

D2L: Course Start and End Dates

In D2L, a professor has control over whether or not a course is available to students. By default, courses open to students at the beginning, and close at the end of a semester. But you are able to open your course earlier than the default start date, and leave it open after the default end date. Let's see how.

Normally, in any semester courses in D2L open to students on the Friday before classes begin. Courses close again several days after grades are submitted to Student Records. This is why we strongly advise students to save copies of their own work, since they will not have access to courses indefinitely.

But suppose you wished to open a course early, to give students a longer time to shop for course texts. Or perhaps you wish to have a course remain available to one or more of your students after the course officially ends.

You can do this by clicking Edit Course, and then Course Offering Information.

Here you see a start date and an end date. The Start date and time governs when the course opens to students.

The End date determines when the course closes to students.

So a window established between those two dates determines when students can enter the course, and see content within that has no special visibility restrictions of its own.

In this example, I'll change the start date, to make it in the early morning, two weeks before the default opening day and time.

When I go back out to the My Home Screen, I see that the course's opening date is now altered.

Modifying course start and end dates can be helpful for several reasons, and occasionally doing so does not cause inconvenience for students. Because course availability governs what students see on their My Courses widget, professors should avoid two particular practices:

Please do not leave courses open indefinitely by omitting an end date. Doing so means the course is always on a student's My Courses Widget, even after a semester is over and it's no longer useful to that student.

Please do not deactivate courses, especially upcoming or current courses. Since an inactive course is no longer visible at all to students, the student may believe she or he is not properly enrolled. In that case you will likely hear from the student, the student records office, or ITS to inquire about the status of your course in D2L.