Using Coursera in Canvas

? What Is Coursera?

Coursera is a leading global online learning platform that offers flexible, high-quality courses from top universities and organizations.

Through A-State's partnership with Coursera, faculty, staff, and students have access to a wide range of learning opportunities, including courses, professional certificates, and micro-credentials from industry leaders such as Google, Meta, and IBM.

Through the **Coursera Career Academy**, A-State provides access to hundreds of courses focused on career development and workforce-ready skills. These courses can be incorporated into Canvas to enhance instruction and provide students with opportunities to build practical, real-world knowledge alongside their academic coursework.

Faculty are encouraged to integrate Coursera into their courses to:

- Offer industry-recognized content
- Assign structured learning as part of course activities
- Provide students opportunities to earn additional credentials
- Connect academic learning with career-relevant skills

? Types of Coursera Content You Can Add

When using Coursera in Canvas, you can assign different types of content:

- **Courses** – Full multi-module learning experiences
- **Videos** – Individual lecture videos or short content segments
- **Projects** – Hands-on assignments and applied learning experiences
- **Guided Projects** – Structured, step-by-step project activities

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? How Coursera Access Works

Students must be **logged in to Coursera using their A-State account** to access licensed content.

- When Coursera is added using the External Tool in Canvas, authentication is handled automatically in most cases
- When using direct links, students must already be signed in for access to work correctly

□□ Student resources:

➤ *Career Academy for Students: Quick Start Guide*

➤ *Career Academy for Students: Finding a Course*

□□ Additional information:

➤ *A-State Coursera Overview*

➤ *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

? Why Students Might Be Asked to Pay

Students may encounter a payment prompt if:

- They accessed a Coursera link while **not logged in**
- They are using a **personal Coursera account instead of their A-State account**
- The selected course is **not included in the licensed Coursera catalog**

How to Fix It

- Have students sign in using their A-State account
- Direct them to access the course **through Canvas**
- Confirm the course is part of the licensed Coursera offerings
- Replace direct links with External Tool links if issues continue

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?? Notes and Limitations

- Coursera may **not appear in the Rich Text Editor (Apps menu)**
- Not all Coursera content supports grade passback
- Available content depends on the university's license
- The Canvas **Student View** feature does not fully support Coursera testing

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? Adding Direct Links (Use with Caution)

Faculty can add direct links to Coursera content in Canvas (Pages, Assignments, Announcements, etc.), but this method has limitations.

When Direct Links Work (and Why They Fail)

Direct links to Coursera will work if:

- The student is logged in to Coursera with their A-State account
- The selected course is included in the university’s licensed content

If either of these conditions is not met, students may be prompted to pay or be unable to access the course.

? Recommendation

Use the **External Tool** for a more reliable and consistent student experience.

? Adding Coursera Using External Tool (Recommended)

Coursera content can be added to Canvas using the **External Tool integration**, which provides several key benefits:

- □ Ensures students access Coursera through the university license
- □ Helps avoid payment prompts by routing students through the correct authentication process
- □ Supports **grade passback** to the Canvas gradebook (when available)
- □ Allows students to access content directly without searching

In most cases, this method also handles Coursera authentication automatically when students launch the content in Canvas.

> **i** The Coursera External Tool can be added from either **Modules** or **Assignments**.

? Modules vs Assignments: What’s the Difference?

Both **Modules** and **Assignments** allow you to add Coursera content using the External Tool and **track student completion and grades** in Canvas (when supported).

The difference is based on how you choose to organize your course:

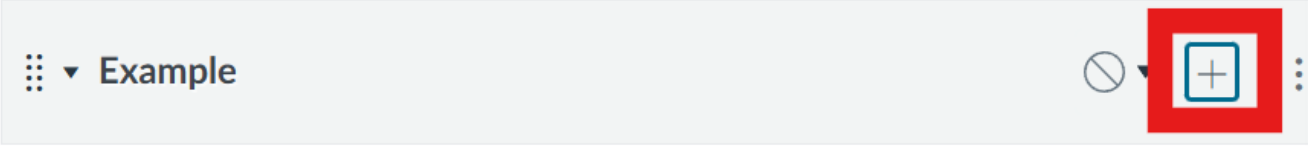
- Use **Modules** if you are organizing your course content into a structured sequence (e.g., weekly units or learning paths)
- Use **Assignments** if you are not using Modules and want to add Coursera content directly to the gradebook

Coursera content added through Modules will still be **configured as a graded activity** and report to the Canvas gradebook, except in cases where the selected content (such as videos) does not support grading.

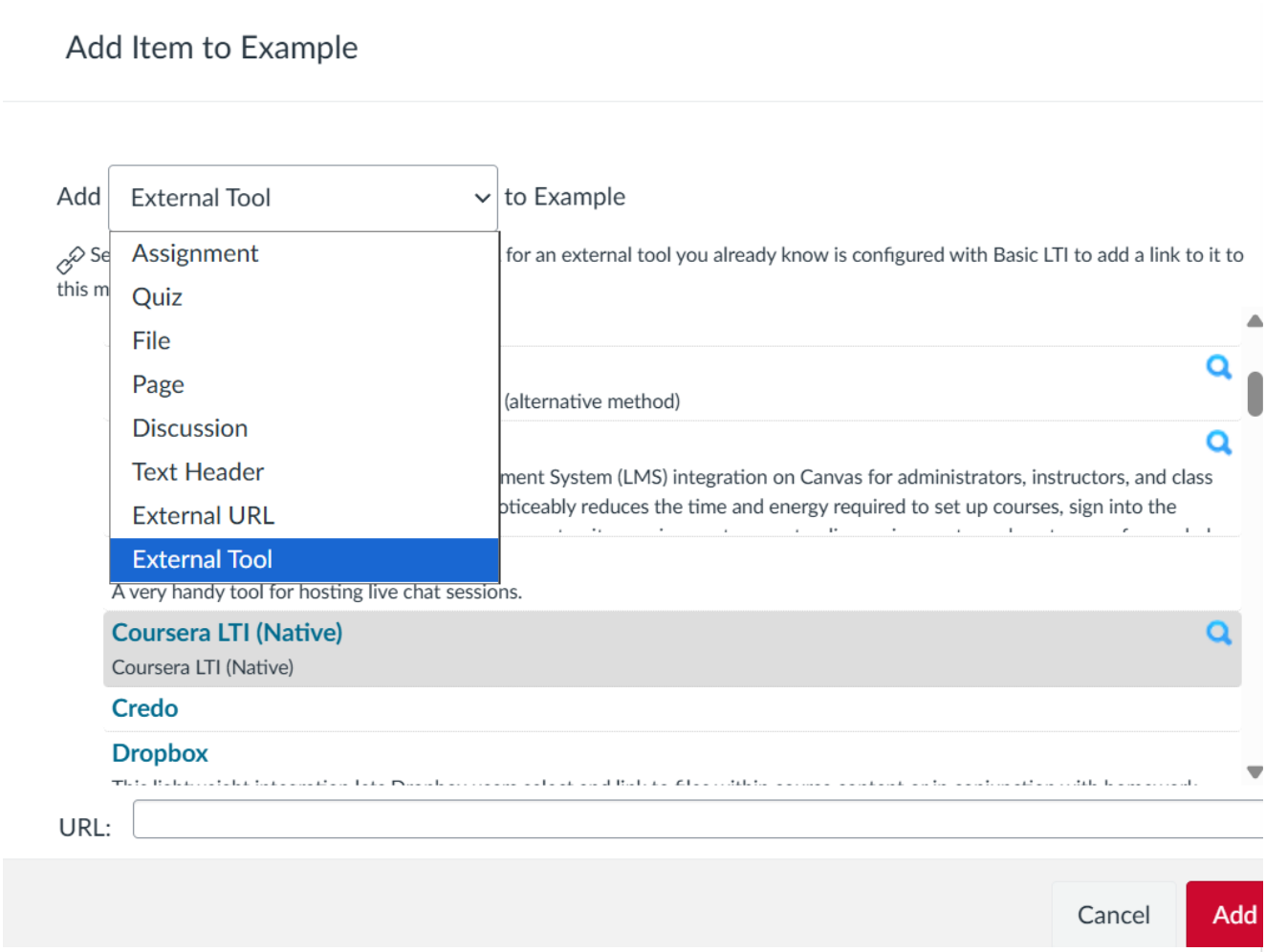
Option 1: Add Through Modules

Steps

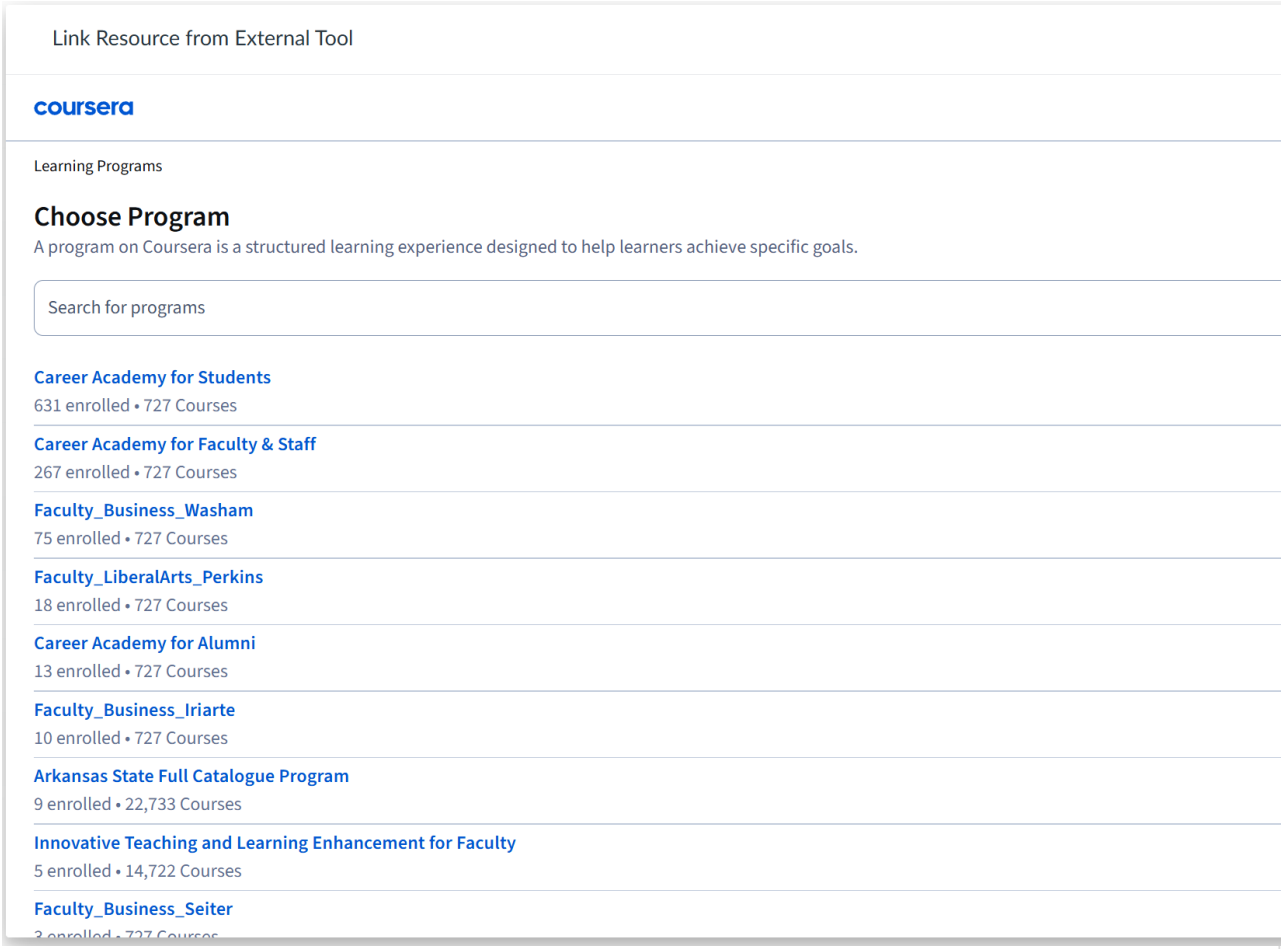
1. Open your Canvas course
2. Go to **Modules**
3. Click **+ (Add Item)**



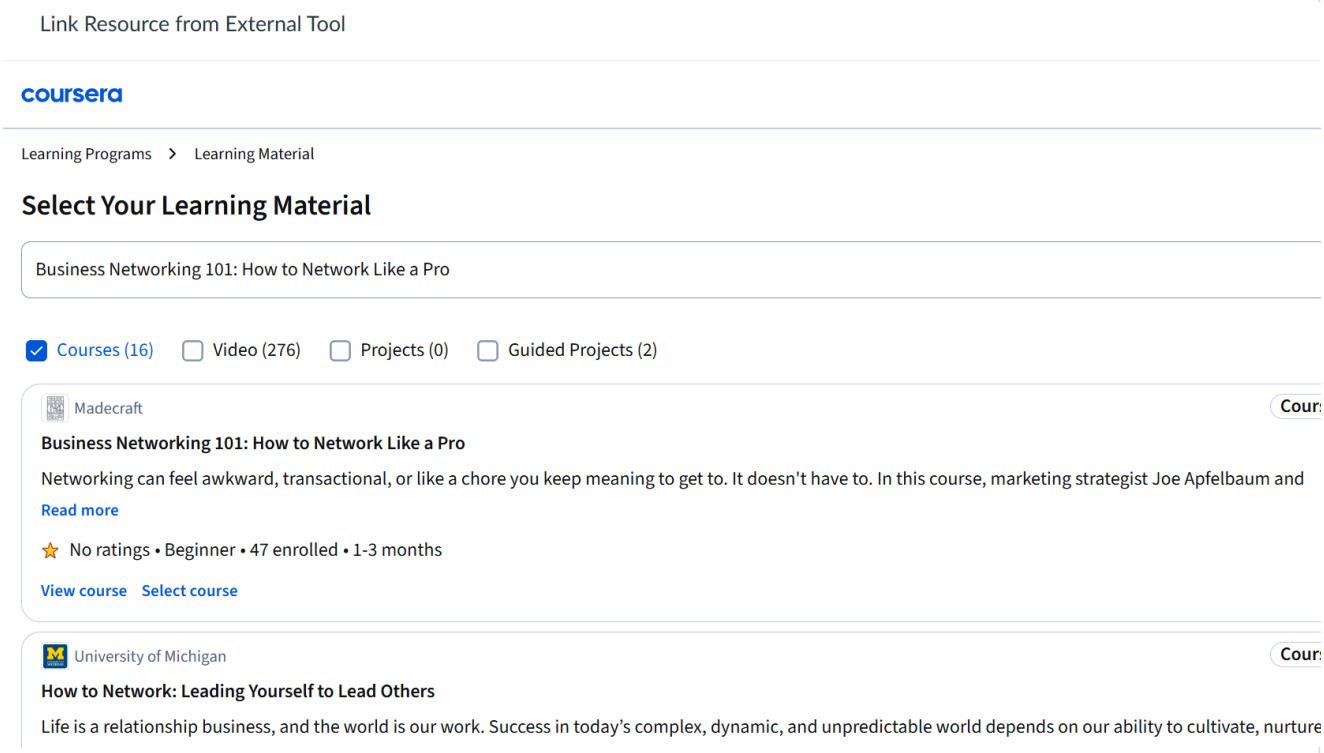
4. Select **External Tool**
5. From the list, select **Coursera LTI (Native)**



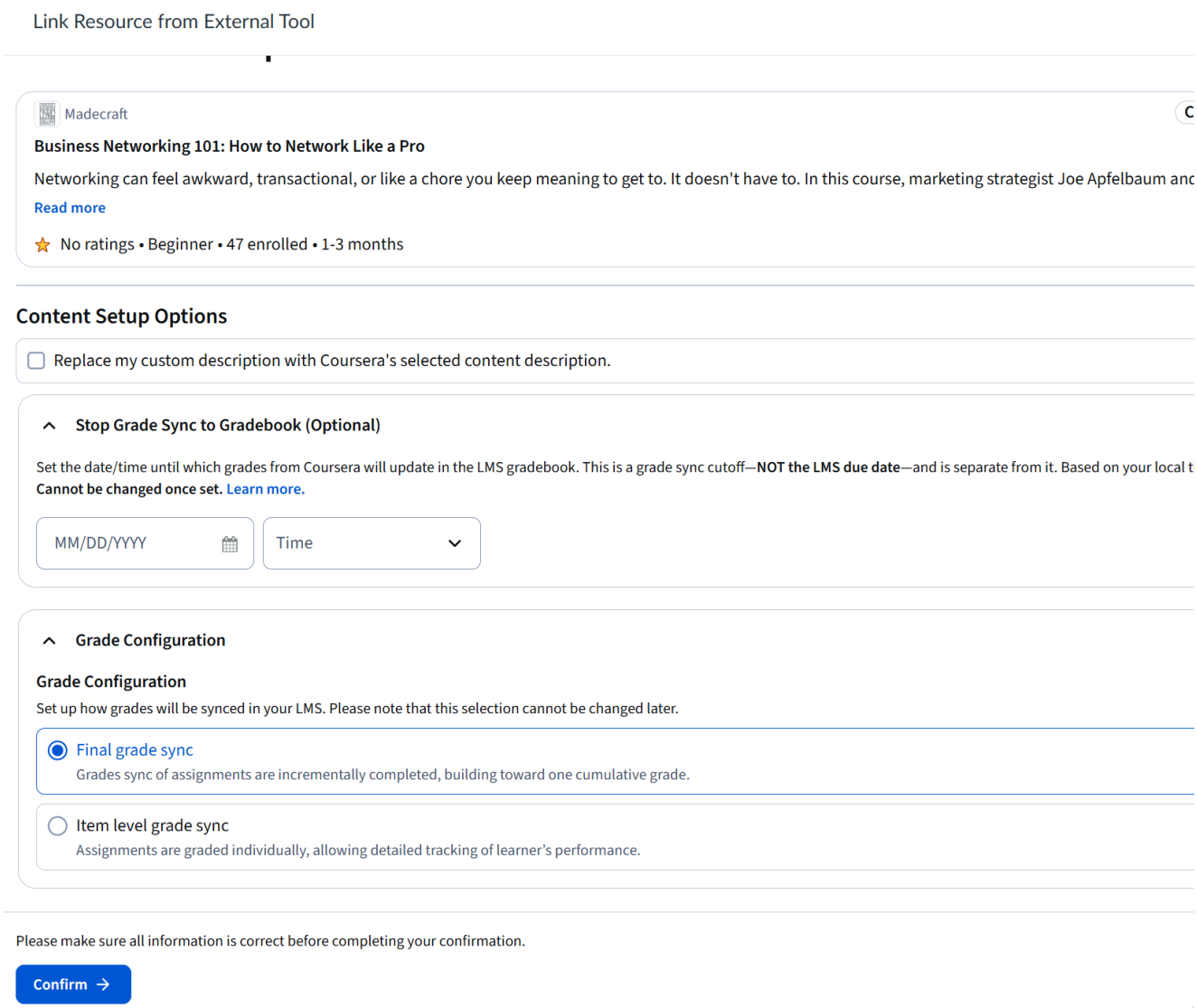
6. Choose the Coursera program
   - (e.g., *Arkansas State Full Catalogue Program*)



7. Search for and select a course or content



8. Configure settings (if prompted)



9. Click **Confirm**, and then **Add Item.**

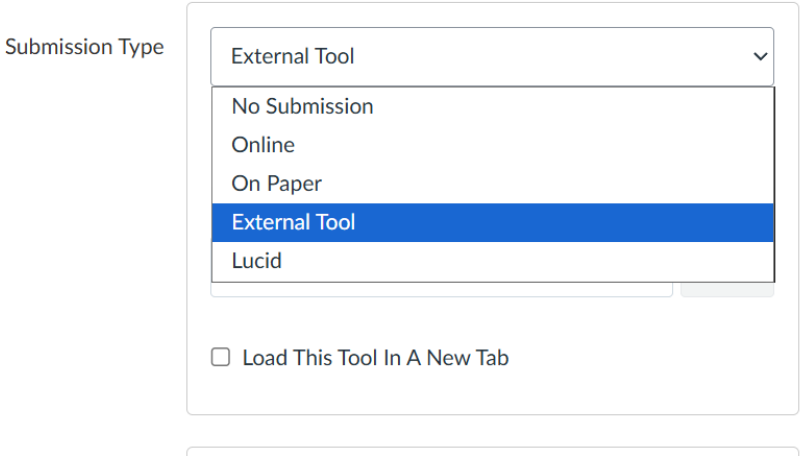
◫ Option 2: Add as an Assignment

Steps

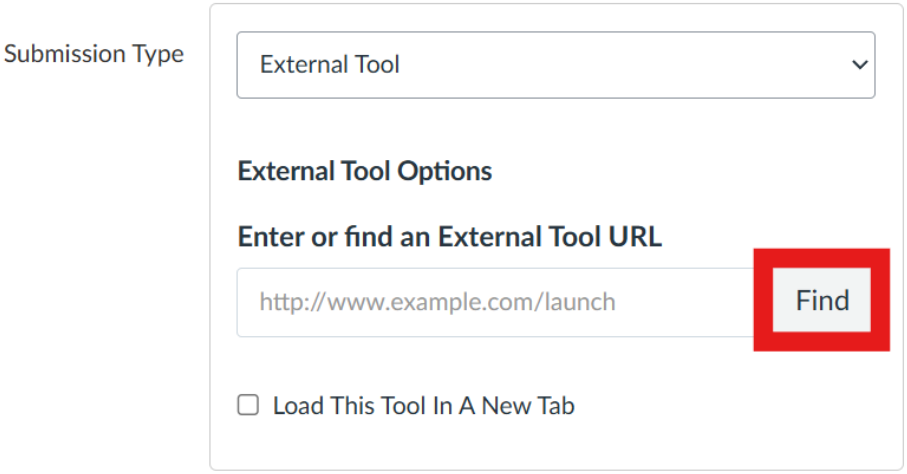
1. Go to **Assignments**
2. Click **+ Assignment**



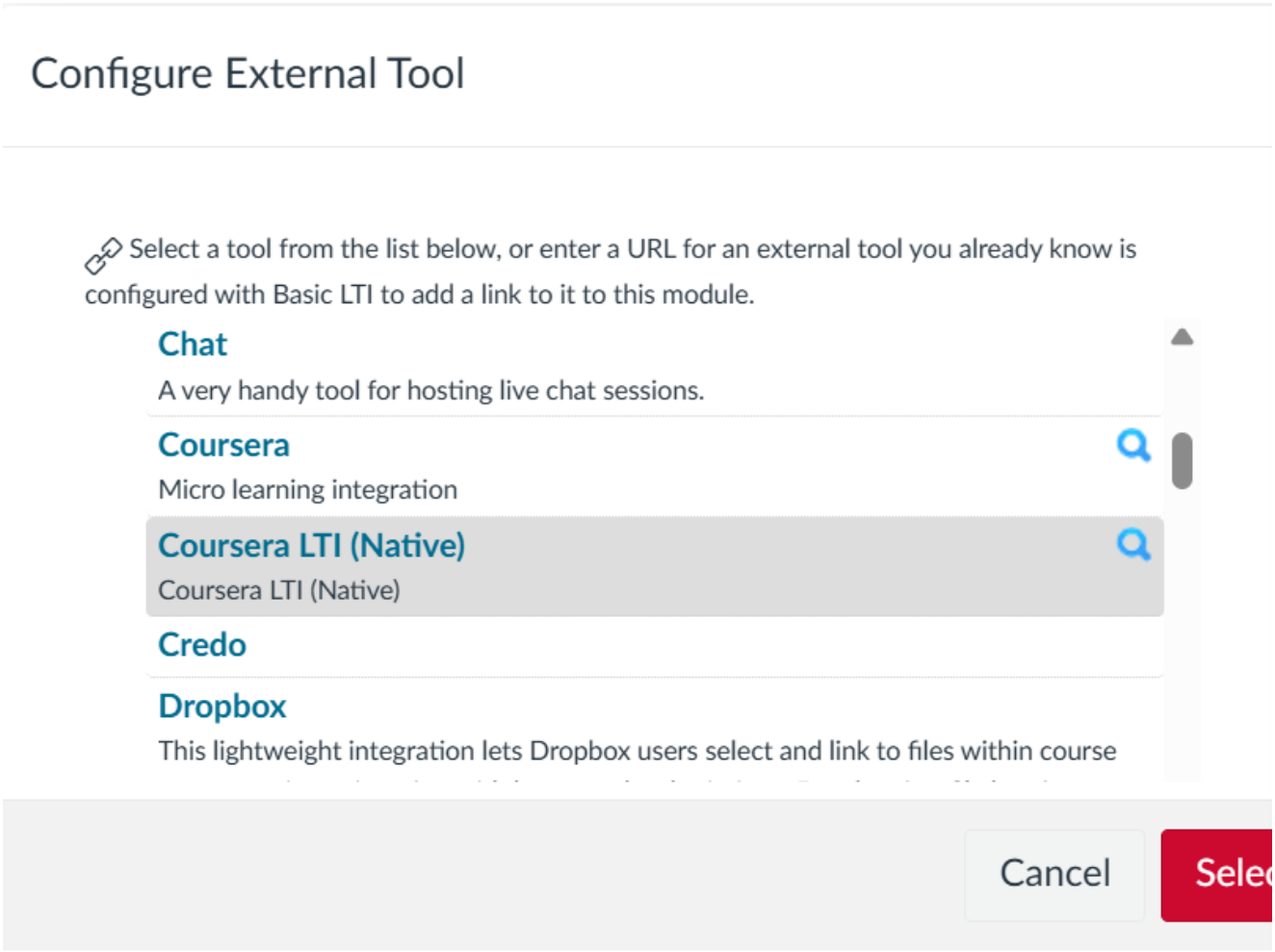
3. Enter assignment details
4. Under **Submission Type**, select **External Tool**



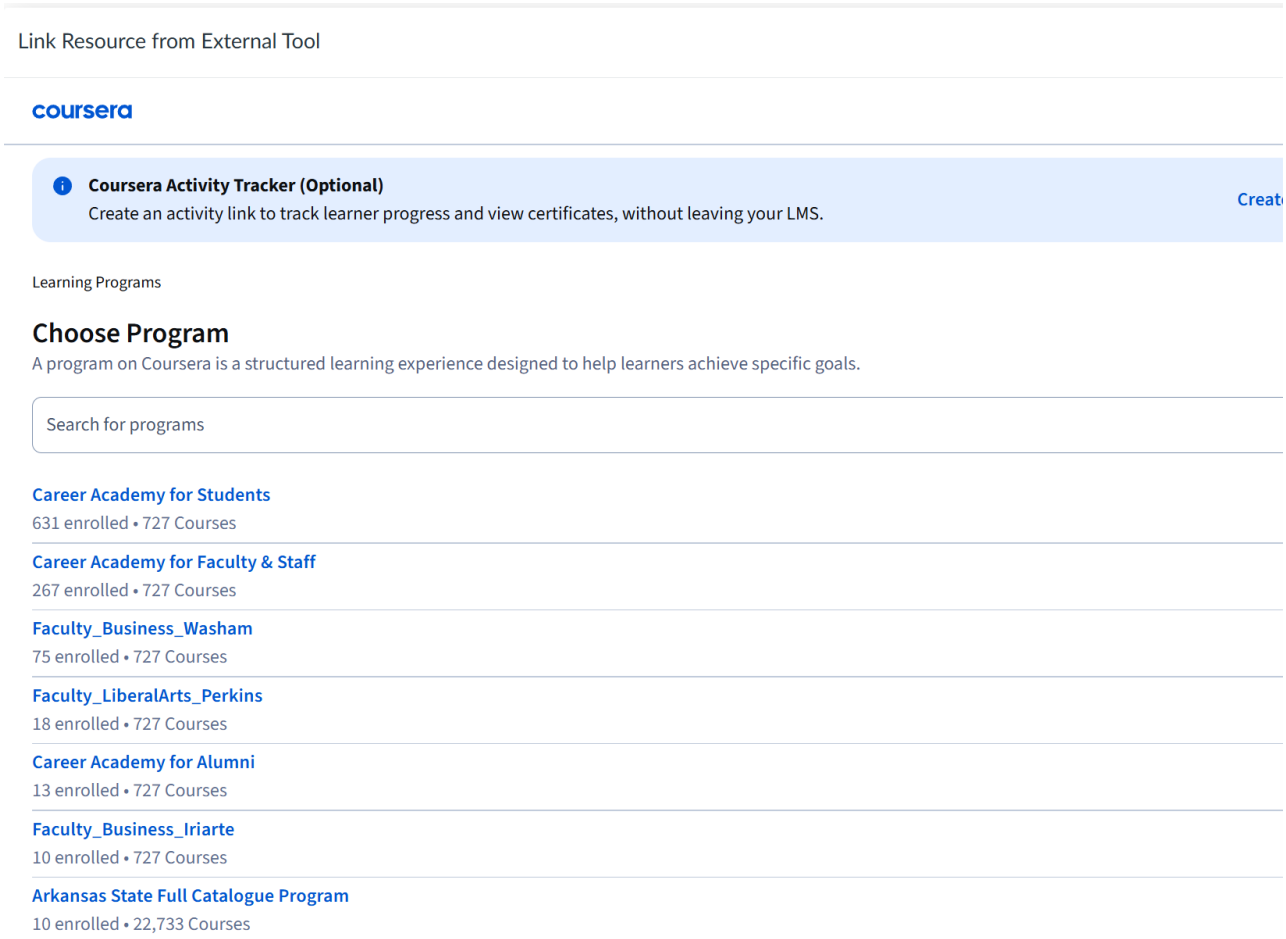
5. Click **Find**



6. Select Coursera LTI (Native)

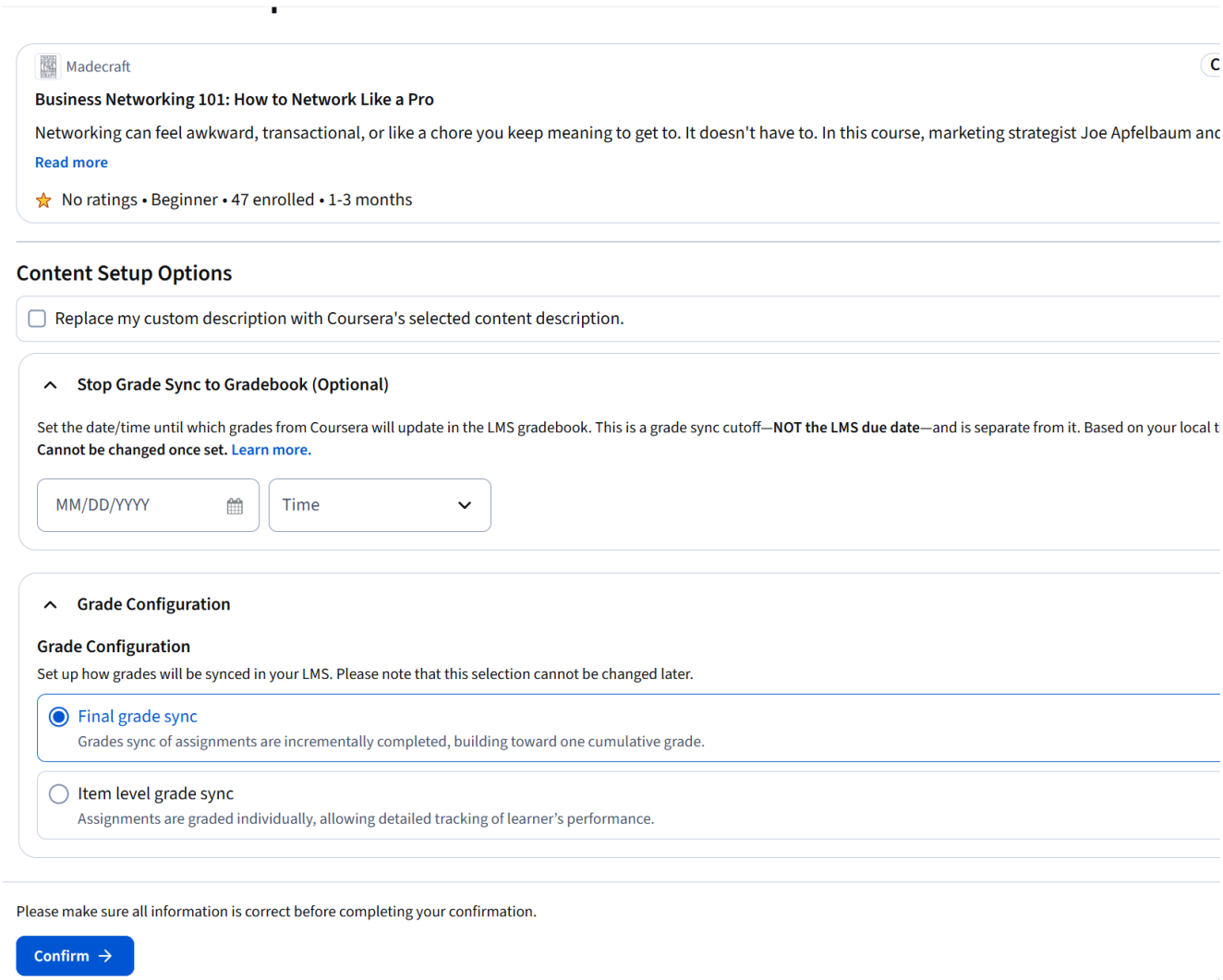


7. Choose the Coursera program
    - (e.g., *Arkansas State Full Catalogue Program*)



8. Search for and select a course or content

9. Configure grading settings



10. Click **Confirm** and **Select**
11. Click **Save** or **Save & Publish** to create the assignment.

? Grading and Grade Passback

Grading behavior depends on the type of Coursera content selected.

? Supports Grade Passback

The following content types can return grades to Canvas:

- Courses
- Projects
- Guided Projects

These may be configured to return:

- A **final grade**, or
- **individual item grades**, depending on the content

?? Limited Grading Support

- Videos typically **do not include gradable components**
- Best used for **instructional or supplemental purposes**

? Instructional Tip

> Use **Courses or Guided Projects** for structured, graded learning activities.
> Use **Videos** to supplement instruction with shorter content.

? Best Practice

> Test Coursera content using a **real student account** whenever possible.

The Canvas **Student View** feature does not fully support Coursera testing. Because it creates a temporary user without an associated email address, Coursera authentication will fail and may result in an error.

Recommended Testing Methods

- Ask a student (or colleague with a student role) to test the link
- Use a test student account with a valid A-State email
- Confirm the student can access the content without a payment prompt

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? Need Help?

- **CETL** – CETL@AState.edu | 870-972-2334
- **A-State Online Faculty Support** – facultysupport@astate.edu

For access or licensing issues, requests may be routed to the Coursera administrator.

? Related Resources

- *Coursera*
- Canvas for Educators

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