MASTERING





Overview

Starting in v17, the Learning Management System (LMS) in Rock RMS provides tools to create and manage educational content, training programs, and courses within your organization. This will allow you to assign training, track progress, and maintain training records.

Rock's LMS is designed to support two distinct scenarios:

- On-Demand: This mode is designed for flexibility, allowing classes to run
 continuously without being tied to a specific time frame. Students can join and
 complete courses at their own pace. This straightforward structure makes it ideal
 for ongoing or self-paced learning environments.
- 2. Academic Calendar: This mode is designed for programs that require strict time-based semesters, often found in more traditional academic settings. This introduces some additional complexity, and while it provides features like a class progress bar, a syllabus for detailed course planning, and a notifications area for managing assignments, these tools are most beneficial for structured, residency-style programs. For simpler or ongoing courses, these additional features may not be necessary, and the flexibility of *On-Demand* mode is likely a better fit.

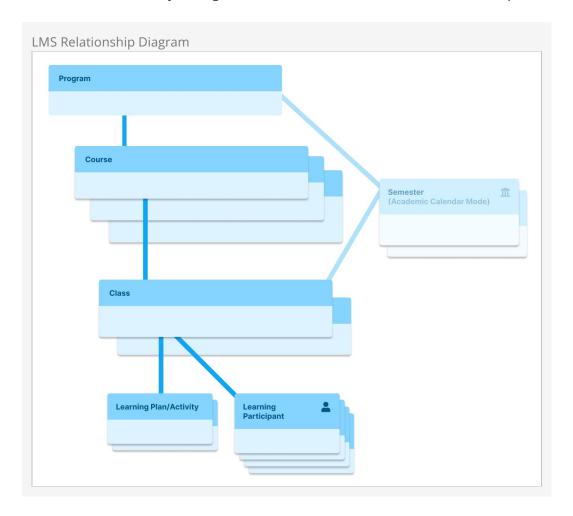
When in doubt keep it simple and use On-Demand. Academic mode is really intended for organizations that have residency/university programs.

Terms

Before we get started, let's clarify a few terms:

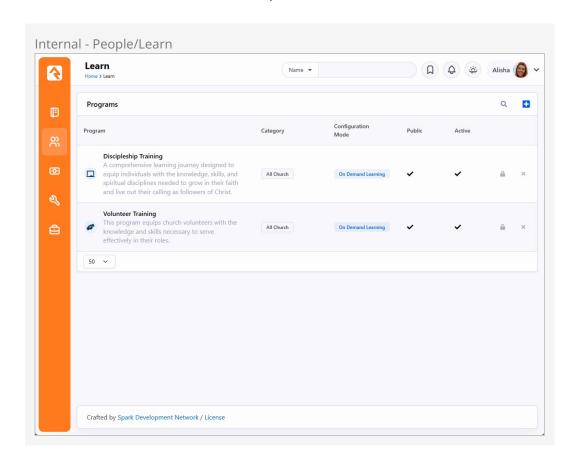
- Program: The Learning Program is the highest level of the learning hierarchy and represents a collection of related courses. Examples of a program could include Biblical Studies, Student Residency, or Volunteer Training.
- Course: The Learning Course represents a specific type of class that is offered in the program. Examples of a course might be Torah, Gospels, Biblical Hermeneutics, or Emergency Response Training. For each course, you will have one or more instances of a class, depending on the mode or desired class size.
- **Semester:** The Learning Semester is a time block used to group classes for programs that are in the *Academic Calendar* mode. Examples might include Fall 2024, Spring 2025, etc. This won't apply to *On-Demand* mode since those classes typically don't need to be bound by a timeframe.
- Class: The Learning Class is an occurrence of the course for a given time. Examples of a class would be Torah Spring 2025 or Gospels Spring 2025. The class is generally tied to a collection of the following:

- Learning Plans: These are the building blocks of your class, consisting of
 activities that guide students through the course. Rock provides several
 Activity Types to accommodate different learning styles and objectives. For
 example, an activity might involve watching a video, completing an
 assessment (quiz or test), uploading a written paper, or delivering a
 presentation in front of a teacher or class. The Activity Types are:
 - Acknowledgment: An activity that collects the student's acknowledgment of a statement you configure.
 - **Assessment:** A configurable activity that presents multiple-choice and short-answer questions to evaluate the student's understanding.
 - **File Upload:** An activity that allows students to submit files, such as written papers, to the teacher or facilitator.
 - **Point Assessment:** An activity that provides the student and teacher/facilitator with instructions and a grading rubric for an assignment.
 - **Video Watch:** An activity that ensures students watch a specified portion of a video as part of the coursework.
- Students: Individuals enrolled in the class.
- Facilitator(s): Teachers or assistants who grade learning activities.
- **Grading System:** The LMS offers flexible grading systems (Completion, Pass/Fail, Letter Grade) to evaluate and track student progress in a class. These can be customized to suit your organization's needs and are detailed in a later chapter.

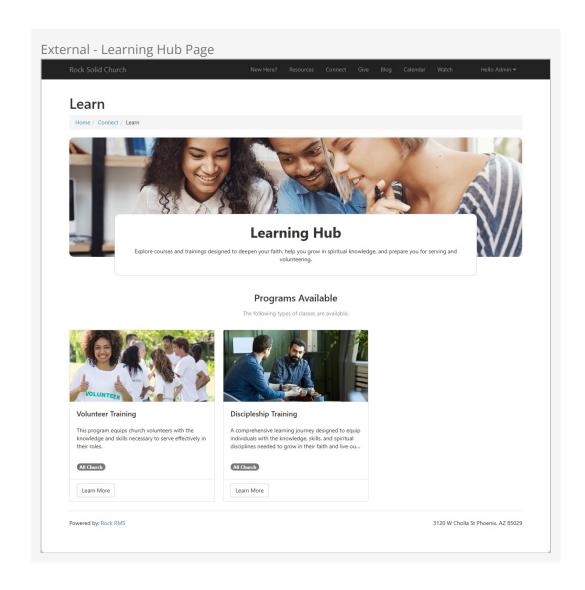


What You'll See

Now that we've covered the basics, let's explore what you'll encounter when working with the LMS. Keep in mind that LMS features can be accessed in two areas: internally within the Rock system (/people/learn) and externally through the Learning Hub (/learn), which we'll cover in a later chapter.



Once your classes are set up, the external-facing Learning Hub page will showcase all the programs and classes you offer.

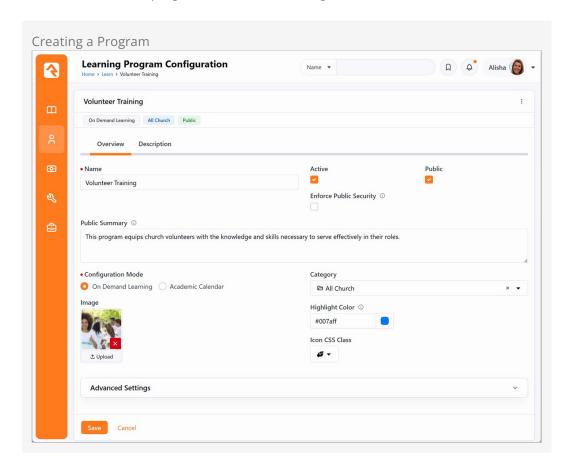


Walkthrough: Creating a Learning Program

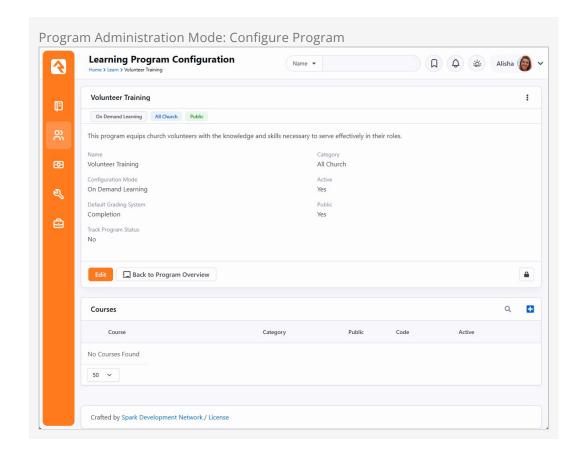
Let's walk through the process of creating a simple learning program using the *On-Demand* mode. We'll create a program, a course, a class, and a learning plan for that class.

Step 1: Create a Program

First, we'll create our program, "Volunteer Training".



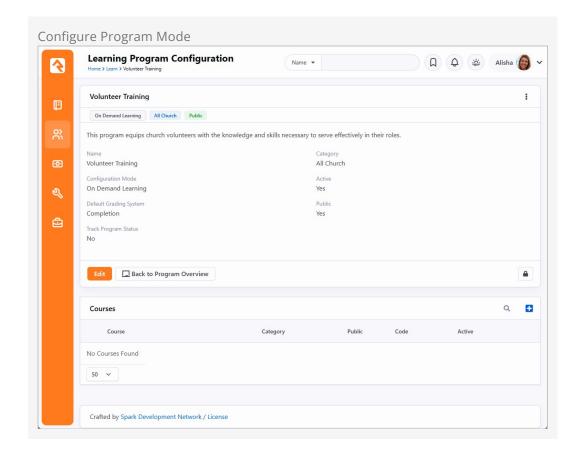
Once saved, you are in 'Configure Program' mode. You'll notice a Back to Program overview button which would let you switch to the other administration mode. We'll cover both *Configure Program* and *Program Overview* modes in the Program Administration Modes chapter later.



For now, stay in the *Configure Program* mode to set up a new course for the program.

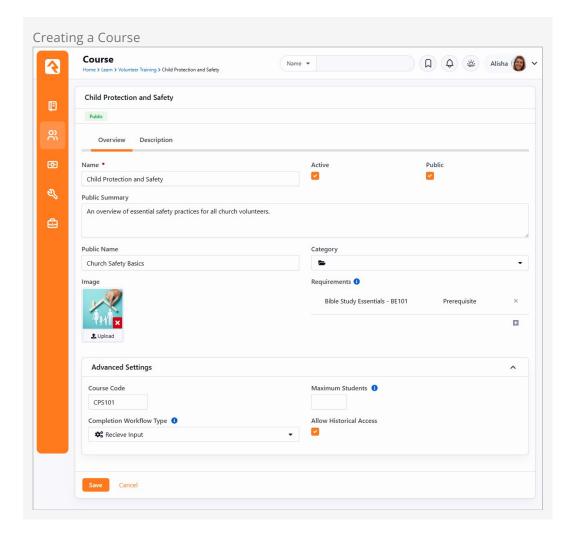
Step 2: Create a Course

When you're in *Configure Program* mode, you can create a course.



Click the button to open a form where you can name the course. If you want to provide a more in-depth description, you can add it under the Description tab.

Here, we're creating the Child Protection and Safety course, and for this example, we will prevent people from enrolling unless they've already completed the 'Bible Study Essentials' course. This can be set up as a Prerequisite Requirement.

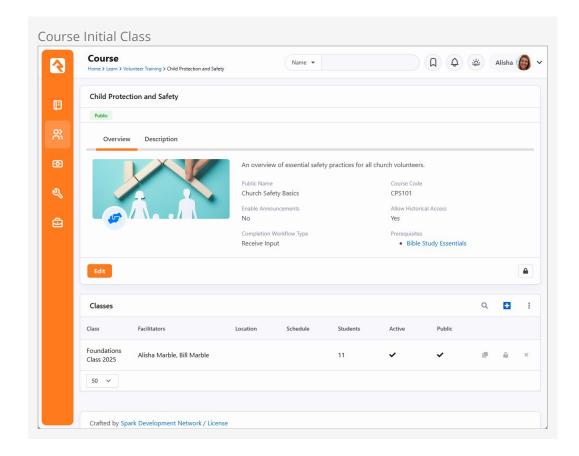


Images

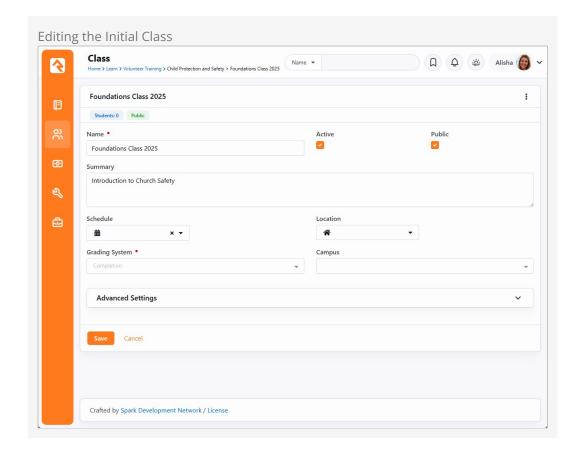
If you intend to show these courses on your website to your volunteer public, it's a good idea to include a simple image that represents the course.

Step 3: Editing the Class

Once you save, an initial class will be automatically created for you. Select this class so we can set up the required learning activities and assign a facilitator (if needed) to oversee grading for the class.



First, edit the "Initial Class" to rename it to something more appropriate. Next, choose a grading system that suits your needs. For *On-Demand* classes, the *Completion* grading system is commonly used.



Rock includes the following grading systems out of the box:

- **Completion:** A simplified system that assesses whether participants have fulfilled all required tasks or activities.
- **Pass/Fail:** Pass/Fail: This system evaluates whether participants meet a minimum standard to pass, without assigning specific scores or grades. It simplifies assessment into two outcomes: "Pass" or "Fail."
- **Letter Grade:** A traditional system that assigns a letter grade (e.g., A, B, C) based on performance, reflecting varying levels of achievement according to a predetermined scale.

It's also possible to customize these grading systems or create your own. You can learn more about this in the Grading Systems chapter.

Managing Assessment Retakes

If you're using a grading system other than *Completion*, be aware that the LMS marks the class as complete even if the participant fails.

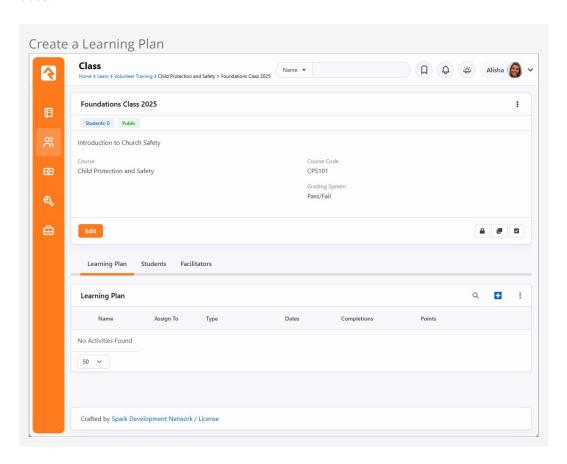
We've intentionally left this flexible, since organizations differ significantly in how they manage retakes for Pass/Fail assessments. Depending on your organization's policies, you might consider one of the following options:

- Create a workflow to reset completion and allow retakes.
- Build a Lava-based page or button for assessment retries.
- Use an admin process to manually manage retakes.

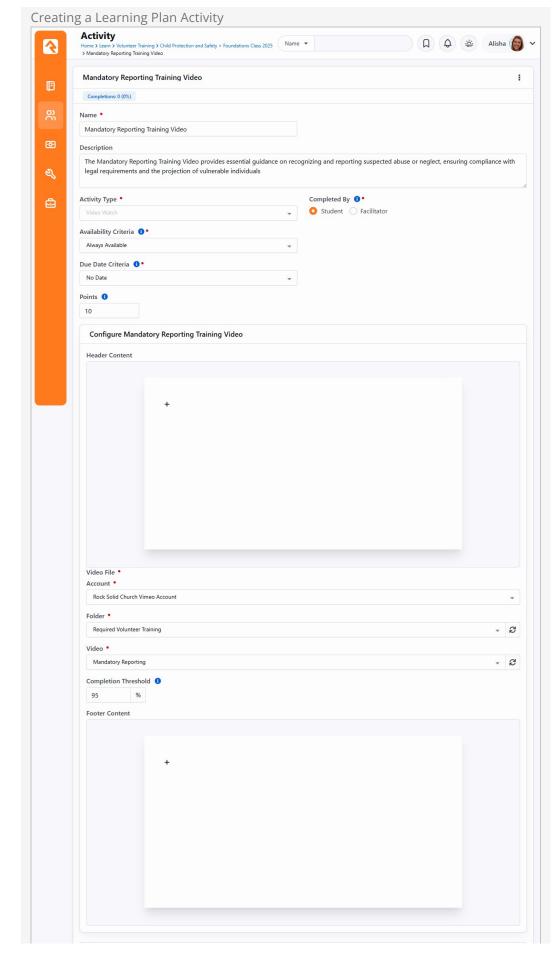
Evaluate your organization's needs and select the approach that best aligns with your internal processes.

Step 4: Creating the Learning Plan

Next, let's set up a quick 'watch a required video' activity as the learning plan for our class.

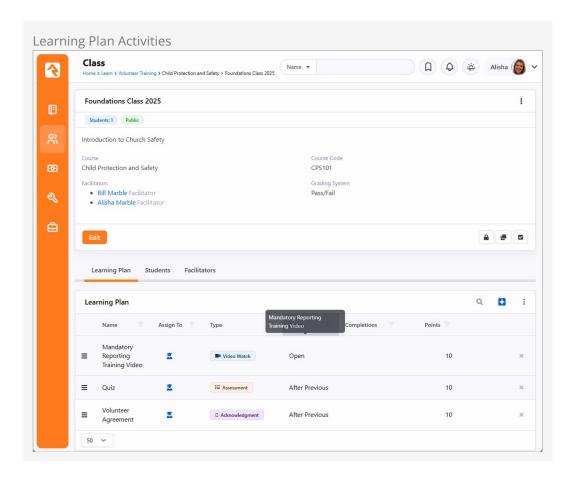


Here, we've selected the *Video Watch* Activity Type and chosen a video from our Media Account. The *Completion Threshold* is set to 95%, requiring students to watch at least that much before progressing to the next activity. You can also assign a point value to the video if needed.





While some fields are common across all Activity Types, each type also includes unique fields tailored to its purpose. In this example, we've configured additional options to complete the Learning Plan.



Learning Plans and Classes

Learning Plans are tied to Classes, not directly to Courses. This design allows for easier adjustments to *classes* over time. If Learning Plans were tied to Courses, changes could disrupt existing and completed class student assignments.

But don't worry! We've made it simple to copy a class, enabling you to make quick adjustments for future sessions. This process will be covered in a later section.

Finally, use the other two tabs to add facilitators who will grade assignments and enroll students. Alternatively, you can enable students to sign up directly on your website—this process is explained in the Learning Hub chapter.

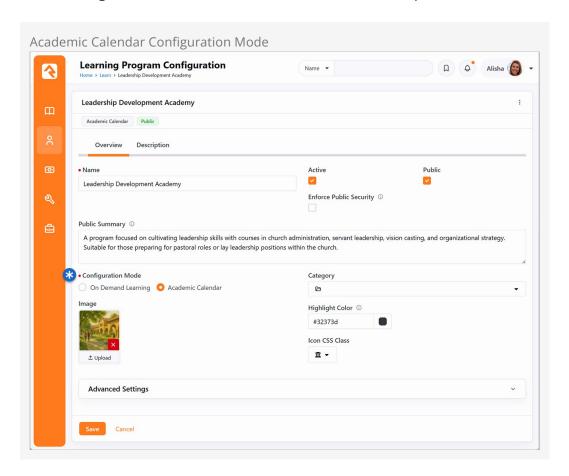
If you've made your Program *Public*, you'll see it when you visit the Learning Hub page on your website.

Academic Calendar Configuration Mode

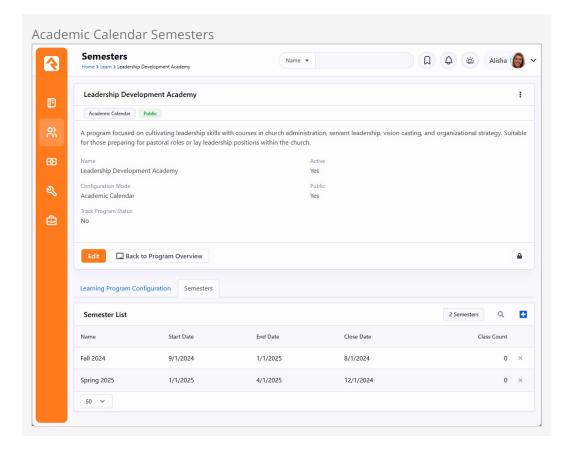
We walked through the *On-Demand Learning* configuration mode. Now, let's take a brief detour to explore the differences with the *Academic Calendar* mode.

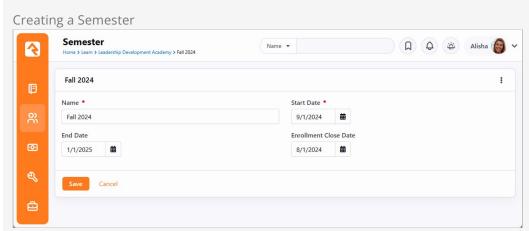
Academic Calendar

Creating an *Academic Calendar* program is very similar to setting up an *On-Demand Learning* program. The key difference is the addition of semesters. Semesters have a start date, an end date, and an enrollment close date, which prevents new students from enrolling in classes associated with that semester after the specified deadline.

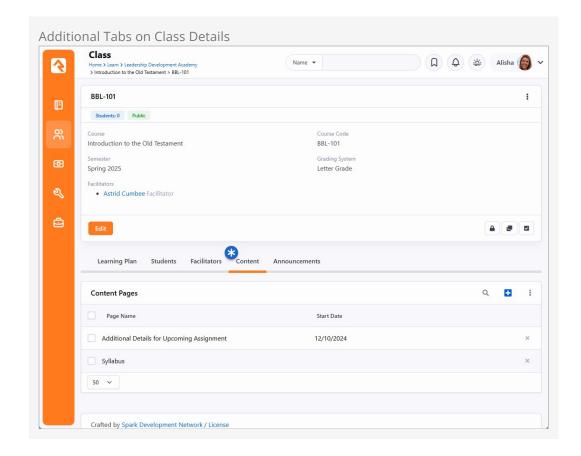


Under the program details, you'll find a tab that lists the semesters associated with the program.





Additional tabs will also be shown when viewing the class detail. A Content tab will allow you to create additional pages that will appear in the Student's *Class Workspace*. The Annoucements tab will be shown depending on the *Enable Annoucements* found under Advanced Settings in the *Course* details.



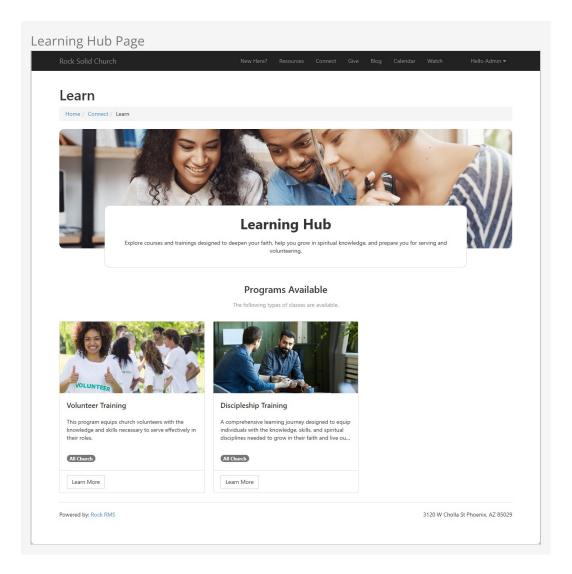
Students enrolled in *Academic Calendar* program classes will have a different experience in their *Class Workspace*, which we'll explore at the end of the Learning Hub chapter.

LMS Learning Hub

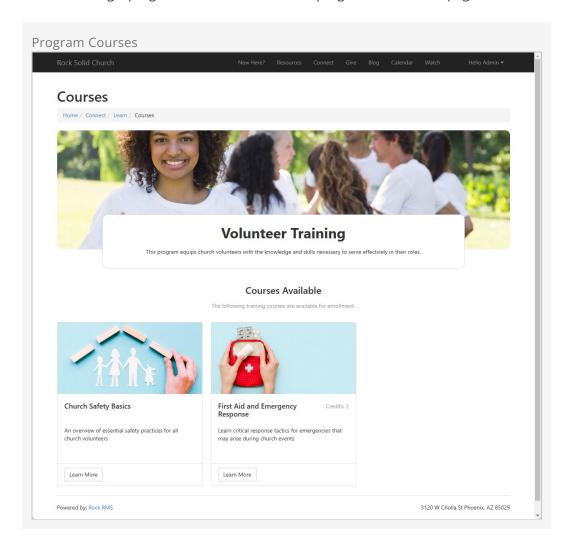
If you visit the */learn* page on the Rock site, you'll find what we call the Learning Hub. This page showcases the Learning programs and courses that you've configured as *Public*.

Learn

While we've created a set of pages which will work for most churches, you are welcome to create unique pages tailored to your specific needs using these LMS blocks and the Lava templates in their block settings.

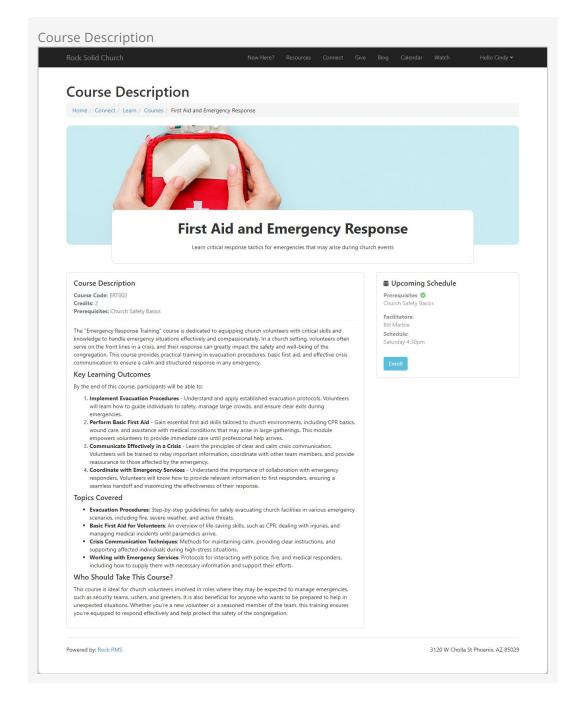


Potential students can read about each course for the programs you offer and enroll in them. Selecting a program redirects them to the program's course list page.

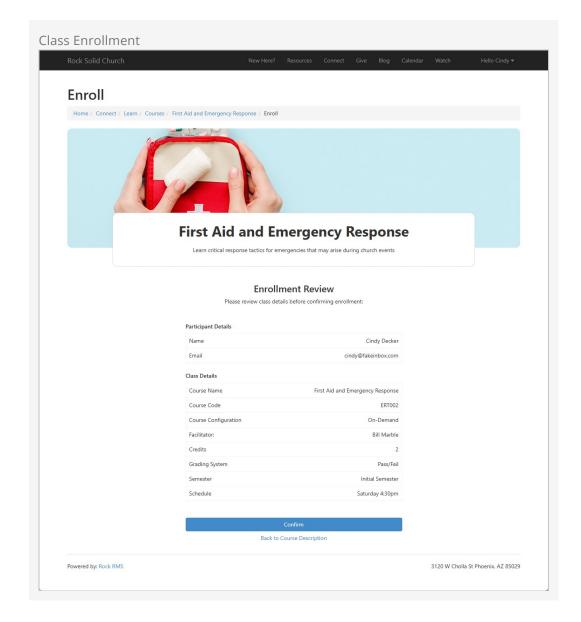


As expected, this page shows all the courses for the program. If the person is logged in, it will also indicate courses they have completed or are currently enrolled in. Selecting a course directs them to the course detail page.

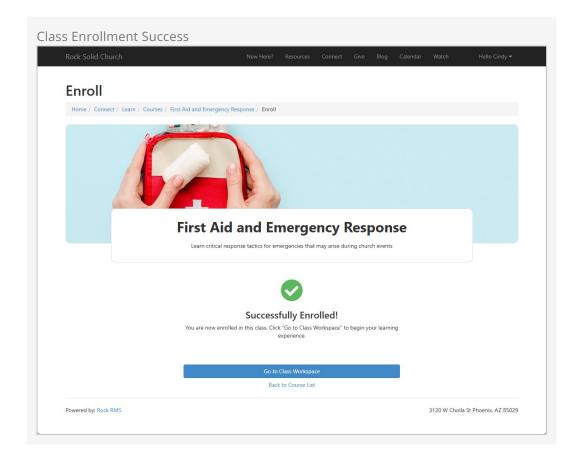
Version: 18.0 19 of 61 Last Updated: 9/19/2025



This page provides all the necessary information about the course. It will also allow the individual to sign-up for any classes that are open for enrollment.

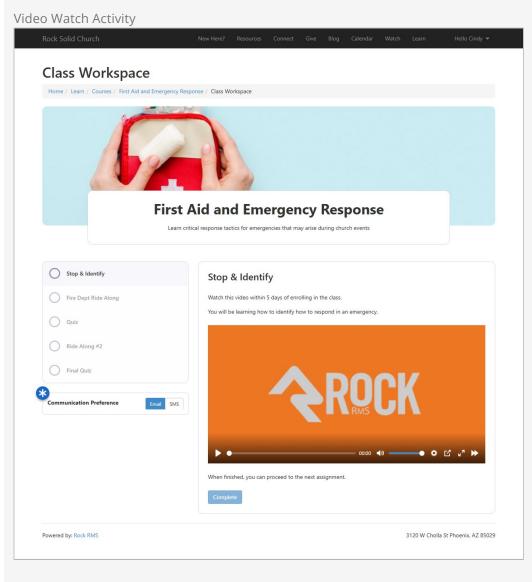


Once enrolled, a participant student will have a *Class Workspace* which serves as the main portal for taking the class.



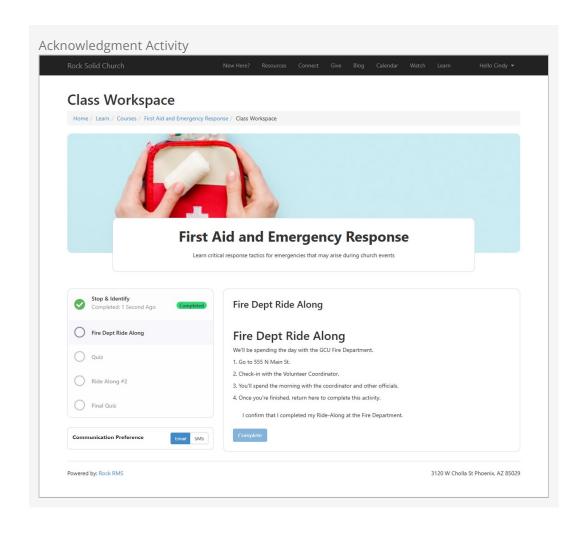
On-Demand Class Workspace Example

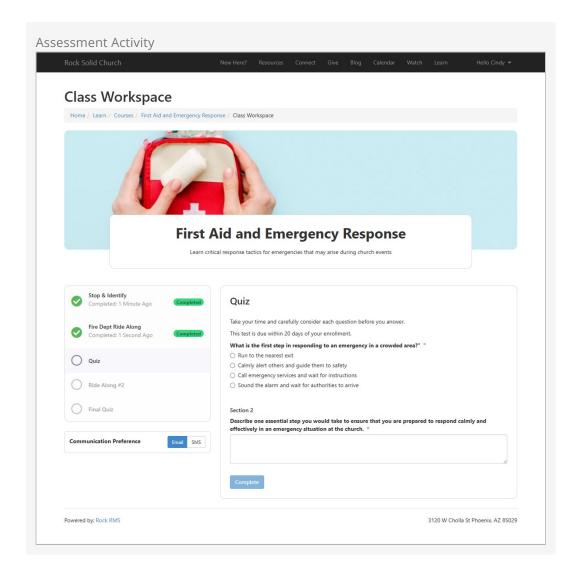
A set of learning plan activities might look like this in the student's *Class Workspace*.



Communication Preferences

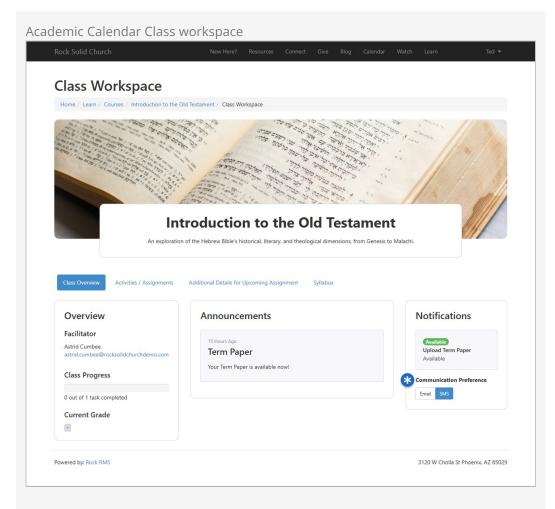
This option appears for students when *Send Notification Communications* is turned on for any class activity. It lets them choose how they prefer to receive updates on new activities, by email or text, so they stay in the loop.





Academic Calendar Class Workspace Example

The workspace for a class under a program using the Academic Calendar mode looks slightly different. It includes a tab bar at the top that shows an overview of the class and class progress, along with tabs for Activities/Assignments and the class Syllabus.



Communication Preferences

This option appears for students when *Send Notification Communications* is turned on for any class activity. It lets them choose how they prefer to receive updates on new activities, by email or text, so they stay in the loop.

Sending Class Announcements Immediately

To send a class announcement right away, run the *Send Learning Notifications* job (it runs once daily by default).

To ensure SMS messages work smoothly, go to Settings > System Communications > Learning Activity Available , and in the SMS section, enter a From Number in the From field. If the From Number is missing, the job will throw an exception with the warning: "A From Number was not provided."

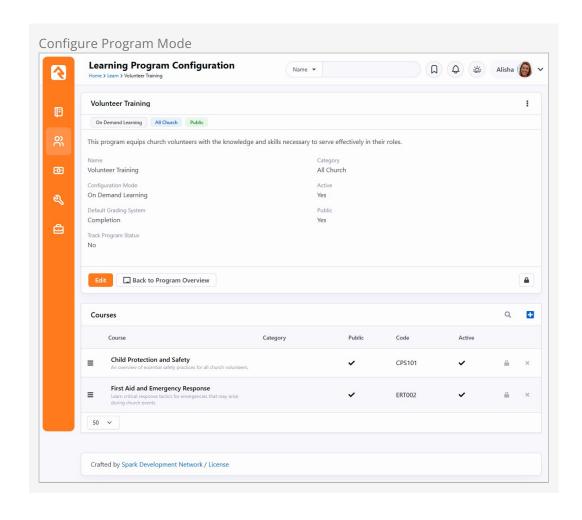
Program Administration Modes

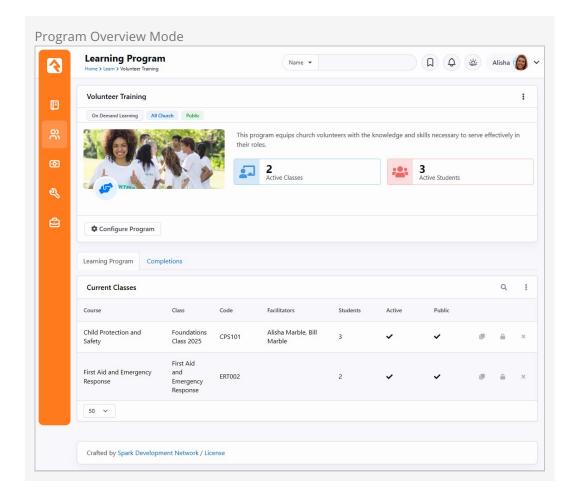
When administering programs, you can operate in one of two modes:

- **Program Overview:** Focused on the day-to-day tasks of running a class, such as grading assignments, reviewing student comments, and monitoring progress.
- **Configure Program:** Used for configuring program details, such as setting up courses, classes, and the learning plan for a class. When you initially set up courses and classes, you were working in Configure Program mode.

With Permission

If you have the required permissions, a toggle button will appear, allowing you to switch between modes. However, once the course and learning activities are set up, you'll generally stay in Program Overview mode for day-to-day management.





Notice how the content changes beneath the course depending on the selected mode. For some roles, such as Facilitators, they will only ever use *Program Overview* mode.

Security

Rock includes two new roles for the LMS:

- RSR LMS Administration: This role is for those overseeing the entire LMS system. They can edit nearly all LMS components except grades. Permissions for viewing and editing grades are controlled separately with two security actions: View Grades and Edit Grades.
- RSR LMS Workers: This role is for individuals needing internal access to the Learning Management System, such as class Facilitators, Program Editors, and Course Editors.

Remember

Facilitators added to a class automatically gain permissions to view and edit grades, even without additional security rights. However, ensure they are assigned the *RSR - LMS Workers* role to access class and program pages.

External Site Access

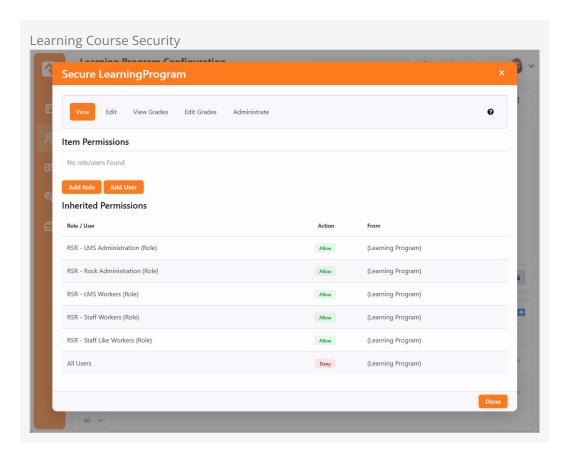
If *Enforce Public Security* is enabled on a program, anyone with program access on your external site can also view potentially sensitive info on the program if they can reach your internal site. To prevent this, enforce page security under People > Learn.

As in other areas of Rock, LMS security settings can be granular, but we recommend keeping them as simple as possible. To grant certain people or roles the ability to edit programs or courses, use the security button on the relevant Program or Course.

Security is inherited within the LMS hierarchy:

- The Learning Class inherits security from the Learning Course.
- The Learning Course inherits security from the Learning Program.

This inheritance allows you to apply security settings at the highest necessary level, eliminating the need to configure each layer individually.



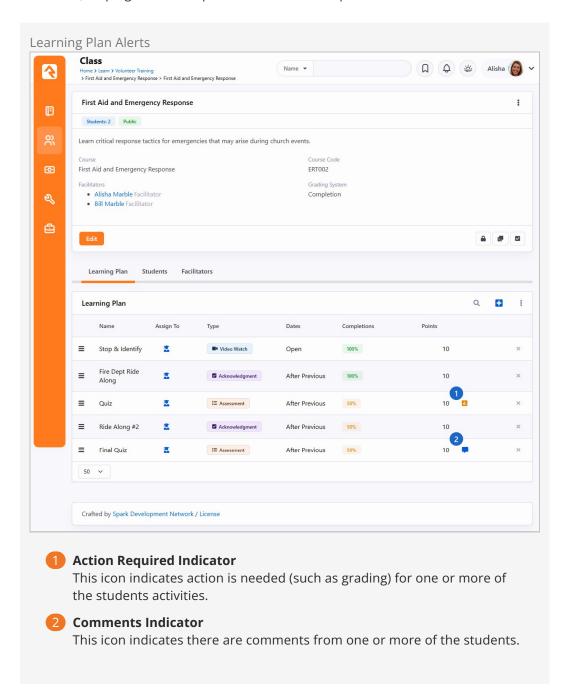
If someone other than the Facilitator needs permission to view or edit grades, set this security at the appropriate level based on your requirements.

Facilitators

Facilitators must be assigned to the RSR - LMS Workers role after being approved to serve in this capacity. That role grants them access to the internal LMS system, enabling

them to grade student assignments and related activities.

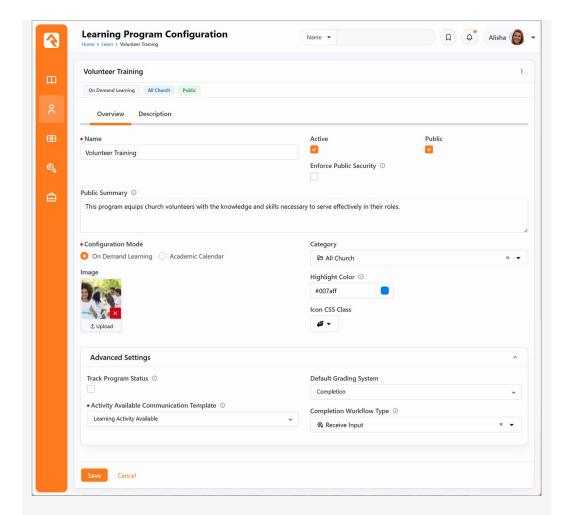
After logging in, facilitators can view the class details, including the learning plan and student information. The LMS highlights activities that need their attention with clear indicators, helping facilitators prioritize tasks that require attention.



Configure Program

This is the mode used when setting up new courses, semesters, classes and class learning plans.

Editing a Program



Overview / Description

Edit the program's description under the Description tab.

Enforce Public Security

When enabled, programs and courses on the external site are only visible to people with *View* security for the program. You can set this by clicking on the *Learn* page. People already enrolled will retain access.

Configuration Mode

Determines whether the program operates in the simple *On-Demand Learning* mode or the structured, semester-based *Academic Calendar* mode.

Track Program Status

Enable this option to track program completions. When enabled, the *Update Program Completions* job creates new Learning Program Completion records, to track whether a person has completed the program.

Activity Available Communication Template

Specifies the communication template used to notify students about the availability of a learning plan activity.

Default Grading System

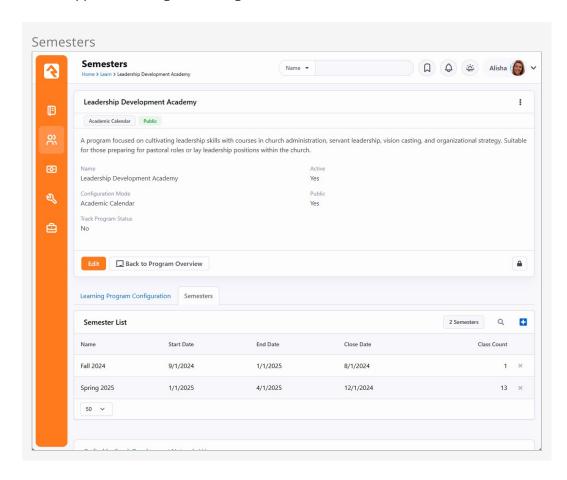
Specifies the grading system to use for classes under this program. A grading system can also be set at the *Class* level if needed.

Completion Workflow Type

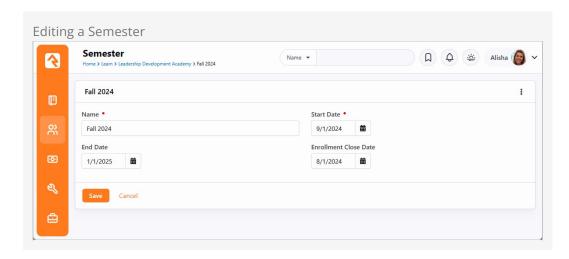
Defines the workflow to run when an individual completes the program.

Semesters (Academic Calendar Mode Only)

When viewing a program that uses *Academic Calendar* mode, an additional *Semesters* tab will appear for listing and editing semester details.

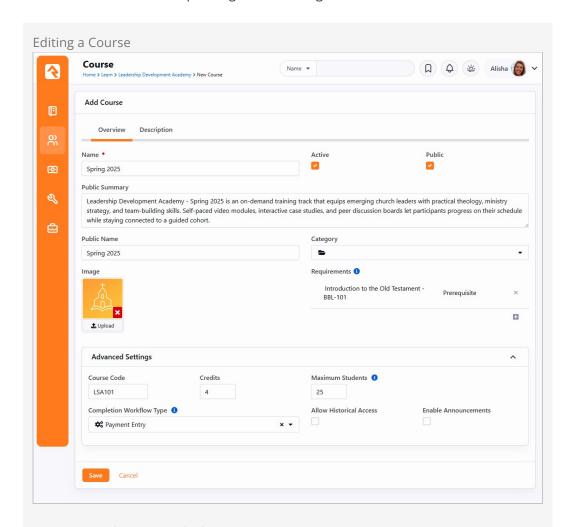


In *Academic Calendar*, mode you must set up semesters with start and end dates as a place to put the course and classes.



Courses

Courses are a specific type of class that is offered in the program. You can create one or more instances of these depending on the settings or desired class size.



Overview / Description

Use the Description tab to edit the course description, which appears on the public Learning Hub page to provide individuals with a detailed understanding of the course.

Requirements

Specify prerequisites or equivalencies here. For example, you can indicate if a course requires the completion of another course beforehand or if it fulfills the requirements of an equivalent course.

Course Code

An abbreviated identifier for the course, useful in contexts where concise designations are needed.

Credits

A unit of measurement representing the academic work associated with the course. Credits typically reflect the time commitment, workload, and expected learning outcomes.

Completion Workflow Type

An optional workflow that can be triggered when an individual completes the course.

Allow Historical Access

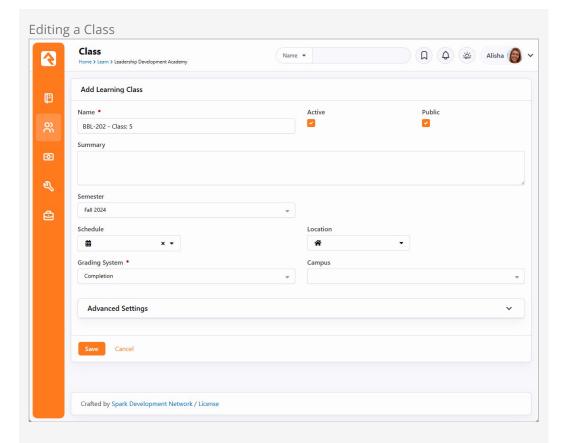
Controls whether returning students can view or review their completed class activities after the class has concluded.

Enable Announcements

Enable this option to allow creating announcements related to the classes. These announcements will be displayed on the student's *Class Workspace*. Note: This setting is only available for *Academic Calendar* mode.

Classes

A class represents a specific instance of a course offered during a particular time period. Each class has its own Learning Plans, students, and facilitator(s).



Semester

Visible only in *Academic Calendar* programs, this field specifies the semester during which the class takes place.

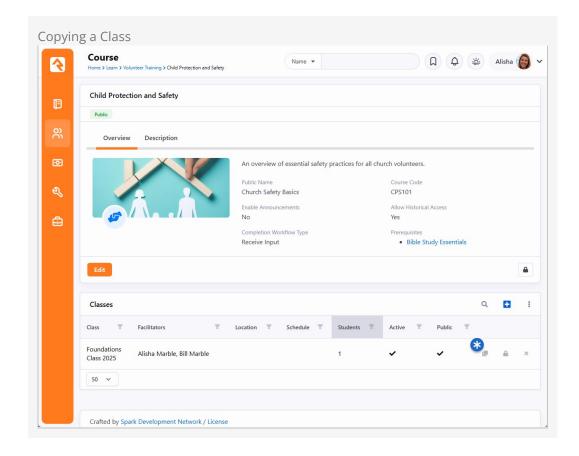
Grading System

Defines or overrides the default grading system for the class. Note that the grading system cannot be changed once students start completing assignments.

Cloning Classes

When the day comes when you must make a new version of an existing class, save time by using the copy button. This duplicates the class and its learning plan activities but excludes students and facilitators.

For always-active (On-Demand) classes, remember to uncheck the *Public* checkbox on the newly cloned class until it's fully prepared. This prevents enrollment before it's ready. Once the new class is complete, re-check the *Public* option for the new class and uncheck it on the old class.



Once the class is set up, the final steps are to create Learning Plans and add facilitators, and optionally, students. Adding facilitators and students is simple, and details about creating Learning Plans are covered in the next chapter.

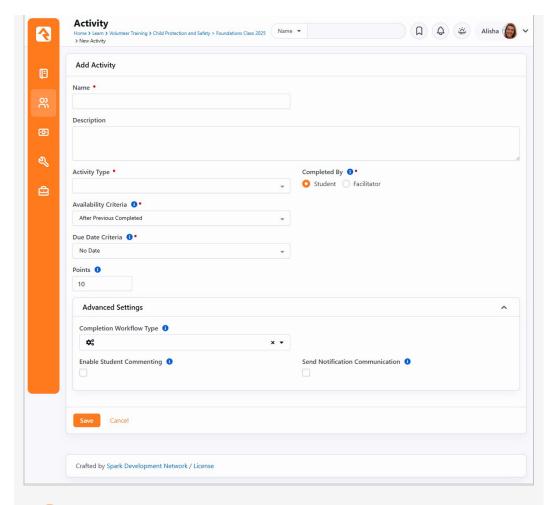
Learning Plans

Depending on the selected Activity Type, a *Configure* section will appear with options specific to that type. A learning plan has up to four distinct views:

- 1. **Configuration View** The interface used to create and set up the activity within the learning plan.
- 2. **Student Completion View** What the student sees while working on the activity.
- 3. **Facilitator Scoring View** If the activity requires scoring, this is where facilitators evaluate and rate the student's work.
- 4. **Summary View** The final view displayed once the activity is completed.

For now, we'll focus on *Configuration View*. Let's begin by reviewing the common elements of an activity. Details specific to each activity type will be covered in the next section.

Adding a Learning Plan Activity



1 Completed By

This is typically set to "Student," but for certain activities, it may need to be assigned to the Facilitator. For example, in an in-person verbal presentation (a Point Assessment activity), the Facilitator grades the student during the presentation, making it an activity the student cannot complete independently.

2 Availability Criteria

This setting determines when the activity becomes available to the student:

- **Specific Date:** The activity cannot be started until a designated date. This requires setting the Available Date field.
- **Class Start Offset:** The activity becomes accessible a specified number of days after the class start date. This requires setting the *Available Date Offset* field.
- **Enrollment Offset:** The activity becomes accessible a specified number of days after the student enrolls in the class. This also requires setting the *Available Date Offset* field.
- Always Available: The activity is accessible to the student at any time
- After Previous Completed: The activity cannot be started until the preceding activity is completed.

Due Date Criteria

Similar to *Availability Criteria*, but applies to the activity's due date.

Points

This specifies the point value of the activity. For *Assessment* Activity Types, you'll also designate what percentage of these points applies to each section of the assessment. See the next section for more details.

Send Notification Communication

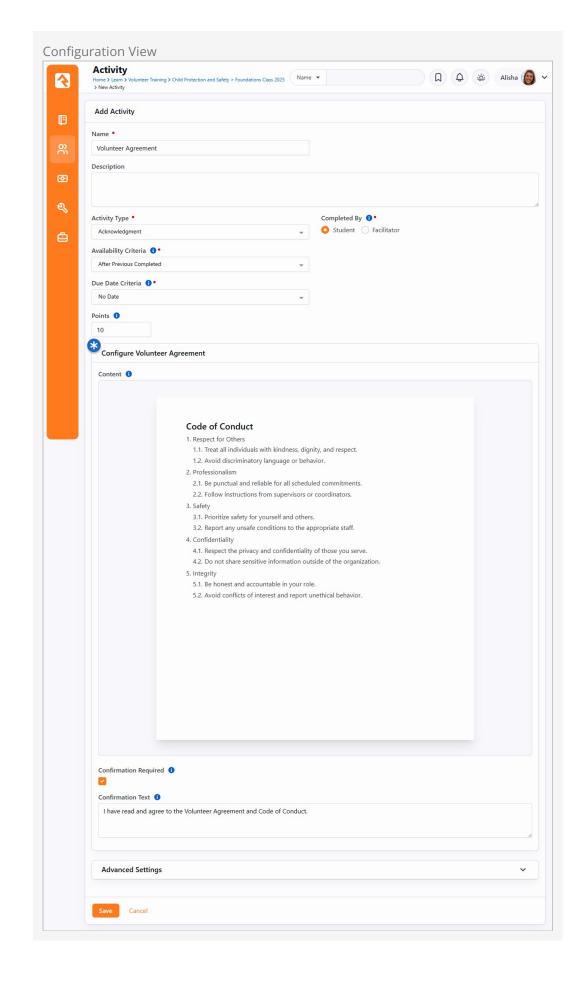
By default *Send Notification Communication* is deselected. If you would like students to get an email notification when an activity becomes available, you have the option to enable this setting. Otherwise, students can still access the activity once it is available without receiving a notification.

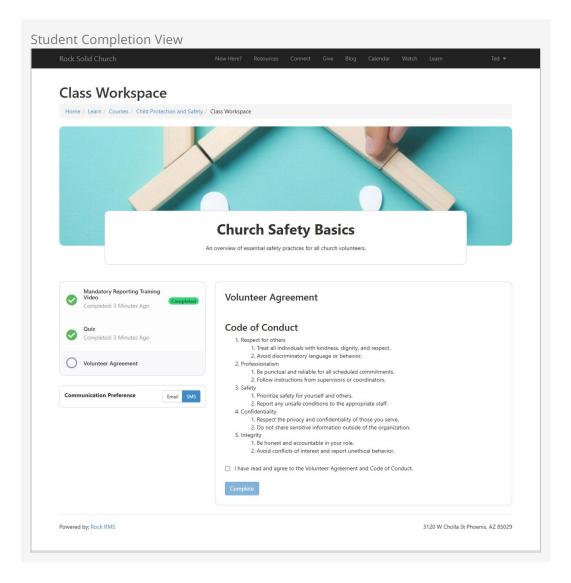
Learning Plan Activity Types

Each activity type provides unique fields and options to customize the activity.

Acknowledgment

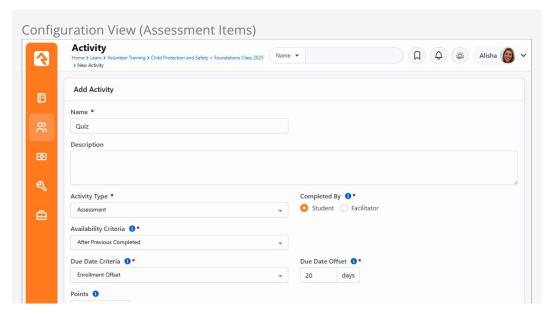
Enter the text you want displayed in the activity into the Content field. If desired, use the *Confirmation Text* field to provide text that will appear next to the acknowledgment checkbox.

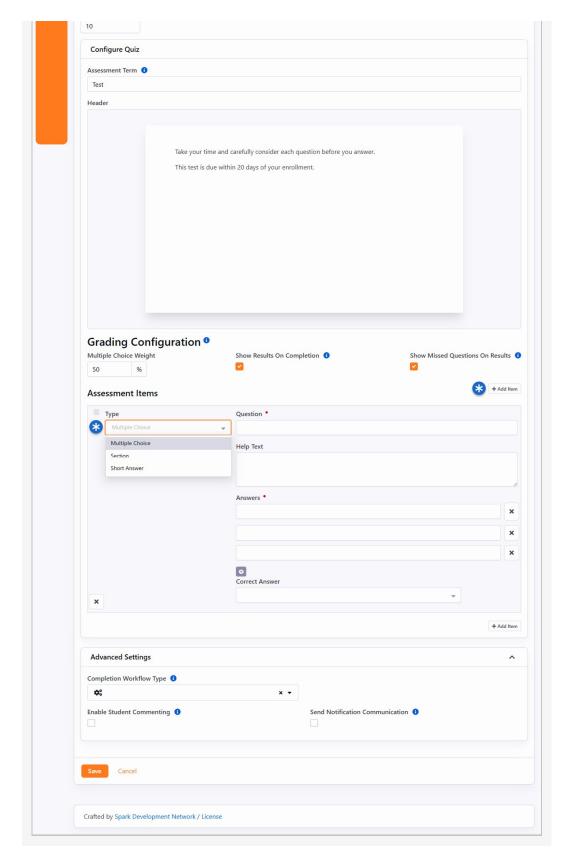




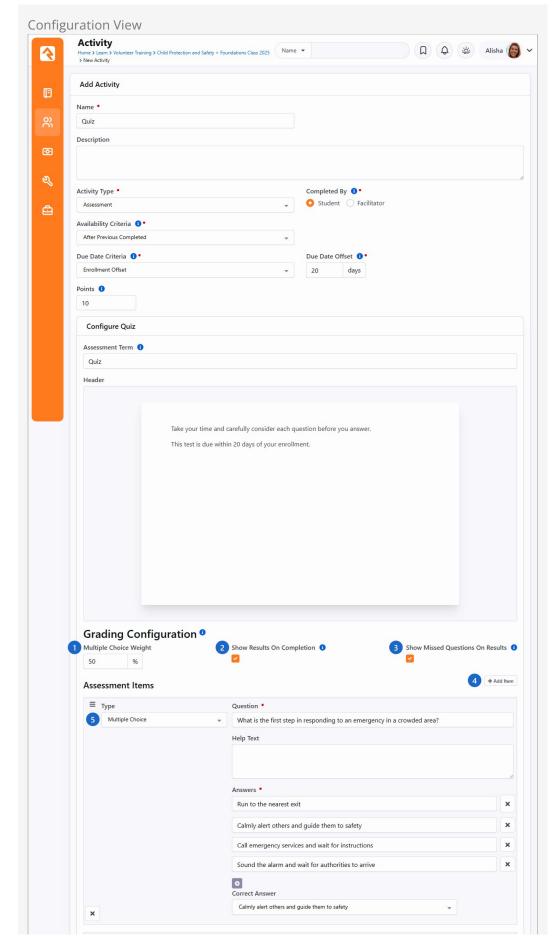
Assessment

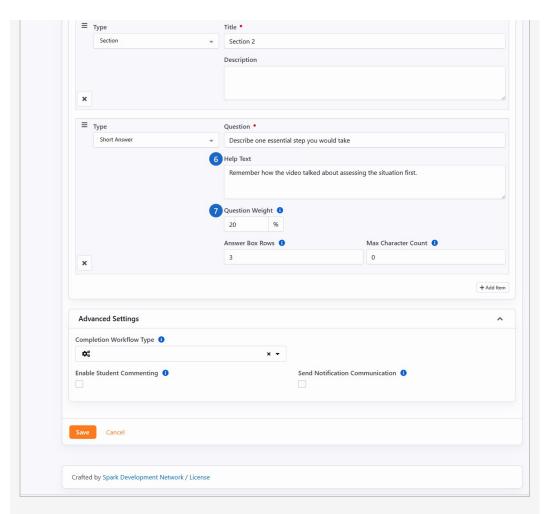
For this activity type, you'll see a form for adding items such as a *Multiple Choice* question, a *Section* separator, or a *Short Answer* item.





You can add as many items as you need. With the Multiple Choice type of question, you can supply the correct answer so the assessment can be graded automatically. However, adding a Short Answer type will require a Facilitator to score each participant's answers.





1 Multiple Choice Weight

This is the percentage of the total points that apply toward any/all multiple-choice questions for this activity.

2 Show Results on Completion

When checked, will show the summary of results to the student after they've completed the activity.

3 Show Missed Questions On Results

When checked, will show the student's answer and the correct answer for each missed multiple-choice question once they've completed the activity.

4 Add Item

Used to add new items to the assessment.

5 Type

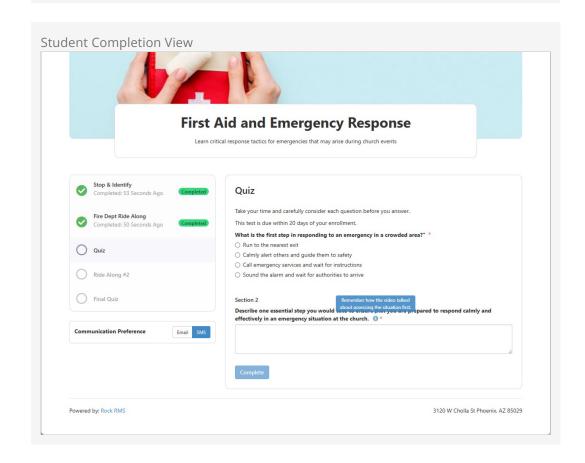
Choose from one of the available options.

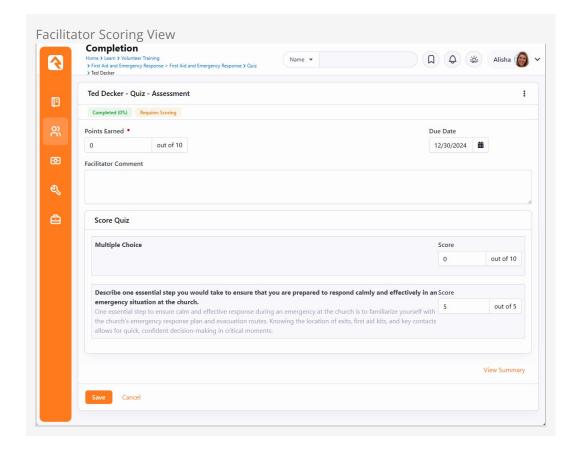
- Multiple Choice: A standard multiple choice with a single correct answer value. Since you will define the answer here, these types of items do not require manual grading by the Facilitator.
- **Section:** Provides some additional heading information which is typically intended for the next activity item.
- **Short Answer:** Allows you to define a question and designate what percentage of the total points will apply toward this item. Short Answer items will require grading by a Facilitator.
- 6 Help Text

Any text you write here will be shown as a information popup next to the question.

Question Weight

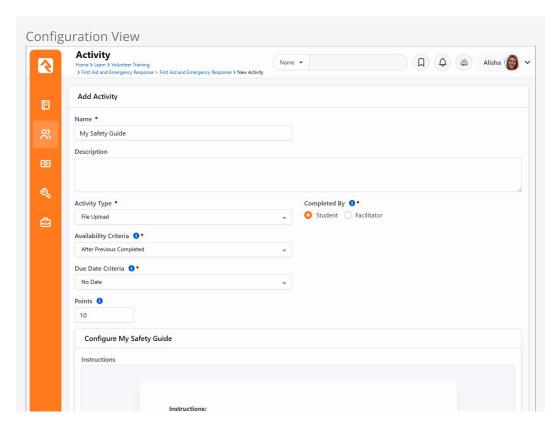
This defines the percentage of the overall points will go toward this question. The weight of your multiple-choice questions combined with any Short Answer questions must total 100%.

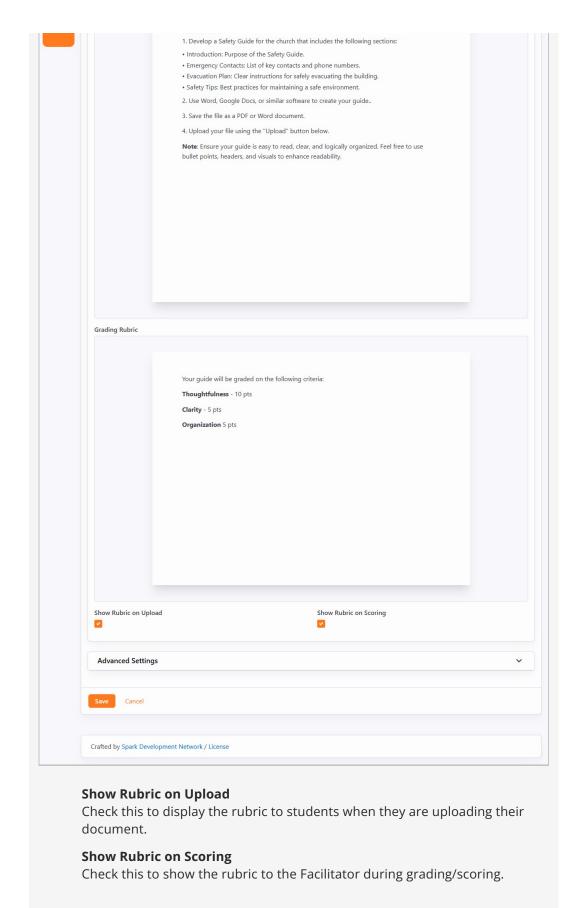


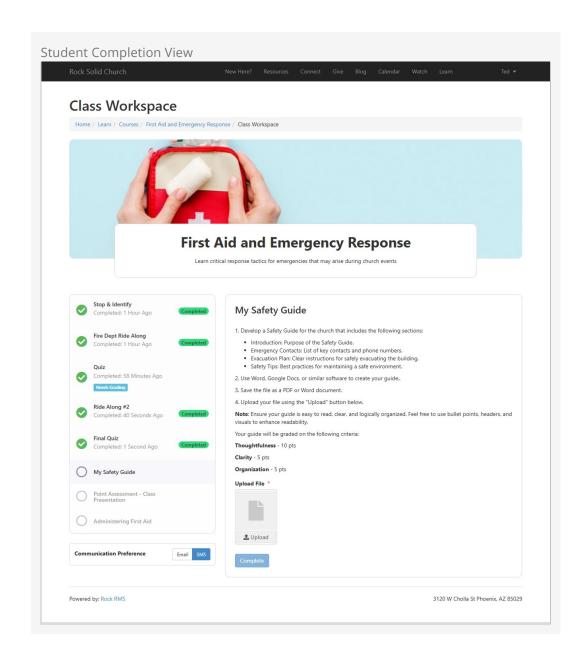


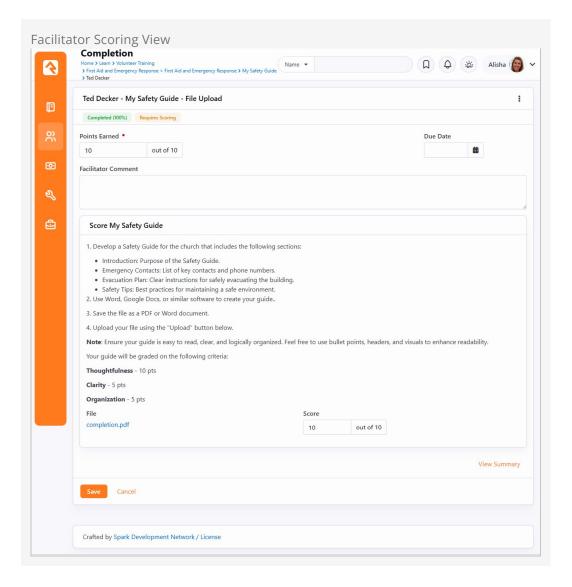
File Upload

The File Upload activity enables students to submit a file with the required content to complete the activity. You can provide additional instructions and attach a grading rubric to outline the evaluation criteria, if applicable.





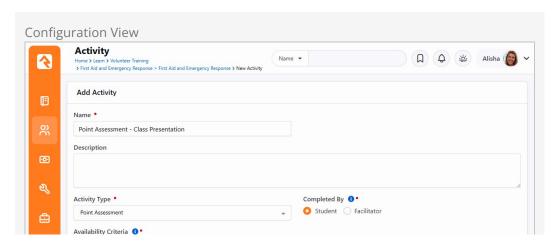


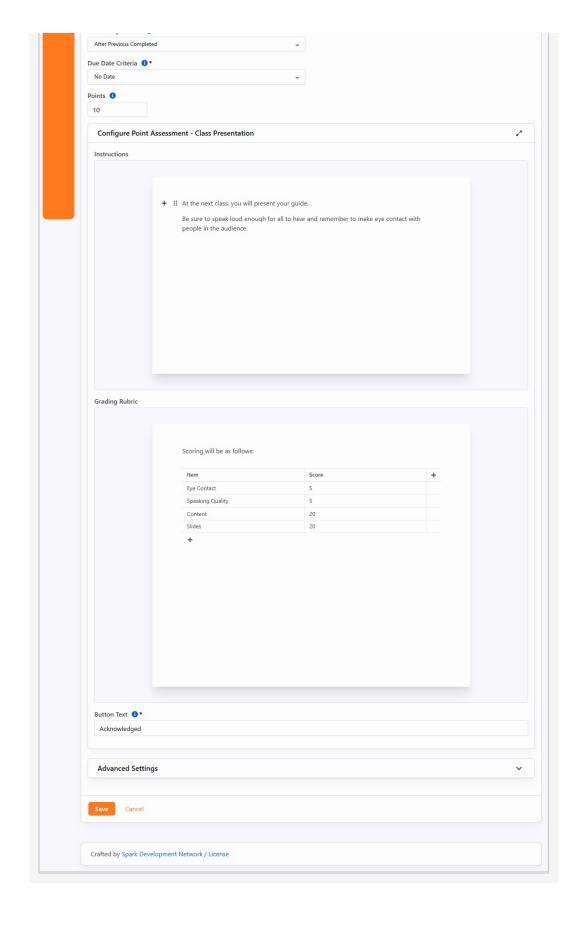


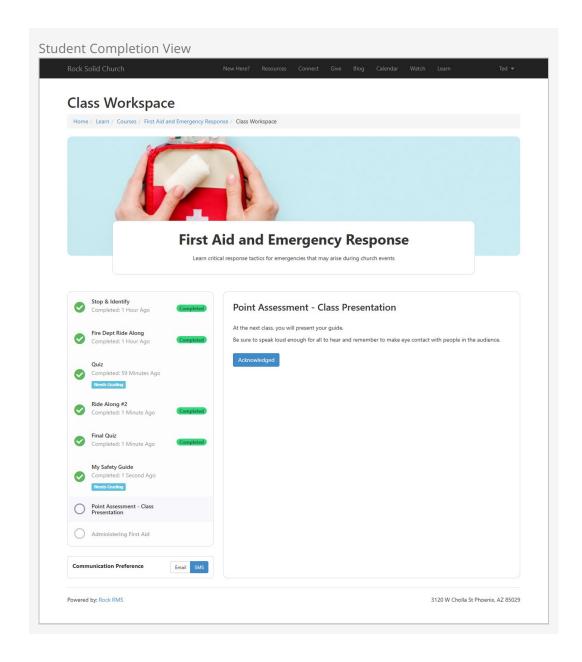
Point Assessment

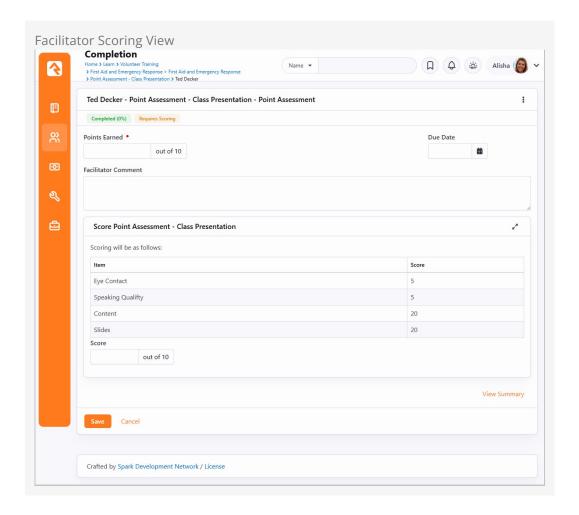
The Point Assessment activity is similar to the File Upload activity, but students do not upload anything. It is ideal for scenarios where students present something physical or deliver an in-person presentation.

Here, the grading rubric is intended as a guide for facilitators, helping them stay on track with the rules and criteria for grading the assignment.





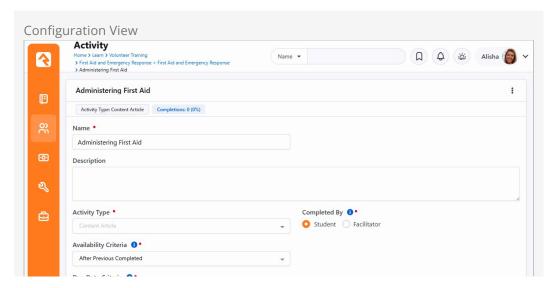


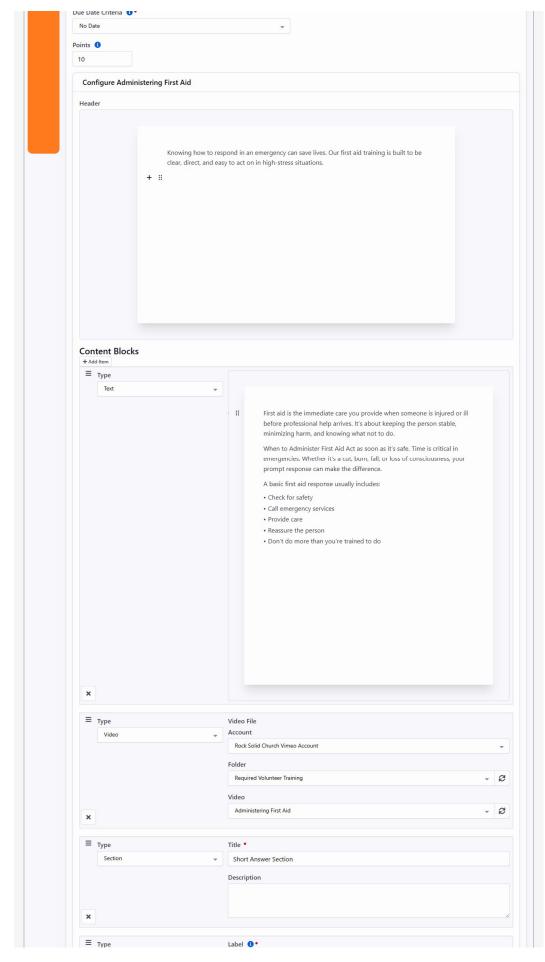


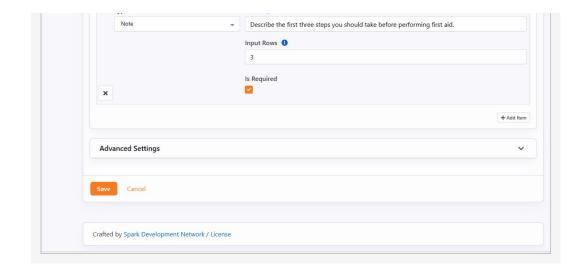
Content Article

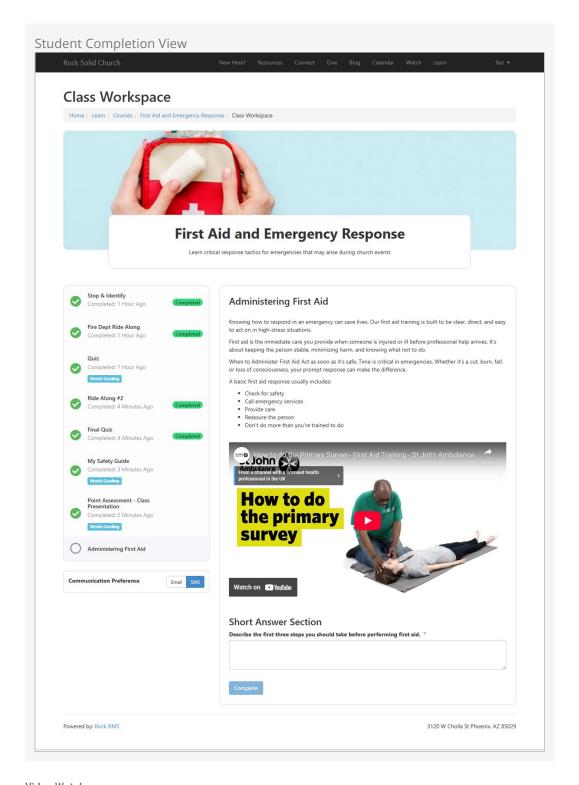
The *Content Article* activity lets students engage with instructional content by reading text or watching a video. They can then reflect by writing personal notes or answering a prompt—neither of which are graded.

These notes are private and visible only to the student.



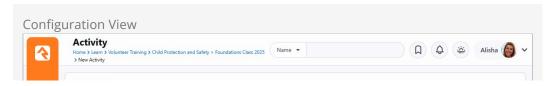


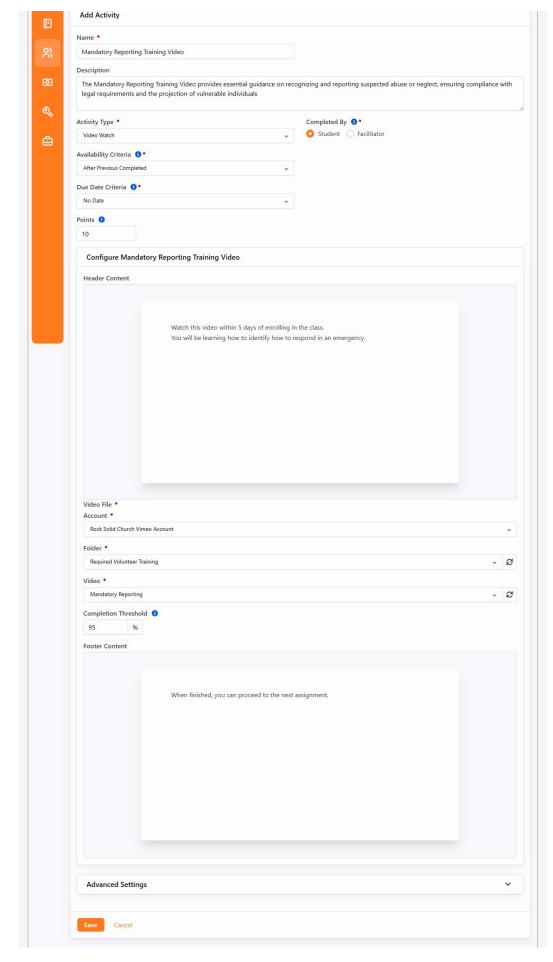




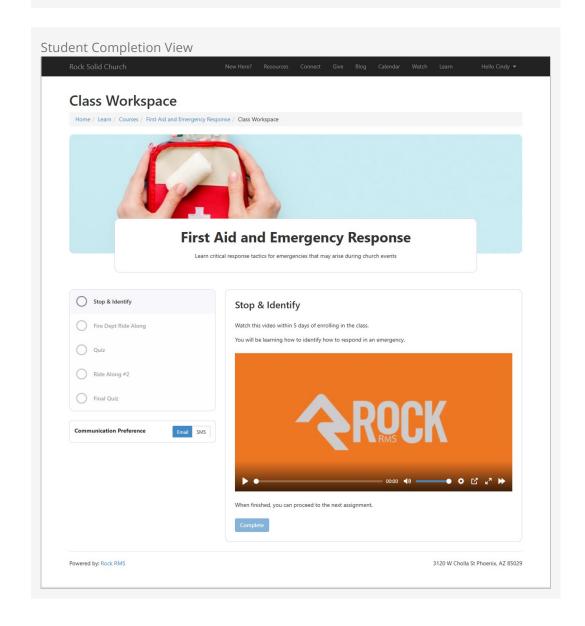
Video Watch

The Video Watch activity lets you share a video from your Digital Media Accounts in Rock. You can set how much of the video a student needs to watch before they can mark it as completed. See the Digital Media section of the Rock Admin Hero Guide.



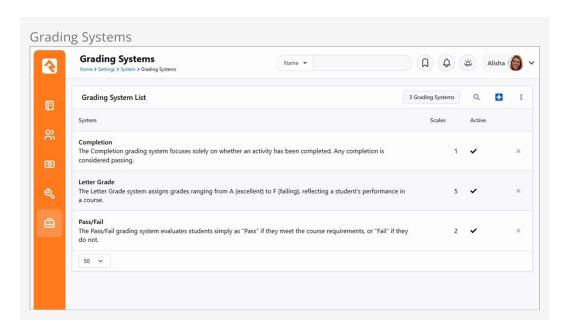


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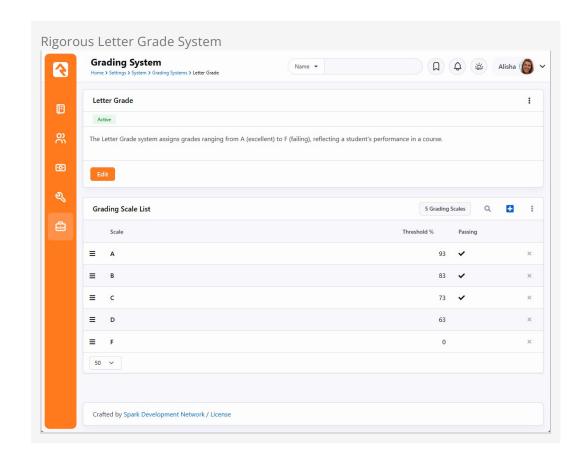
Grading Systems

Found under Admin Tools > Settings, this is where you can define or customize the grading system to fit your needs. For example, Rock ships with the "Rigorous" Letter Grade system. In less rigorous organizations, when using the Letter Grade system, one must only reach a 90% or higher grade to receive a "A" grade. This is where you can make those adjustments.



Completion Grading Systems

If your course uses a completion grading system, the name you enter will appear as the label once the course is finished. Keep in mind that any grading system with only one scale is treated as a *completion* type.



Behind the Scenes

The Inner Workings of Learning Classes

If you were to peek behind the curtains of Rock, you would discover that a *Learning Class* is essentially a specialized type of *Group*. What does this mean? For one, *Students* and *Facilitators* are simply a specific type of *GroupMember*. That means you can leverage many of Rock's features that work with groups and group members.

- Learning Class Group
- Learning Participant (Students, Facilitators) GroupMember

For example, you could use the *Group Member Add From Attribute* action in a Workflow to add students (or facilitators) into a class.

No SQL Please

Although a Learning Class is just a specialized Group under the hood, please don't write custom SQL that attempts to use/access these special tables. The link between LearningClass and Group, as well as LearningParticipant and GroupMember, is tightly managed in code. Querying or manipulating these connections outside of Rock's built-in tools could break expected behavior.

Background Jobs

Rock includes background jobs to handle various automated tasks related to the LMS.

- **Send Learning Activity Notifications:** This job sends notifications to students for newly available activities.
- **Update Program Completions:** This job updates learning program completion records for programs that track completion status.