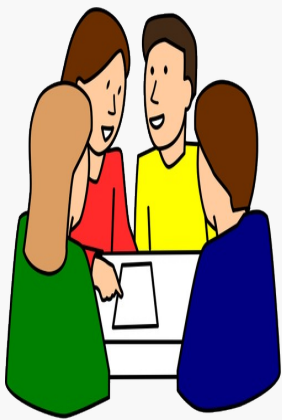# Tools for Managing Groupwork in Learn@Seneca

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by Kevin Pitts, the Teaching & Learning Centre

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The benefits of group work are well known. Group work helps students build collaboration and communication skills. As a result, many of us include group work as part of our course design and assessment strategy. But managing group work can be tricky, and there is always a level of unpredictability with group work based on student preparedness, personality, experience, and the like. Luckily, Learn@Seneca has several tools available to help us manage groups and help students collaborate.

So, you've designed an awesome authentic group task that will help students achieve quite a few of the course learning outcomes. Now you want to implement the task. Some questions you might consider are:

How can I place students in groups?
The Learn@Seneca group tool gives you three main options: you can manually enroll students in groups, you can have Learn@Seneca randomly assign students to groups, or you can have students self-enroll in groups. To find out how, check out the Setting up Groups page in the Learn@Seneca Groups Tool online module.

What online tools are available to students in Learn@Seneca?
Once students are placed in groups, you can assign each group specific communication and collaboration tools. Common communication tools include **email** and **discussion board** for asynchronous communication, as well as **web conferencing** (via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) for synchronous communication. Common collaboration tools include a **group wiki**, where students can document their learning journey over time and publish their group deliverables, and **file exchange**, where students can share files. To find out how to assign group tools, check out the Managing Groups page in the Learn@Seneca Groups Tool online module.

There are many other questions you might be considering, such as how to grade group work. As always, The Teaching & Learning Centre is here to help. If you would like to explore more options, email us at teaching@senecacollege.ca to set up an appointment.

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