

## Weighting Grades

Instructors may decide to weight grades based on importance of the assignment or difficulty level. Total and Weighted Total columns are automatically created in the Grade Center for each course. The following is an explanation of those columns and how Blackboard calculates them.

### Grade Center Math

#### Total Points

Using a Total Points system is BY FAR the easiest way to use the Grade Center. Assume the following columns:

Column Name	Points Possible	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
Assignment 1	5	4	3	5
Assignment 2	10	8	6	9
Assignment 3	25	22	18	24
Test 1	50	45	37	45
Test 2	50	48	42	50
<b>Total/Percentage</b>	<b>140/100% = A</b>	<b>127/90.71% = AB</b>	<b>106/75.71% = C</b>	<b>133/95.00% = A</b>

#### Weighted Grading

Blackboard has very powerful functionality in that grades can be weighted. This is a far more complex grading scheme but it also provides a tremendous amount of flexibility. The simplest way to create a weighted system is to use categories to designate the weights. **If weighted grading is used, DELETE THE TOTAL POINTS COLUMN because it is irrelevant and can completely mislead the student.**

Using the scenario above, assume that assignments are worth 30% of the grade and tests are worth 70% of the grade. **The columns are weighted equally.**

Column Name	Points	Student 1	Weight Equal	Val before Weight	Val Weight Applied
Assignment 1	5	4	80%		
Assignment 2	10	8	80%		
Assignment 3	25	22	88%	248%/3 = 82.67%	<b>82.67 * .3 = 24.8%</b>
Test 1	50	45	90%		
Test 2	50	48	96%	186%/2 = 93%	<b>93 * .7 = 65.1%</b>
<b>Total/Percentage</b>					<b>24.8 + 65.1 = 89.9% = AB</b>

Using the scenario above, assume that assignments are worth 30% of the grade and tests are worth 70% of the grade. **The columns are weighted proportionally.**

Column Name	Points	Student 1	Points/Cat	Val before Weight	Val Weight Applied
Assignment 1	5	4			
Assignment 2	10	8			
Assignment 3	25	22	34/40	34/40 = 85%	<b>85 * .3 = 25.5%</b>
Test 1	50	45			
Test 2	50	48	93/100	93/100 = 93%	<b>93 * .7 = 65.1%</b>
<b>Total/Percentage</b>					<b>25.5 + 65.1 = 90.6% = AB</b>

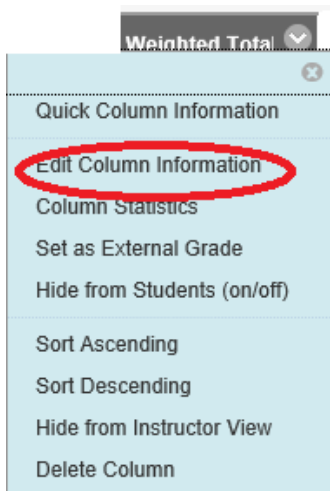
The example above was provided for clarity. As more assignments are added and weighting differentials are put into place, the difference in the grades becomes far more radical.

To illustrate why you have to remove the Total Points column if using weighted grading, consider the example below. Assume that assignments are worth 30% of the grade and tests are worth 70% of the grade. **The columns are weighted equally.**

Column Name	Points	Student 1	Weight Equal	Val before Weight	Val Weight Applied
Assignment 1	100	98	98%		
Assignment 2	100	94	94%		
Assignment 3	100	88	88%	280%/3 = 93.33%	<b>93.33 * .3 = 31.11%</b>
Test 1	50	37	74%		
Test 2	50	40	80%	154%/2 = 77%	<b>74 * .7 = 51.8%</b>
<b>Total/Percentage</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>365/91.25%</b>			<b>31.11 + 51.8 = 82.91% = BC</b>

## Setting up the Grade Center for Weighted Grading

1. To set weighted total from the Full Grade Center click the drop down arrow next to the Weighted Total item name and select **Edit Column Information**.



2. Select a **Primary Display Option**.

**Column Information**

✦ Column Name:

Grade Center Name:

Description:

The weighted sum of all grades for a user based on item or category weighting.

Path:

Primary Display:

Secondary Display:

Weighting can be done on the basis of specific columns in the Grade Center, Grade Categories or Grading Periods. **Note:** *If you are weighting on the basis of categories or Grading Periods, you must have this set up in advance with grade center columns set to a specific category or designated to a grading period.* See [Grade Center > Grade Center Organization](#) and [Grading Periods](#) for more information.

3. Make the appropriate selection, click the arrow to move them to the **Selected Columns** box
4. Fill in percentages to equal 100%.

**Select Columns**

Include in Weighted Grade

Columns to Select:

- Total
- 01B Week 1 Discussion - Introductions
- 01D Professional Appearance Ex Cd
- 02A Ethical Decision Making
- 02B Health Care - Right or Privilege?
- 02C Exam on Reading Ch 1 and 2
- 02D Extra Credit Cultural Diversity
- 03A Patient Bill of Rights

Categories to Select:

- Assignment
- Survey
- Test
- Discussion
- Blog
- Journal
- Self and Peer
- Extra Credit

Selected Columns:

- ✦  % Column: 01A Orientation Quiz on Syllabus
- ✦  % Column: 01C Three C's

Total Weight: 5%

5. Determine whether to **Calculate as a Running Total**:
- Yes** – only items that have grades or attempts are included. You will need to go back and add a zero after the item expires to ensure the grades are calculated accurately. *This option may temporarily make the students grade total column look better than reality if they did well on one or more assignments but skipped some required assignments.*
  - No** – all items are included. No need to make any changes to the Grade Center after the item expires. *This option will make the students grade total column look worse than reality until the end of the grading period because it takes all assignments into consideration, even if they are not yet due.*

Calculate as Running Total  Yes  No

6. Click **Submit**

**Additional Resources:** Blackboard Help <https://help.blackboard.com>