Attendance- Tracking Student Participation

The Attendance feature within Canvas can be used for both online and face-to-face courses. It is a great method to help instructors review trends in attendance and student participation in the class. In monitoring attendance and behaviors, this can help early detection of trends that may need attention from the faculty member or even other teams on campus. By learning this resource and using the features, faculty can help improve student engagement and retention.
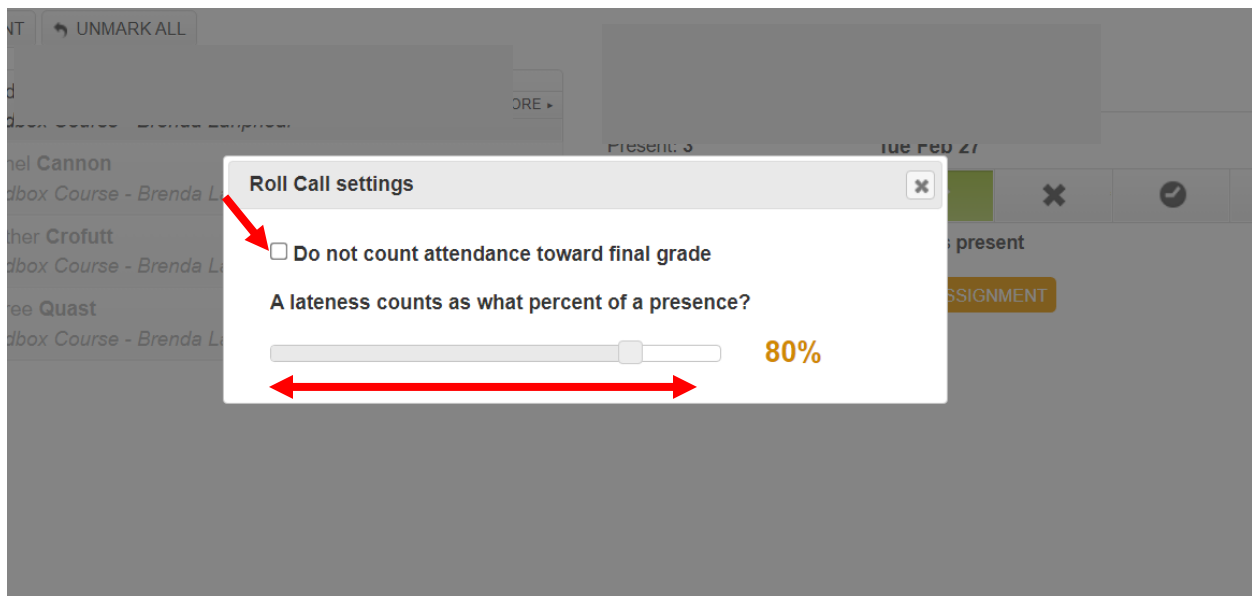
Reporting Status:

The Attendance tool is always initially visible in the left-hand side navigation toolbar, but it cannot be viewed by students- so hiding the feature in the course settings is not required. There are four different attendance reporting statuses: blank (not reported), present (a green check mark), absent (a red x), and tardy (an orange clock).
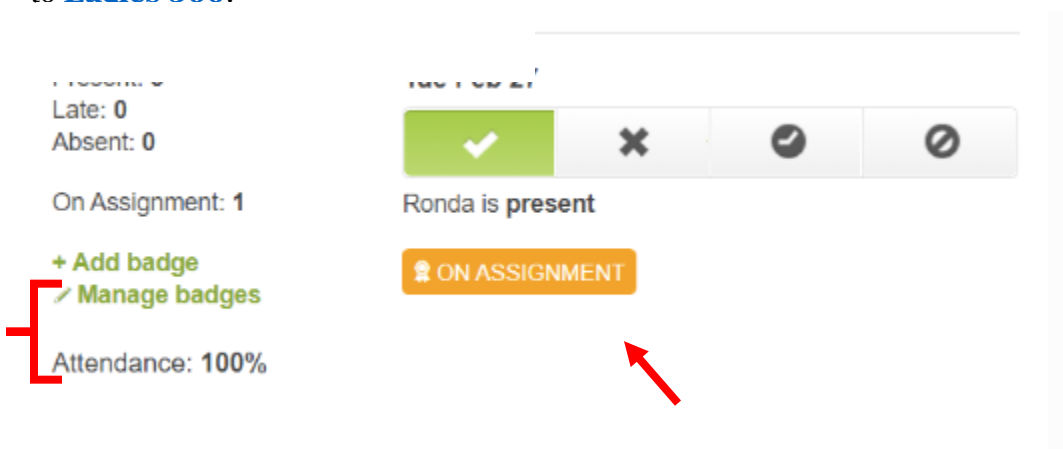
Roll Call Settings:

Instructors can set a percentage value for students that are tardy to class. The feature auto-defaults to 80%. So, the student would receive 80% for the day instead of the full 100%. There also the option to select **Do not count attendance toward final grade**. With this option selected even though the attendance will be recording percentages in the Gradebook, it will not count towards the final grade.

Attendance Badges- Instructors can create additional badges for use in the attendance feature. For example: participation, off-task, disruptive, etc. This can come in handy if faculty need to have a conversation with the student about the course, or if information needs reported to **Eagles 360**.

What the Research Tells Us About Attendance

Attendance and participation in class positively impacts higher performance on exams and final course grades. This is even more so for underperforming and non-traditional students. While students may balk at mandatory attendance policies, the majority admit they would miss class more regularly without one.

Ways to Improve Attendance

Inside Higher Ed published an article that included four tips for increasing attendance. The tips included:

1. Teach students *why* attendance matters.
2. Offer points for in-class assignments.
3. Emphasize relationships.
4. Make attendance mandatory.