

# Creating a Question Pool

Last Modified on 03/16/2026 1:46 am EDT

You can assign Question Pools to add a random element to assignments. Each student will be assigned a question out of the Pool at random. Some instructors build assignments with this feature to make cheating harder.

You can create your own Pool in the Pool Editor. In addition, depending on your Smartwork course, there may be premade Pools in the library already. To find them, open the "Type" filter on the main library screen and select the "Pool" option.

Hide All Answers

## Creating a Question Pool

When adding questions in the Assignment Editor, you can choose to add a Pool of questions or create a new Pool within the Question Library.

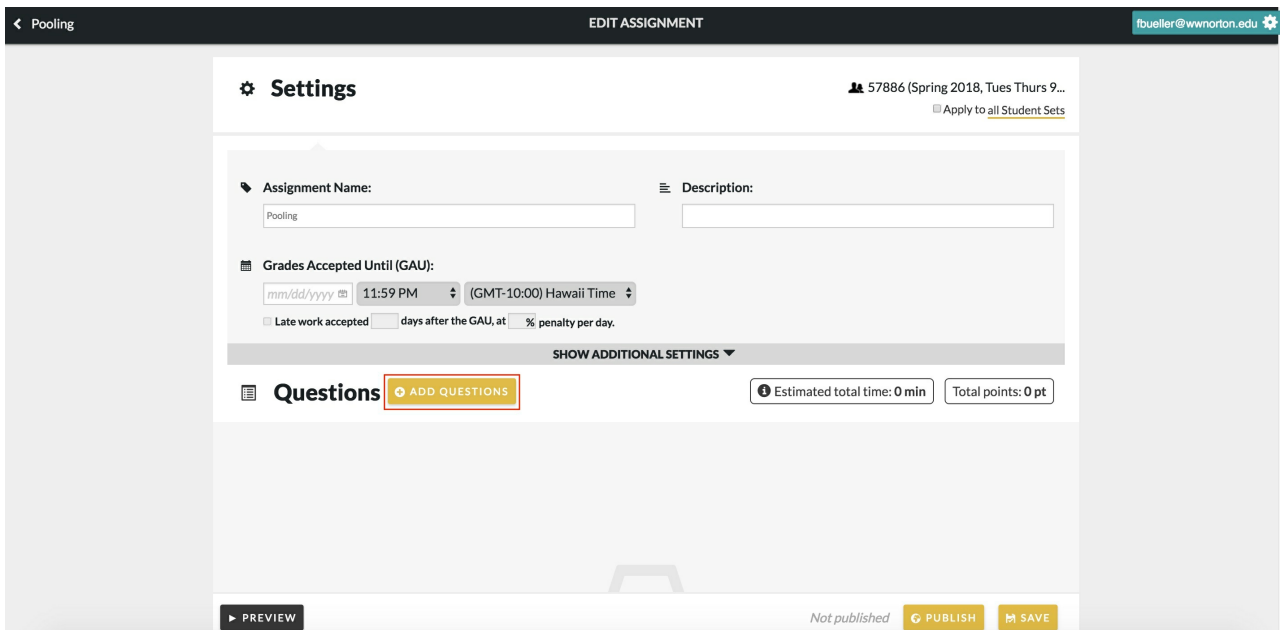
The screenshot shows the 'QUESTION LIBRARY' interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search the question title...' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a green button labeled 'YOUR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT' with a red notification badge containing the number '0'. Below the search bar, there is a 'Filter By:' section with several filter buttons: 'CHAPTER', 'OBJECTIVE', 'SERIES', 'TYPE', 'DIFFICULTY', and 'AUTHOR'. A 'Clear all filters' link is located to the right of these buttons. Below the filters is a table with the following columns: 'NUM', 'QUESTION TITLE (1407 results)', 'TYPE', 'CHAPTER', and 'AVERAGE TIME'. The table contains several rows of question data, each with a plus sign icon in the 'NUM' column and a gear icon in the 'QUESTION TITLE' column. At the bottom of the interface, there are two buttons: 'CREATE NEW POOL' (highlighted with a red box) and 'CREATE NEW QUESTION'.

| NUM        | QUESTION TITLE (1407 results)                  | TYPE            | CHAPTER | AVERAGE TIME |
|------------|--|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| + 1.03 ART | Rank Solar System objects from smallest ...    | Ranking         | 1       | 03:05        |
| + 1.03 RQ  | Identify a characteristic of the Jovian pla... | Multiple Choice | 1       | 02:04        |
| + 1.03 VID | Video: Identify the item(s) that may sho...    | Multiple Select | 1       | 06:36        |
| + 1.04     | Relate the size of a planet or moon with g...  | Multiple Choice | 1       | 02:10        |
| + 1.04 ART | Rank the historical events of the Univers...   | Ranking         | 1       | 02:07        |
| + 1.04 RQ  | Recognize characteristics of the Big Bang      | Multiple Choice | 1       | 02:03        |
| + 1.04     | ...  | ...             | 1       | 02:10        |

## Creating A New Pool

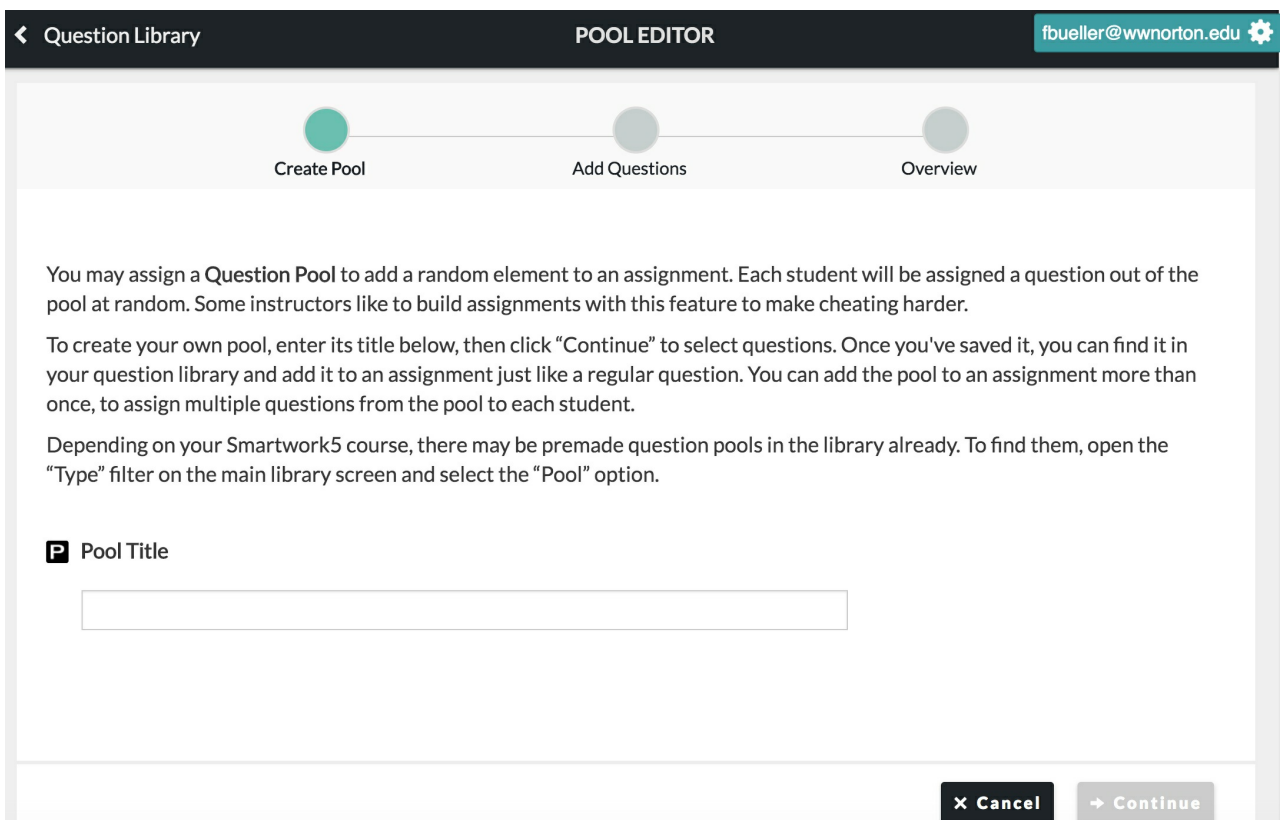
From the Question Library, you can add questions from the same or different chapters to create a Pool.

1. In the Assignment Editor, click "Add Questions."



2. To create a Pool, select the questions by clicking the check box next to each question.

3. In the Pool Editor, you will add the Pool Title. After you've added the title, click "Continue."



4. Add the questions you want to include in the pool and click "Add and Continue."

Question Library POOL EDITOR fbuellet@wnnorton.edu

Create Pool Add Questions Overview

Search for Question Title

Filter By: Clear all filters

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE SERIES TYPE DIFFICULTY AUTHOR

| <input type="checkbox"/>            | NUM      | QUESTION TITLE (1394 results)               |  | TYPE            | CHAPTER | AVERAGE TIME |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---|--|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1.01     | Compare the heliocentric and geocentric ... |  | Multiple Choice | 1       | 01:15        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1.01 ART | Label the relative positions of the planets |  | Labeling        | 1       | 01:49        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1.01 RQ  | Define scientific cosmology                 |  | Multiple Choice | 1       | 02:00        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1.01 VID | Video: Identify properties of nebulae       |  | Multiple Select | 1       | 03:44        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1.02     | Define the Big Bang theory                  |  | Multiple Select | 1       | 06:54        |

Add and Continue

5. Update the metadata accordingly and click "Save & Exit" to save your Pool.

**Note:** You can add more questions to a Pool in the Edit Pool window by clicking "Add Question."

Question Library **POOL EDITOR** fbuellet@wnorton.edu

Create Pool Add Questions Overview

**P** Pool Title  
Sample

Pool Metadata

Book\*  
Essentials of Geology, Fifth Edition

Chapter\*  
Section/Ebook Reference\*  
Learning Objective\*  
None  
Learning Outcomes

Question Number  
Series  
Difficulty  
TBD  
Bloom's-Type Domain  
None

Description

Pool Questions **Add Question**

| Num      | Question title                              | Type            | Chapter |
|----------|---|-----------------|---------|
| 1.04     | Relate the size of a planet or moon with... | Multiple Choice | 1       |
| 1.04 ART | Rank the historical events of the Univer... | Ranking         | 1       |
| 1.04 VID | Video: Identify statements true of volat... | Sorting         | 1       |
| 1.05 RQ  | Recall the properties of the earliest ne... | Multiple Choice | 1       |
| 1.07 RQ  | Differentiate nuclear fission and nuclea... | Multiple Choice | 1       |

**Save & Exit**

6. After you save and exit, the Pool you created will now appear at the top of the Question Library.

Sample Pool Settings **QUESTION LIBRARY** fbuellet@wnorton.edu

Search the question title... **YOUR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT**

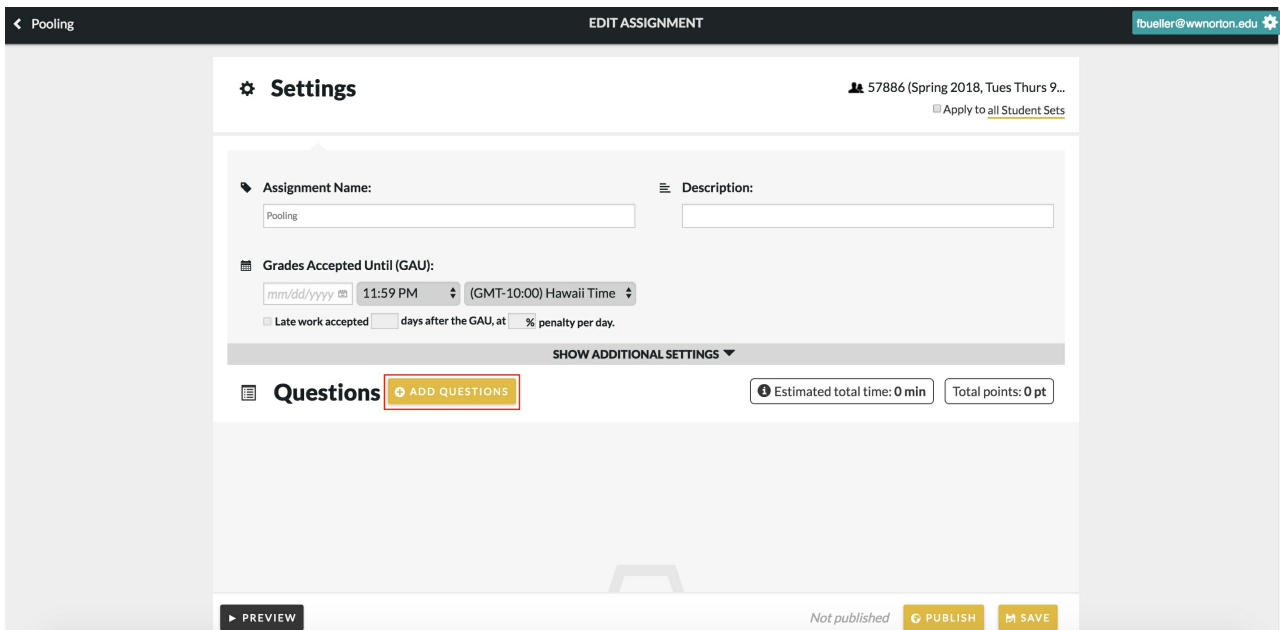
Filter By: **CHAPTER** **OBJECTIVE** **SERIES** **TYPE** **DIFFICULTY** **AUTHOR** [Clear all filters](#)

| NUM | QUESTION TITLE (1408 results) | TYPE                | CHAPTER | AVERAGE TIME |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| +   | 1. <b>P</b> Sample            | Pool   <u>Mixed</u> | 1       | ---          |

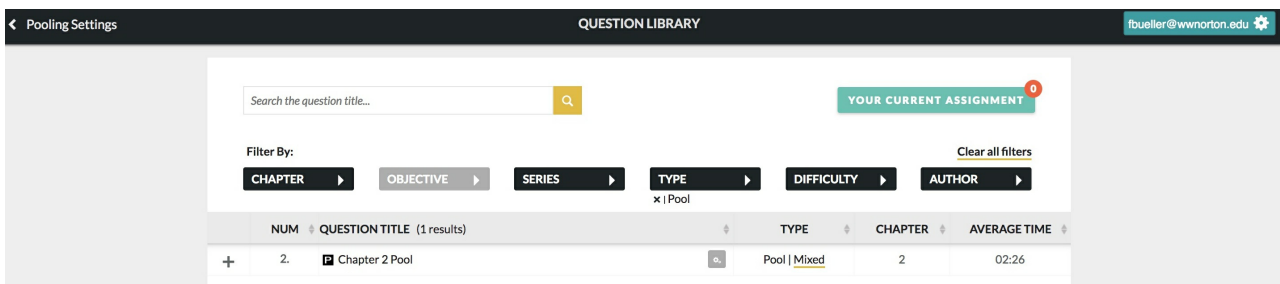
### Adding An Existing Pool To An Assignment

From the Question Library, you can add an already-existing Pool.

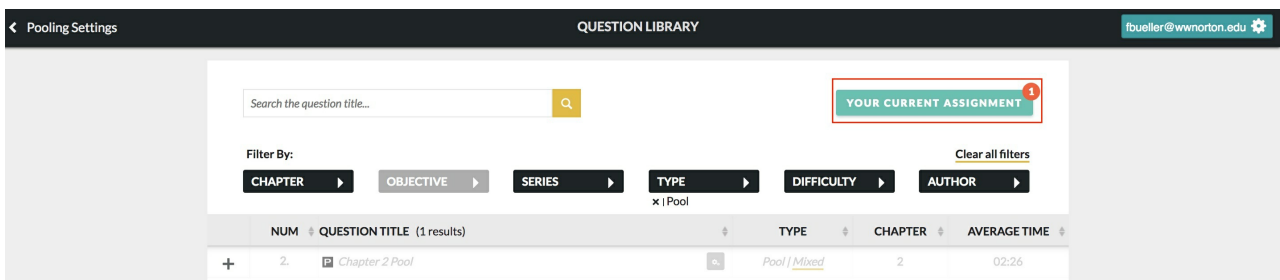
1. In the Assignment Editor, click "Add Questions."



2. Under Filter By, click "Type" to reveal the dropdown. From the dropdown, click the checkmark for "Pool" and you should see all Pool questions that you created.

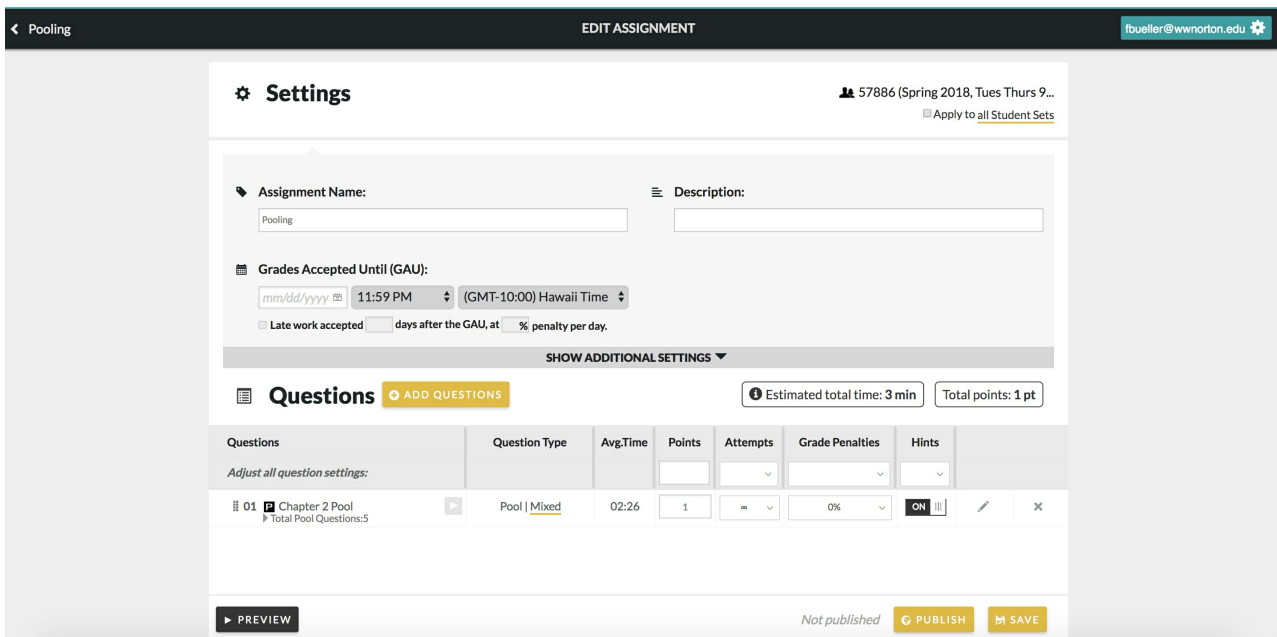


3. Click the "+" next to the Pool question you want to add and your assignment will update itself.



4. You can add a Pool to an assignment more than once, to assign multiple questions from the pool to each student. For example, if a Pool has four questions in it, and you add it to your assignment three times, each student will be assigned three out of the four pooled questions at random.

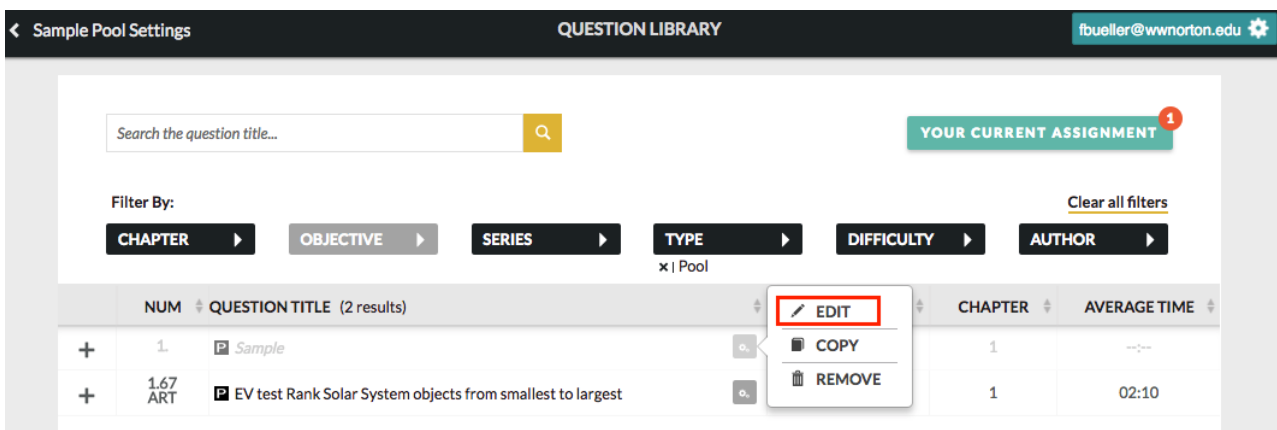
5. Click "Your Current Assignment" at the top-right of the Question Library to see the Pool added to your assignment. You can also click the arrow at the top-left to go back to Edit Assignment. From there, you can add more questions to your assignment.



5. Click "Save."

### Removing A Question From A Pool

1. To remove a question from a Pool you created, select the Pool from the Question Library by clicking on the gear icon located to the right of the question description. Click "Edit" from the list.



2. Within the Pool Editor, you can see the list of questions, located under "Pool Questions."

3. Locate the question you want to remove from the Pool and click the "x" to the right of the question. A "Remove Question" pop-up window will appear, asking you to confirm if you want to remove the question. Click "Remove" to remove the question from the Pool.

**Note:** Once you remove the question from the Pool, you cannot undo the action. The question would have to be manually added back into the Pool.

Question Library POOL EDITOR fbueLLer@wWnorton.edu

Create Pool Add Questions Overview









**P** Pool Title  
Sample

Pool Metadata


Book® Essentials of Geology, Fifth Edition  
Chapter® Chapter 1: The Earth in Context  
Section/Ebook Reference® 1.1: Introduction  
Learning Objective® To understand modern concepts concerning the basic architect ...  
Learning Outcomes

Question Number 1. Series  
Difficulty TBD Bloom's-Type Domain None  
Description

Pool Questions **Add Question**

| Num         | Question title                              | Type            | Chapter |   |
|-------------|---|-----------------|---------|---|
| 1.06        | Describe the nebular theory                 | Multiple Choice | 1       |       |
| 1.06<br>ART | Rank the sizes of celestial bodies          | Ranking         | 1       |       |
| 1.07        | Describe how Van Allen radiation belts p... | Multiple Choice | 1       |     |
| 1.08        | Describe vertical changes in the atmosph... | Multiple Select | 1       |   |

**Save & Exit**

**Remove Question** 

Are you sure you want to remove <Describe the nebular theory>?  
This change will not go into effect until you save your pool.

**CANCEL REMOVE**



4. Click "Save & Exit" to save the changes to the Pool.

### Notifications from Norton about Deleted Pool Questions

If you get a notification from Norton about a deleted Pool question, there are a few actions you can take. If the flawed question is part of a Pool container, you will see a Flawed Question Icon next to the Pool and the question. A flawed question icon looks like this:

 EDIT ASSIGNMENT

 53503

| Question  | Type            | Attem |
|---|-----------------|-------|
|  01 Understand Supply-side Economics  | Multiple Choice | ∞     |

If the assignment containing the Pool is active, we recommend you remove the entire Pool, since the flawed question alone cannot be removed individually. Any student work on the Pool question will be discarded and grades will be automatically recalculated as a result.

However, if no work has been logged yet on the assignment, you can edit the Pool and remove only the flawed question.

---

---