UTEPEDGE™

UTEP has recently acquired access to EAC, a data analysis tool that streamlines assessment by automatically collecting, analyzing, and reporting student performance and learning goals within Blackboard Ultra. This tool will enhance our institutional mission of providing high-impact instruction by connecting individual assignments with the UTEP Edge Advantages. The EAC visualization tool will allow programs and colleges to automatically generate reports that can be used for program review, accreditation, and quality improvement. This brief guide will walk you through the steps to connect your course assignments to EAC.

1. Start by reviewing the Edge Advantages below. The numbering system parallels the numbering systems that will be used in Blackboard Goals.

    1. Communication
    Students will demonstrate effective interpretation, development and application of communication strategies appropriate to purpose, genre, context and audience.
    > **1.1 Oral Communication: Institutional Learning Outcome Stateme**nt
    > Students will demonstrate effective interpretation, development and application of oral communication strategies appropriate to purpose, genre, context and audience.
    > **1.2 Written Communication: Institutional Learning Outcome Statement**
    > Students will demonstrate effective interpretation, development and application of written communication strategies appropriate to purpose, genre, context and audience.

    2. Confidence
    Students will articulate gains in self-confidence by identifying, evaluating, and building on their talents, abilities, strengths and skills.

    3. Critical Thinking
    Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of information to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and/or to develop and explore new questions.

    4. Entrepreneurship
    Students will demonstrate their ability to identify opportunities to cultivate ideas and motivation to develop products, organize services, and/or manage firms or industries.

    5. Global Awareness
    Students will analyze and evaluate global, interconnected systems to determine how those systems affect personal and/or community outcomes.

6. Leadership
Students will identify opportunities to take responsibility and will act critically and creatively to support their own and others' learning and/or actions.

7. Personal and Social Responsibility
Students will demonstrate knowledge of ethical decision-making and commitment towards social equity and cross-cultural diversity.

> **7.1 Personal Responsibility**
> Students will demonstrate an awareness of the range of human values and beliefs that they draw upon to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
>
> **7.2 Social Responsibility**
> Students will demonstrate their ability to act ethically and responsibly for the benefit of society by articulating an awareness of social problems; exercising ethical leadership practices, engaging in civic, political or community activities; and/or advocating for social justice.

8. Problem Solving
Students will demonstrate their ability to identify a conflict or issue, analyze possible responses, and develop a plan to apply the most viable solutions.

> **8.1 Problem Solving: Empirical Reasoning**
> Students will be able to analyze empirical data, interpret results, and communicate conclusion(s) supported by evidence.
>
> **8.2 Problem Solving: Quantitative Reasoning**
> Students will be able to analyze quantitative data, interpret results, and communicate conclusion(s) supported by evidence.

9. Teamwork
Students will collaborate effectively with individuals and groups to accomplish a common goal while demonstrating respect and value for a diversity of perspectives.
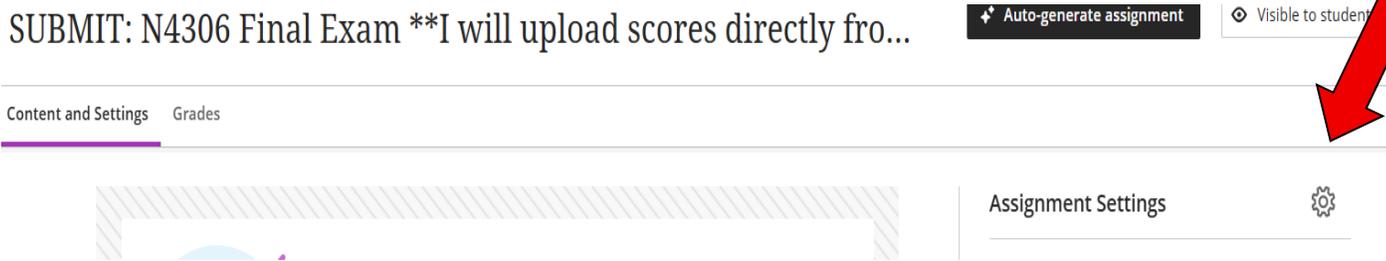

Notes:

-Not all assignments require alignment with Edge Advantages. Assignments should only be aligned with EAC if the assessment is connected to an Edge Advantage. For example, a multiple-choice quiz focused on definitions from assigned readings might not align with any Advantages.
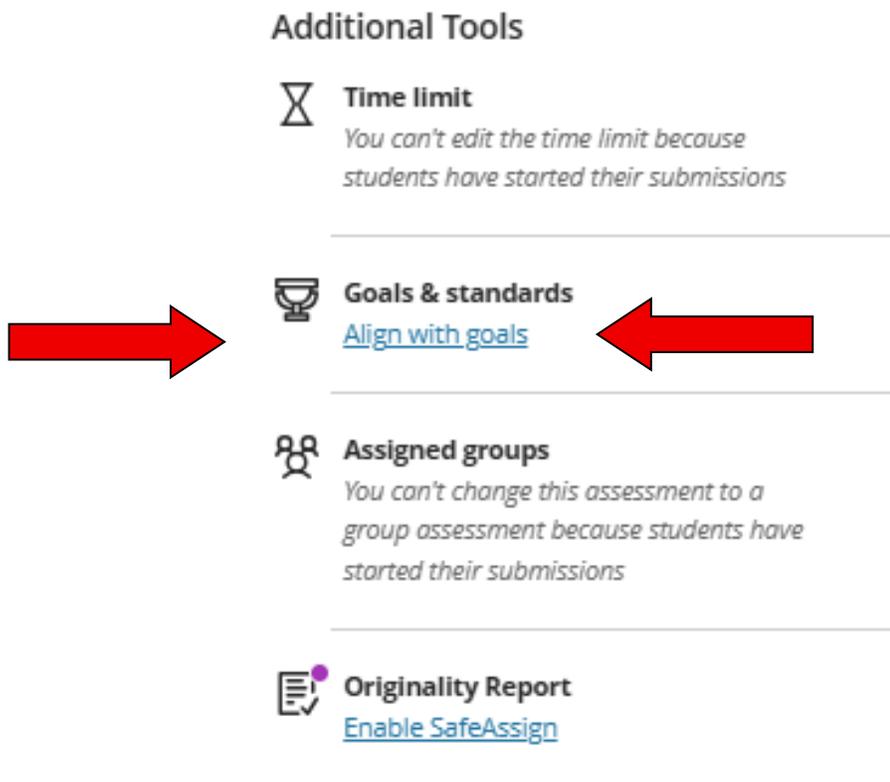
-Assignments can be aligned to multiple Advantages. For example, a group research project might be aligned with several Advantages such as Teamwork, Leadership, and Communication.

-You do not need to create or modify assignments to align with the Edge Advantages. We are documenting the high-impact work that is *already* being done.

2. Navigate to your course Blackboard Ultra page and click on the first assignment you would like to align. Click on the **Assignment Settings Gear Icon.**

SUBMIT: N4306 Final Exam **I will upload scores directly fro...

✦ Auto-generate assignment   ⊘ Visible to student

Content and Settings   Grades

Assignment Settings   ⚙

3. In the Assignment Settings window that pops up, scroll down and click on the "Align with goals" link under the **Goals & standards** subheading.

Additional Tools

⧗ **Time limit**
You can't edit the time limit because students have started their submissions

🏆 **Goals & standards**
Align with goals

👥 **Assigned groups**
You can't change this assessment to a group assessment because students have started their submissions

🗒 **Originality Report**
Enable SafeAssign

4. In the **Goals & standards** pop-up window, select the following under each heading on left side of the screen.

> -**Source**: System

> -**Goal Set Type**: Academic Affairs

> -**Goal Set**: Edge Advantage – GR Direct (ISLOs) for graduate-level courses, **or**
> Edge Advantage – UG Direct (ISLOs) for undergraduate-level courses.

5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click **"Show All"** near the right corner to make all Advantages visible for selection.

6. Select all applicable Edge Advantages for the assignment.

UG**LL** –
Undergraduate
Lower Level

(Courses
Beginning with a
1 or 2)

☑ EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.00 - EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.00: DIRECT Communication

☐ EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.01 - EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.01: DIRECT Oral Communication

☑ EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.02 - EDGE.UGLL.DIRECT.ISLO.01.02: DIRECT Written Communication

UG**UL** –
Undergraduate
Upper Level

(Courses
Beginning with a
3 or 4)

☑ EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.00 - EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.00: DIRECT Problem Solving

☐ EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.01 - EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.01: DIRECT Problem Solving: Empirical Reasoning

☑ EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.02 - EDGE.UGUL.DIRECT.ISLO.08.02: DIRECT Problem Solving: Quantitative Reasoning

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Notes:

-Lower-level undergraduate courses (Course numbers beginning with a 1 or 2) should use the EDGE.UG**LL** Advantages.

-Upper-level undergraduate courses (Course numbers beginning with a 3 or 4) should use the EDGE.UG**UL** Advantages.

-For Advantages with sub-categories (Communication, Problem Solving, Personal & Social Responsibility), click on *both* the main advantage and the secondary advantage (e.g., Communication AND Communication: Written Communication; Problem Solving AND Problem Solving: Quantitative Reasoning.

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7. Click "**Submit**" at the bottom of the page once all selections have been made.

8. Your selections should now appear under the **"Goals & standards"** subheading of the Assignment Settings menu. Click the **Save** button to complete alignment for the assignment.

Additional Tools

⏳ **Time limit**
You can't edit the time limit because students have started their submissions

🏆 **Goals & standards**
Aligned with 2 goals

The Advantages selected in the previous menu should now appear here. Alignments will also be visible to students.

👥 **Assigned groups**
You can't change this assessment to a group assessment because students have started their submissions

📋 **Originality Report**
Enable SafeAssign

Description

Add a description

Maximum 750 characters

Cancel   Save

9. Repeat steps 2-8 for all other course assignments that can be aligned.

Congratulations! Your course has been aligned and data from assignments will now appear in EAC reports.

Frequently Asked Questions

1.) I have an assignment that is submitted or completed offline. Can I still align the assignment with Edge Advantages?
Yes. Once the assignment page has been created in Blackboard Ultra, click on the Assignment Settings Gear. Under the "Details & Information" subheading near the top of the menu, click on "Collect Submissions Offline" and hit Save.

2.) I have a repeating assignment such as a weekly reading response or practice problem sets. Do I need to align each weekly assignment?
No. Repeating assignments only need to be aligned once. However, if instructors alter the format of the assignment from week to week (e.g. including an essay question one week but not the next), they should update the relevant Edge Advantages on Blackboard Ultra.

3.) Do I need to align my class every semester?
No. Once a course has been aligned, alignments can be copied over from semester-to-semester. Instructors may contact Blackboard Support to have their course shell cloned into a new semester, but the <u>entire</u> course must be copied. Please note: failure to copy all course material into a new Blackboard shell may require instructors to manually re-align assignments.

4.) Should I talk to my students about the Edge Advantages and alignments?
Absolutely! Alignments will be visible to students on each assignment page. This is a terrific opportunity to explain how course assignments connect to the core competencies emphasized by the UTEP Edge.