

Understanding the Difference Between *Total* and *Weighted Total* Calculated Columns



Blackboard Learn

In your *Full Grade Center*, you are given two default Calculated Columns called **Total** and **Weighted Total**. They use **different formulas** to arrive at a final grade based on the grade values you enter into assessment columns. You may [edit a column's information](#) to set the [Primary Display](#) to a percentage or letter grade.

Total Column

This column automatically calculates a final grade based on the points the student has earned out of the total points possible in the course. In the example below, the Total column calculates a student's final grade based on grades entered in Assignment 1, Assignment 2, and Assignment 3.

| Grade Information Bar | | Total Grade Possible: up to 300 (may vary by student) Total | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Weighted Total | Total | Assignment 1 | Assignment 2 | Assignment 3 |
| Asterisk | Annie | -- | 277.50(92.50%) | 100.00(100.00%) | 95.50(95.50%) | 82.00(82.00%) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Points Earned | $100.00 + 95.50 + 82.00 = 277.50$ |
| Points Possible | $100.00 + 100.00 + 100.00 = 300.00$ |
| Final Grade Percentage | $277.50 / 300.00 = \underline{92.50\%}$ |

Weighted Total Column

A *Weighted Total* column is blank at first because its usage is optional. It uses a *complex calculation* using [weights that you assign to columns or categories of columns](#) to give some assessments more influence in determining a final grade. The percent grades that a student earns on assessments is multiplied by the assigned weights to arrive at a final grade.

| Grade Information Bar | | Weighted Grade Possible: up to 100 (may vary by student) Weighted Total | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Weighted Total | Total | Assignment 1 | Assignment 2 | Assignment 3 |
| Asterisk | Annie | 89.875% | 277.50(92.50%) | 100.00(100.00%) | 95.50(95.50%) | 82.00(82.00%) |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Assignment 1 Grade x Weighting | $100.00 * 25.00\% = 25.00\%$ |
| Assignment 2 Grade x Weighting | $95.50 * 25.00\% = 23.875\%$ |
| Assignment 3 Grade x Weighting | $82.00 * 50.00\% = 41.00\%$ |
| Final Grade Percentage | $25.00\% + 23.875\% + 41.00\% = \underline{89.875\%}$ |

Our [Guide to Understanding Weighted Total Calculations](#) provides additional examples.