

## eClass vs Canvas Comparison

February 24, 2025

Prepared for UASU Executive Committee by  
Mallika Nayak, Department of Research and  
Advocacy



### Overview

This survey reached 1,000 respondents through the UASU Perks Platform, from February 10, 2025 to February 17, 2025. The top 3 faculties that the survey received highest responses from were Faculty of Science (32%), Faculty of Arts (16%), and Faculty of Engineering (13%). First-year students made up 30% of the respondents, followed by 25% second-year, 19% third-year, and 19% fourth-year or above.

When asked "Is there anything you like that eClass does but Canvas doesn't?" here were the most common responses categorized by sections:

#### Website Navigation

- "Test taking on eClass is significantly better and easier to navigate."
- "It is much more user friendly and easy to find things. Canvas hides stuff behind web pages, while eclass has the entire course on one page basically."
- "When I try to switch back to a 'lectures/notes' tab on Canvas from a specific lecture, it reroutes me to the main class page and then I have to click a bunch of tabs to get back where I was. On eClass, you could click back no problem."
- "eClass shows content for a course on the course's main page. On canvas you have to take extra steps to find "modules". Also, eClass would send a confirmation email when I submitted an assignment which was reassuring."
- "The ability to access the course index easily. On Canvas, you have to go through the "Modules" tab, taking you to another section of the website."

#### Assignment Submission and Tests

- "There is no option to edit or submit assignments that have been submitted on Canvas, while I can edit/unsubmit on eClass."
- "I like that eclass has more flexible course layouts, whereas Canvas has a more standardized structure, and eClass can handle complex quiz questions (like STACK for math) that Canvas might not support as well."
- "eClass gives you submission confirmation after submitting an assignment."

#### Notifications and Reminders

- "eClass has better notification features. When I receive an email it is for a good reason, canvas sends out emails that are not useful/confusing at times. eClass is more logical in structure, the format of quizzes and assignment hand-ins is easier to navigate."

- "The "your assignment has been submitted" emails, the quick access buttons to Gmail and other apps, the at-a-glance list of upcoming assignments for all classes."

### Calendar and Deadlines

- "The assignment due date system is weird on canvas and the eclass one is much better laid out. eclass doesn't show assignments you've turned in."
- "Eclass has a really good calendar for assignments whereas canvas' calendar is littered with announcements and other things that make it a mess to use for assignment management."
- "Lets you see a timeline of assignments due in the next 30 days on the home page."
- "Countdown time until assignment is due."

### Quiz and Exam Features

- "Lets you flag quiz questions to go back to."
- "Cross out items on multiple choice questions."
- "When taking quizzes, the timer on eClass is much more visible, and it's easier to see which questions you flagged."
- "Eclass is better at releasing grades than every single class with canvas has had an issue with releasing grades."
- "Canvas doesn't say what format the assignment submission needs to be in, so if you submit a ppt it automatically changes it to pdf."

### Mobile Experience

- "The mobile presentation is MUCH better on eclass, it's hard to use canvas on my phone."
- "Better mobile app, easier to download notes/docs/pdfs to device, better UI and easier navigation."
- "It's incredibly easy to navigate, I also find eClass is easier to use on a mobile device, I don't know what the 'advanced mobile application' is because I can't even open 75% of my assignments on my mobile device."

### General Experience

- "If something worked well, why switch to something that obviously isn't an improvement? This is definitely not in the best interest of students and academic staff!"
- "I just find that canvas shows you too much at once but also not enough at once."
- "I think I just like that eClass is more familiar to me."
- "Everything, literally everything. Canvas SUCKS."

When asked about additional features of Canvas that were not available on eClass, users shared a mix of positive and critical opinion about the Learning Management System:

- "Canvas is a huge improvement in terms of grade tracking and organization."
- "Canvas has customizable notifications for mobile, email, and text."
- "I like the ability to preview files without downloading them."
- "I like how Canvas has a cleaner, more modern design."
- "Canvas's side bar posts everything from assignments to updates, making important stuff get lost."
- "The confetti when you submit an assignment is very motivational."
- "Canvas feels like a reduction of services and information."
- "I think Canvas is better suited for asynchronous or online courses because of its organizational structure."
- "The UI overall is a lot cleaner. I'm way more accustomed to eClass (so are my profs and classmates), and I think that's the primary reason I can say I dislike it."

"Which of the two Learning Management Systems (LMS) do you find has an easier process for submitting your assignments?"

- eClass: 71%
- Canvas: 7%
- Both are equally easy: 18%
- Both are equally hard: 4%

"If you were in your first semester of university, which of the two LMS systems (eClass or Canvas) would you find easier to navigate and understand?"

- eClass: 72%
- Canvas: 9%
- Both are easy to learn/get used to: 14%
- Both are difficult and confusing: 5%

"Which of the following features of Canvas do you find USEFUL that were not available on eClass? (Check all that apply)"

- "What-If scores" grade feature that allows you to see how your grade would change with different scores : 49%
- Notifications if there is a grade update available: 43%
- Advanced mobile application: 20%
- Integrated media (lectures/videos) library: 23%
- None of the above: 25%

"If given the choice which LMS would you prefer to use for your courses in the semester?"

- eClass: 65%
- Canvas: 8%
- Both are fine: 17%
- Doesn't matter to me: 10%

"Which LMS makes it easier to access course materials (e.g. lectures, readings, resources)?"

- eClass : 62%
- Canvas: 10%
- Both make it equally easy to access course material: 21%
- Both make it equally difficult to access course material: 5%

"Between eClass and Canvas, which system is more reliable in terms of performance (e.g. fewer technical issues and crashes)?"

- eClass: 40%
- Canvas: 15%
- Both are equally reliable: 24%
- Neither, both have equal performance issues: 20%

"How smooth has your transition been from eClass to Canvas, considering that some courses may be on eClass and others on Canvas?"

- Very smooth: 7%
- Somewhat smooth, but a bit confusing: 34%
- Difficult, e.g. due to the mix of platforms: 34%
- Very difficult, hard to keep track: 16%
- Other, please specify: 8% — See text responses above.