

Grade Center – Configuration – Checking Calculations Percentage Based Grade

In a Weighted Gradebook the running total calculates throughout the term based on weights defined in the column. For this example, we are going to “check” our grade calculations a couple weeks into the course when students have just started submitting work. In the table below is the grade breakdown and student data:

Grade Breakdown	Student Data for John Doe	
Homework 20%	Homework 1 = 85	Hands On 1 = 100
Hands On 50%	Homework 2 = 90	Hands On 2 = 90
Tests 30%	Homework 3 = 70	
Total = 100% (20+50+30)	NOTE: No tests completed.	

First: Blackboard calculates the average for each category **that has grades**.

Homework Average $\rightarrow (85 + 90 + 70) \rightarrow 245 / 3 = 81.67$

Hands On Average $\rightarrow (100 + 90) \rightarrow 190 / 2 = 95$

Tests \rightarrow Not calculated because no test grades have been recorded.

Second: Blackboard applies the weights for each category **that has grades** to get the weighted value.

Homework Weighted Value $\rightarrow 81.67 \times 0.20 = 16.34$

Hands On Weighted Value $\rightarrow 95 \times 0.50 = 47.5$

Tests \rightarrow Not calculated because no test grades have been recorded.

Third: Blackboard adds calculated weighted values together.

If all categories have values, this is the last step; **if one or more categories are empty see step four**.

Applicable Category Total $\rightarrow 16.34$ (Homework Weight) + 47.5 (Hands On Weight) = 63.84

63.84 is **NOT what is displayed as the running total** because it is only 70% of the course grade. This is because Tests (the other 30% does not have any grades entered).

Fourth: Blackboard takes the total calculated in step three and converts it to 100% until grades are entered into the empty categories.

63.84 is 70% of the course grade; which at this point is 100% of what **can be earned** at this time because no tests have been completed.

To convert the grade $\rightarrow (63.84 \times 100) \rightarrow 6,384 / 70 = 91.2$

NOTE: The 70 value here represents how much of the grade is currently earned; this will change based on your configuration.

Running Total Displayed in Blackboard = 91.2

Weighted To	Homework 1	Homework 2	Homework 3	Hands On 1	Hands On 2
91.19048%	85.00	90.00	70.00	100.00	90.00

NOTE 1 - The 5 decimal places is a known bug.