Publish Date Enhancements

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Introduction

Purpose: This job aid provides guidance on the Publish Date field in courses. This optional field can be used to capture historical information for internal auditing purposes. It can also be used to schedule courses for automatic publication on a future date.

This document includes images to illustrate key points.

Access:

 Anyone with access to the Course creation workflow in TRAIN will be able to use the Publish Date field

Related Inclusions and Enhancements:

• The Revised Date for a course has been renamed to Content Updated for clarity

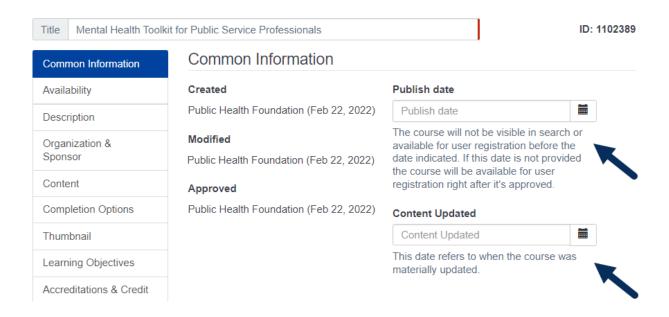
Uses of the Optional Publish Date field

The optional Publish Date field is located in the Common Information section of any course type. A companion optional field called Content Updated is also available.

These fields can be used to capture dates for internal audit purposes. For example, your agency may review courses annually based on the date they were first offered on TRAIN. In this case, the Publish Date can be used to capture the date it was first made available. When the course material is refreshed, the date can be entered in the Content Updated field.

The Publish Date has added functionality that will allow you to create a course and schedule it for a future date. If you set the date in the future, the course will be hidden from learner discovery methods and will not be available for registration until 12am Eastern on the date you select.

These fields can be used independently, together, or not at all depending on your agency's needs and business practices. Contact your TRAIN administrator if you have questions about whether you should use these fields for your course.



Future Publish Date: Benefits for Course Providers

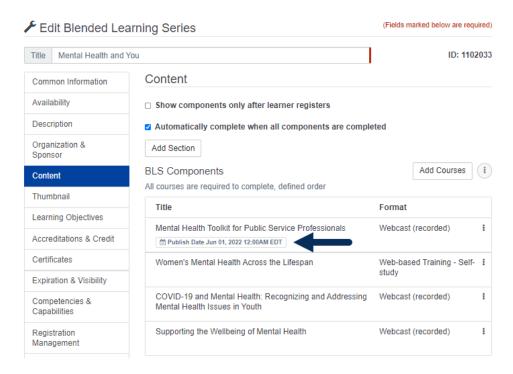
If you choose to set your course's Publish Date for a date in the future, you can complete all the course details and submit it for approval ahead of time. You will not need to manage its visibility through the Active flag or the Searchable flag. The course will remain hidden from learner discovery methods (Course Catalog, saved searches, homepage modules, etc.) and will not be available for registration (including administrative assignment) until the Publish Date.

You can also build Blended Learning Series or Training Plans and include unpublished courses so when they do become available, they will automatically become visible for learners. This may provide flexibility and a time buffer for those who need to create these course collections in advance.

Working with Unpublished Courses

When a course's Publish Date is set in the future, course providers and administrators will be able to find and utilize the course in advance even though it is unpublished.

The courses can be found and added to Blended Learning Series and Training Plans. The course will not appear for learners and will not affect them in any way until the Publish Date. Course providers and administrators will see a tag that indicates when the course will become available for learners. The example shown below is from a Blended Learning Series. The tag is the same in a Training Plan.

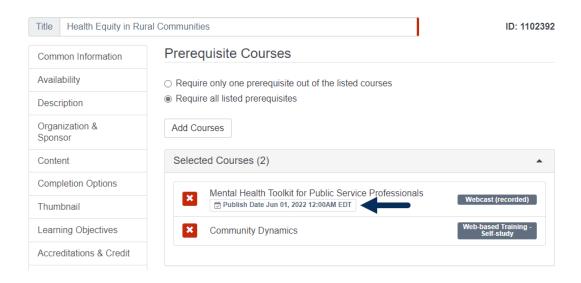


Unpublished Prerequisite Courses

You can select an unpublished course as a prerequisite for another individual course. However, it will not affect the learner in any way until the Publish Date.

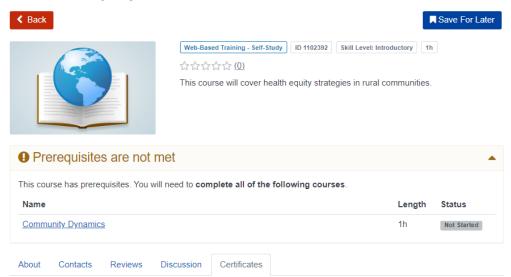
Below are comparison images of a course that has two defined prerequisites. One is unpublished and one is published. The learner will not need to take the first course until it meets its Publish Date.

Administrative view



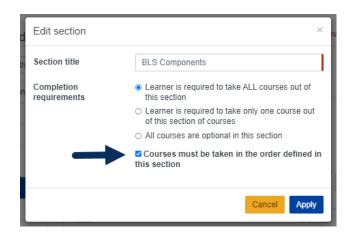
Learner view

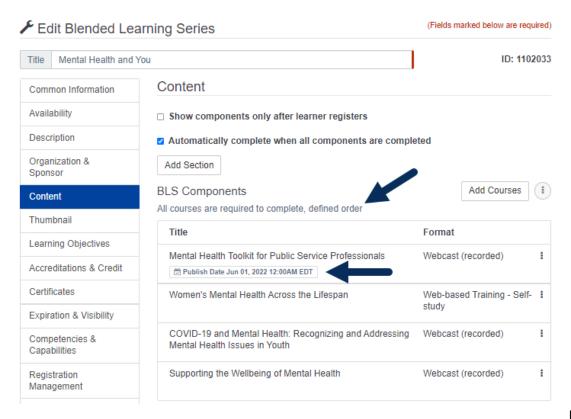
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Unpublished Courses in Defined Order Sections of Blended Learning Series and Training Plans

In the case of Blended Learning Series or Training Plans, the section option "Courses must be taken in the order defined in this section" imposes prerequisite behavior on the courses in the section. You cannot take the second course without completing the first one. Once a course meets its Publish Date, it will be enforced according to its requirement rules within the course collection.

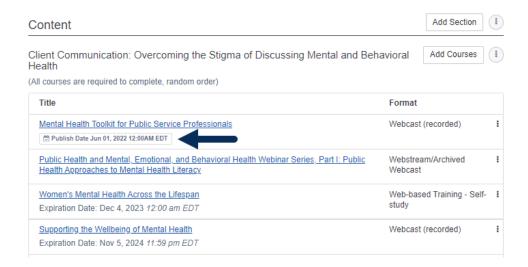




Unpublished Courses: Comparison of Administrative View and Learner View

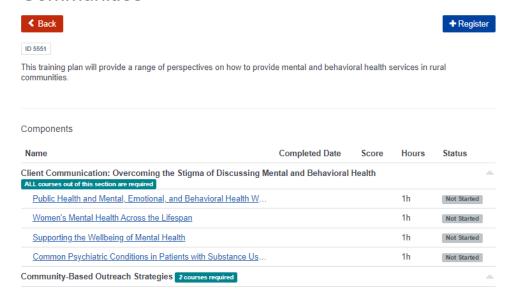
The screenshots below provide an example of the administrator view and learner view of the same training plan when one of the courses is unpublished.

Administrative view



The Learner view shows all of the active courses. The unpublished course will not appear in the list until its Publish Date. At that time, because the section rule is "defined order," the course will need to be completed before the next one can be started.

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Unpublished Courses in Reports

Unpublished courses will not be included in the following reports until they meet their Publish Date and become available for learners:

- Course Registrations vs Completions
- Training Plan Progress Details
- Training Plan Progress Summary Graphs
- Training Plan Summary Report

Effects for Learners

If you set your course's Publish Date to a date in the future, the course will not be visible to the learner. It will not appear in the Course Catalog, saved searches, or in the contents of a Blended Learning Series or Training Plan if it has been included there.

If a direct link to the course is circulated in advance through course provider outreach or your agency's marketing efforts, the learner will see a message that registration is not available until the Publish Date.



Once a course has met its Publish Date, the date will continue to display on the Course Details page.

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