

## Why use Gradescope Homework Assignments?

Gradescope homework assignments can be used to collect and digitally assess written or typed work. They can be used for tasks that have a defined (i.e., “fixed”) length (e.g., labelling, matching, written response) or an unknown (i.e., “variable”) length (e.g., essays, long form equations, graphs, diagrams). A Gradescope homework assignment allows instructional teams to provide more standardized and efficient grading and feedback through shared assessment tools.

For detailed information about how to create homework assignments using Gradescope, visit [Gradescope Homework & Problem Sets](#) on the Open Learning and Educational Support website.

## When to use Homework Assignments

When providing an assignment that requires a response on paper, Gradescope's homework assignments can be leveraged by an instructional team to collect submissions of images or pdfs of students' completed work, assess those submissions using dynamic rubrics, annotation, and comments, then return them to the students without the need to collect and track papers. Gradescope homework assignments can be one of two types: variable-length assignment or templated (fixed-length) assignment.

\* Required fields

Assignment Name \*  
Name your assignment

Template \*  
Please select a file

Submission Anonymization  
 Enable anonymous grading  
Hide identifiable student information from being listed with submissions.

Who will Upload Submissions?  
 Instructor  Student

Release Date \* (EDT)  
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

Allow late submissions

Enforce time limit

Due Date \* (EDT)  
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

Late Due Date (EDT)  
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

Maximum Time Permitted (Minutes)  
-----

Submission Type  
 Variable length  
Students submit any number of pages and indicate the pages where their question responses are.  
 Templated (fixed length)  
Students submit work where answers are in fixed locations (like worksheets).

## Variable-Length Assignments

A homework assignment type in Gradescope can take various forms. Instructors might consider this assignment type if the length of the assignment is unknown or variable among students. Some examples of variable length assignments include the following:

- Sketching a blueprint/image/graph/chart/design/etc.

- Drawing a diagram
- Answering a set of questions from a textbook
- Responding to a writing prompt

Variable-length submissions can be used when response areas are not defined and/or the length of the submission is unknown. When this assignment is created, a template still needs to be uploaded; however, it could be a PDF containing questions, response prompts, etc. To complete this assignment, students have the option of submitting one PDF (students mark where each question is in the document) or individual images (one or more per question).

For variable-length assignments, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) grouping is not available.

## Templated (Fixed-Length) Assignments

Instructors can also use the Gradescope homework assignment type for templated (fixed-length) assignments. Examples of templated assignments include the following:

- Worksheets
- Problem sets
- Labelling an image/diagram

Fixed-length submissions are appropriate for tasks where the assignment has a defined length and the instructional team knows where the responses will be (e.g., a worksheet). In this case, a template of the assignment is uploaded when the assignment is created, and the response areas are defined (much like for the exam/quiz assignment type). To complete the assignment, students must upload one PDF (the template provided for the assignment) that contains the submission.

The templated homework assignment type allows for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) answer grouping that can save a lot of time during assessment. This works well for short answer, fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice, multi-select, and true/false question types.

## Grading Homework Assignments

One of the benefits to designing a Gradescope homework assignment is that an instructional team can grade collaboratively. In large classes, the instructional team can review homework assignments synchronously and utilize a shared rubric for assessment. The shared rubric can be created in one of two ways. First, the instructional teams can design the shared rubric prior to assessing submissions. This would allow students to view the expectations for the assignment and complete the assignment following the information outlined in the rubric. Second, instructional teams can design the shared rubric while assessing submissions. Taking this approach would allow for the evaluation tool to reflect common challenges and successes. Regardless of the approach taken to developing the rubric, instructional teams can use the shared rubric to assess each submission consistently. Additionally, the instructional team can take advantage of the dynamic nature of the rubric and adjust evaluation scores accordingly.

Within the homework assignment settings, the instructional team also has the ability to allow students to submit regrade requests (this feature is turned on by default). For a more detailed

look at how Gradescope's Regrade Requests feature works, please visit the [Managing Regrade Requests](#) page on Gradescope's Help Centre.

## Student Submission of Homework Assignments

Unlike the exam/quiz assessment type in Gradescope, homework assignments provide the option to allow students to submit assignments as a group. This feature could be utilized for in-class assignments where students select their group members and report who they completed the assignment with. Instructional teams are able to adjust the group members if needed.

Note: Groups cannot be imported or synched with CourseLink groups.

## Considerations Homework Assignments

- **Submission:** Homework assignments can be uploaded by students or the instructional team. If students upload assignments, they can do so by accessing Gradescope on a browser or through the [Gradescope mobile app](#). It is recommended that students leverage the Gradescope mobile app for uploading their completed written work.
- **Document type:** Gradescope accepts one or more image files per question or one PDF file for the entire submission.
- **Modality:** Assignments can be handwritten or typed (note that if the assignment is typed, it will need to be uploaded as a PDF).
- **Group work:** This assignment type can be completed individually or students can assign themselves to groups. Instructors have the ability to limit the number of students per group.
- **Assignment length:** Variable/unknown length or fixed length.
- **Feedback:** Instructional teams can provide feedback in the form of rubric items, text, and/or freeform.

## CourseLink Support

Gradescope is supported by CourseLink Support. If you have any questions about Gradescope homework assignments or Gradescope in general, please contact CourseLink Support.

Phone number: (519) 824-4120 x56939 | 1-866-275-1478 (US/CAN)

Email: [courselink@uoguelph.ca](mailto:courselink@uoguelph.ca)

Campus location: 211 Day Hall