to make content visibility dependent on attempts made by Students on Tests or Assignments. For example, an Instructor prepares a pre-test for Students to complete before review materials are made available. This enables Students to see which topics they should study more.

End-of-term surveys are another use for attempt-based criterion. Some Institutions require that an end-of-term survey is attempted at least once before the final exam is made available.

Make Content Available Based on Grade Center Score or Calculated Column

Grade Center criteria can make content available based on a specific score or a calculated column in the Grade Center. Many Courses rely on progression, where Students must learn one topic before moving to another. If an



Instructor wants Students to have passed the Assignment on basic verb conjugation before viewing the material on advanced verb conjugation, the Instructor can create a rule that allows only Students who have received at least a 70 on the basic verb conjugation Assignment to view the advanced verb conjugation material.

Instructors can also establish a range of values for content release, such as releasing an extra credit item to users who scored between 60 and 80, and releasing a different item with more intense remediation for Students scoring below 60. In this case, the Instructor creates two content items and releases one to users who fall into the 60-80 range and releases the other to Students who received less than 60.

How to Add Grade Center Criteria to a Rule

Grade Center criteria are created with the same information for Basic Adaptive Release rules and Advanced Adaptive Release rules. Instructors may add more criteria to a rule, in addition to Grade Center criteria, to further narrow the availability of an item.

Tip: Only one Grade Center item can be selected for each Grade Center criterion. However, multiple Grade Center criteria may be added to a single Advanced Adaptive Release rule. For example, within a single rule, an Instructor may specify a criterion that makes Project A available after Survey #1 is complete and another criterion that makes Project A available after a score greater than 70 on Test #2 is recorded. In this example, only Students who have completed Survey #1 and scored higher than 70 on Test #2 may view Project A.

Follow the steps below to add a Grade Center criterion to an advanced Adaptive Release rule:

1. Open a Content Area from the Control Panel.
2. Edit Mode is ON.
3. Select Adaptive Release: Advanced from the contextual menu for the item. The Adaptive Release: Advanced page appears.
4. Click Create Rule. The Add Rule page appears.
5. In the Create Criteria drop-down list, select Grade. The Grade page appears.
6. Select the Grade Center item for this criterion in the Select Grade Center Column drop-down list. Grade Center items are listed by their categories, such as Assignment or Discussion. Possible points are also included to help Instructors determine the score range.

About Review Status Criteria

Review Status criteria are used to release content based on the user's review of a specific content item. For example, the Instructor may create a criterion that makes Assignment #1 available only after Students have marked Homework #1 reviewed.

How to Add Review Status Criteria to a Rule

Review Status criteria are created with the same information for Basic Adaptive Release rules and Advanced Adaptive Release rules. Instructors may add more criteria to a rule, in addition to Review Status, to further narrow the availability of an item. Review Status may be applied to a Learning Module but may not be applied to individual files within a Learning Module.

Follow the steps below to add a Review Status criterion to an advanced Adaptive Release rule:

1. Open a Content Area from the Control Panel.
2. Edit Mode is ON.
3. Select Adaptive Release: Advanced from the contextual menu for the item. The Adaptive Release: Advanced page appears.
4. Click Create Rule in the Action Bar to add a rule. The Add Rule page appears.
5. Type a name for the rule and click Submit.
6. -or-
7. Select Edit from the contextual menu for an existing rule on the Adaptive Release page to edit its criteria.
8. Select Review Status in the Action Bar. The Review Status page appears.
9. Select Browse to open the Course Map. Click an item in the map to select it for Review Status criteria. Review Status will be turned on for this item. Users must mark the item reviewed before the content including this rule is available.