

# Customizing the SIMTICS Setup in Your LMS

This guide will help you explore additional custom parameter options for your LMS, so you can customize the way SIMTICS works for your learners through the integration.

This document is designed as a follow-on to the guide titled: **Integrating Your LMS with SIMTICS**. We currently have versions of that guide for the following LMS products:

- Canvas
- Blackboard
- D2L Brightspace
- Moodle

Please request the relevant guide if you don't already have it. Or, if you are using a different product, consult your LMS vendor's documentation for details on how to set up a third-party tool in that product.

## Before you start

Please ensure you have at least course Admin privileges to the courses in Canvas before proceeding with this guide.

You will also need a course loaded within your LMS that is working with a SIMTICS module. (If you have not set this up yet, please refer to the separate guide titled: **Integrating Your LMS with SIMTICS**.)

## Contents of this guide

Compulsory Custom Parameters .....	2
Optional Custom Parameters .....	3
To control what scores are passed back to your gradebook: .....	3
To control what students have access to in a SIMTICS module: .....	3
To control which component displays when a student launches a module: .....	4
To give students open access to all available SIMTICS modules.....	4
Other – add student to a specific reporting group: .....	5
Using Multiple Custom Parameters .....	6

**Note:** The term “module” in this document refers to a SIMTICS module (eLearning unit), which usually contains text, video, anatomy, simulations and quiz for learning a skill or procedure. Be aware that some special modules have only simulations and quizzes, and a few have only simulations.

## Compulsory Custom Parameters

For every assignment/link or equivalent, the most important custom parameter to use, which you may already be familiar with from our other LMS guide, is:

- `course_code=XXXX`

Each SIMTICS module has a unique code which is usually between 4-6 characters long. When creating an assignment link in your LMS, you must use this parameter with the relevant module code to specify the module you want the student to access from that link (e.g. `course_code=TUT` for the SIMTICS product Tutorial module, `course_code=ICHH` for the Hand Hygiene module, `course_code=BLSA2` for the Basic Life Support Adult module, and so on).

If you do not use this parameter with a link, the student will be taken to a SIMTICS dashboard. If they are a first-time user via your LMS, then no modules will be shown to them at all – we highly recommend setting up each assignment/link with a course code.

**The SIMTICS support team will provide you with a list of relevant module codes for the program(s) your school has purchased SIMTICS for. Make sure to type each code correctly, as some look very similar.**

## Optional Custom Parameters

Optional custom parameters allow you to control elements of the SIMTICS module's behavior, such as what scores are passed back, what component(s) the student can see, and more.

Your LMS product may require a prefix or similar in order to use these custom parameters. Please check your LMS vendor's documentation or our specific LMS guides.

### To control what scores are passed back to your gradebook:

By default, the SIMTICS LTI interface will pass back the best score during the current session from a Test Mode simulation (for the module specified in the `course_code` parameter).

You can vary what score is passed back with these two parameters:

- **quiz=true**

If you want a *quiz* score to be passed back instead of a simulation score, use this parameter with the value set to "true".

- **learnmode=true**

If you want a *Learn Mode simulation* score to be passed back instead of a Test mode simulation score, use this parameter. The student will still have access to the rest of the module but will load on the simulation selection screen.

- **practicemode=true**

If you want a *Practice Mode simulation* score to be passed back instead of a Test mode simulation score, use this parameter. The student will still have access to the rest of the module but will load on the simulation selection screen.

- **sendmaxscore=true**

If this value is set to "true", the system will send the best score *for all time* instead of for the current session only.

### To control what students have access to in a SIMTICS module:

By default, SIMTICS provides the student with access to the entire module to which you have linked. The student can access all available components (text, video, simulations, quiz, anatomy) and you can vary this behavior by using these additional parameters:

- **testmode=xxx**

This parameter limits what the student can access in the module and controls what test content should be displayed for the specified module. There are three possible values for this parameter:

- **testmode=simulation** – display Test Mode Simulation only
  - **testmode=simulation\_with\_content** – display Test Mode Simulation, Text, Video and Anatomy, but do not display Quiz
  - **testmode=quiz** – display Quiz only
    - **quizmode=xxx (Values can be: owl, flash)** – Display only the specified quiz type.
  - **allow\_repeat=true** – Allows the student to retake the simulation or quiz again within the same session.  
This can only be used alongside the testmode=simulation/quiz parameter
- 
- **scenario=n (values can be: 1, 2 or 3)**

When the parameter *testmode=simulation* is used, by default SIMTICS will randomly select a Test Mode scenario for the user. (This is the same behavior that the user would encounter if they logged in directly.) By adding the parameter *scenario=n*, this will select a specific scenario that you want the student to perform, e.g. *scenario=3* to go to scenario 3 of the module specified in the *course\_code=* parameter.

This can now also be used with the “*testmode=quiz*” parameter if the module used has multiple quizzes too. If no *quizmode* parameter is used, the OWL Quiz will be used by default.

### To control which component displays when a student launches a module:

- **default\_view=xxx (values can be: anatomy, simulation, quiz)**

Changes the default view to one of the above components within the SIMTICS module. By default, SIMTICS almost always takes the student into the Explore tab (except for the special modules mentioned on page 1). Adding this parameter will take the student to the chosen component. For example:

*default\_view=anatomy* – will display the Anatomy component on launch

### To give students open access to all available SIMTICS modules

If you don't use any custom parameters at all for an assignment/link – i.e. you don't even specify a module with the *course\_code* parameter – the student will be taken to the SIMTICS dashboard which will show previously visited SIMTICS modules. This allows the student to explore all modules that they have accessed through links in your LMS.

### Other - add student to a specific reporting group:

- **group=xxx**

If you use the SIMTICS Group Administration & Reporting (GAR) system, this parameter allows you to place the student in a particular group for reporting purposes, e.g. a class or cohort. If the group name does not already exist, it will be automatically created when the first user clicks on the link. Groups are more usually created and managed manually by authorized users from the SIMTICS GAR System at <https://group.simtics.com>.

## Using Multiple Custom Parameters

Most of the custom parameters in the previous section can be used in conjunction with another – and sometimes - multiple other parameters.

For example, you could set up a module to have:

- testmode=simulation
- scenario=2
- sendmaxscore=true

This would mean when the student launches that module, they'll be taken directly to Scenario 2 of that test mode simulation and will pass back the best score of all time to the LMS gradebook once they complete the simulation to the end.

Note: Some parameters will not work with each other such as using both learnmode=true and quiz=true. This would be asking the LTI interface to pass back both a learn mode simulation score and a quiz score, which is not possible as only one score can be passed back per session.

We recommend creating separate assignments/links for modules if you wish to do something like recording both the test mode simulation score and a quiz score. You can use the parameters above to restrict the student's access to ensure they complete the correct section.

Example:

Assignment/link #1 – Hides quiz, takes student onto the Simulation page:

- testmode=simulation\_with\_content
- default\_view=simulation

Assignment/link #2 – Only show quiz:

- testmode=quiz

**If you encounter any problems with these parameters, or have any questions, let us know at <https://www.simtics.com/contact/>**