

ITRC Guide

Moodle Grading Strategies

The format has changed from previous versions in the new Moodle gradebook. Several improvements in the new version are as follows:

1. Points can be awarded above 100% for any assignment, quiz, etc. (Example: A student can receive 55 points out of a 50-point quiz.)
2. Every **bolded** option under the **Choose an action** menu is also displayed on the tabs.
3. **Categories and Items** has different interface. Listed below are the main grading options simplified into one screen:
 - a. Switch Category aggregations.
 - b. Weight multiple items.
 - c. Move multiple items at once.
 - d. Change point values for graded items and columns(except quizzes, forums, and assignments).

This tutorial will guide you through four of the more common grading strategies.

1. Total points possible..... (Simple Weighted Mean of Grades)
2. Every item has equal weight..... (Mean of Grades)
3. Weighted categories..... (Weighted Mean of Grades)

Strategy 1: Total points possible




By default, Moodle computes a course grade based on the total number of points (or marks) earned, divided by the number of points possible.

Moodle calls this Aggregation method of computing course grades **Simple weighted mean of grades** because items are weighted based simply on their maximum point value.

Also by default, items are not computed into the grade until a score is assigned (ie. a dash “-” is in the grade slot). These are called non-graded items. You can change this to have all non-graded items counted as zero if you wish.

Example

- I. In this example we have the following gradable items:

Mike H Gradebook Testing, ...					
First name / Last name ↑	Assignment 1 ↓	Assignment 2 ↓	Forum Discussion ↓	Quiz 1 ↓	Course total ↓
 Abu Al-Khwarizmi	94.00	91.00	6.00	6.67	89.85
 Euclid Alexandria	85.00	98.00	2.00	10.00	88.64
 Leonhard Euler	82.00	87.00	7.00	8.67	83.94
Range	0.00–100.00	0.00–100.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–100.00
Overall average	87.00	92.00	5.00	8.45	87.48

II. This is how Abu Al-Khwarizmi’s grade is calculated. Each **item score** is summed up and divided by the Maximum Points Possible:

$$\frac{94 + 91 + 6 + 6.67 \text{ (Total Points Earned)}}{220 \text{ (Maximum Points Possible)}} * 100 = 89.85$$

Strategy 2: Every item has equal weight

In some courses, the number of points (or marks) given to an item is arbitrary and is not a factor in deciding its weight in computing the course grade. With this grading strategy, Moodle first converts each item to a percentage value and then averages the percentages when computing the course total.

Moodle calls this **Aggregation** method of computing grades **Mean of grades** because the average is computed by giving the same weight to each item.

Example

- To use this method, go to the “Categories and items” tab in the gradebook and switch the aggregation to **Mean of grades**.

Name	Aggregation ?	Extra Credit ?	Max grade	Actions	Select
Mike H Gradebook Testing, Summer 2009	Simple weighted mean of grades		-	🔍 🗑️ 🔒	All None
Assignment 1	Mean of grades	<input type="checkbox"/>	100.00	🔍 🗑️ 🔒	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assignment 2	Weighted mean of grades	<input type="checkbox"/>	100.00	🔍 🗑️ 🔒	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forum Discussion	Simple weighted mean of grades	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.00	🔍 🗑️ 🔒	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quiz 1	Mean of grades (with extra credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.00	🔍 🗑️ 🔒	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Using the same gradable items as the first example, notice the different **Course total**:

Mike H Gradebook Testing, ...					
First name / Last name ↑	Assignment 1 📄	Assignment 2 📄	Forum Discussion 👤	Quiz 1 📄	Course total 📄
Abu Al-Khwarizmi	94.00	91.00	6.00	6.67	77.93
Euclid Alexandria	85.00	98.00	2.00	10.00	75.75
Leonhard Euler	82.00	87.00	7.00	8.67	81.43
Range	0.00–100.00	0.00–100.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–100.00
Overall average	87.00	92.00	5.00	8.45	78.37

- To calculate Abu Al-Khwarizmi’s grade, **each item**’s score is turned to a percentage and then divided by the number of items:

$$\frac{\frac{94}{100} + \frac{91}{100} + \frac{6}{10} + \frac{6.67}{10} \text{ (Total Percentages Earned)}}{4 \text{ (Number of Items)}} * 100 = 77.93$$

Strategy 3: Weighted categories

In many courses, the teacher may want to assign defined percentages (weights) to specific activities to determine a course grade.

Moodle calls this **Aggregation** method of computing course grades **Weighted mean of grades** because the course grade is computed by weights that the teacher assigns to categories (or items).

Example


- Follow step 1 in the previous strategy to edit your course folder and change the Aggregation type to **Weighted mean of grades**.
- In “Categories and items,” create a category for each group of items (Assignments, Quizzes, Forum, Attendance, etc.) by selecting the [Add category](#) button.
Keep the Aggregation type for the categories as **Simple weighted mean of grades**, and then assign a weight for each category.








Name	Aggregation ?	Weight ?	Extra Credit ?	Max grade	Actions	Select
Mike H Gradebook Testing, 2009	Weighted mean of grades			-		All None
Assignments	Simple weighted mean of grades	50.0		-		All None
Assignment 2	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	100.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Assignment 1	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	100.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Category total	-			100.00		
Forum Discussion	-	10.0		10.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Quiz 1	-	40.0		10.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Course total	-			100.00		

Save changes

Move selected items to [Choose...](#)

[Add category](#) [Add grade item](#)

- Now move each item to the appropriate category by clicking the move icon , or move groups of items by checking the box on the right of each item and “Move selected items to: **Choose...**”
- In this example, the category weights are Assignments (50), Forum Discussion (10), Quiz 1 (40). Adding these weights gives us a Maximum Weight Total of 100.

Mike H Gradebook Testing, ...						
Assignments						
First name / Last name ↑	 Assignment 2 ↓	 Assignment 1 ↓	\bar{x} Category total ↓	 Forum Discussion ↓	 Quiz 1 ↓	\bar{x} Course total ↓
 Abu Al-Khwarizmi	91.00	94.00	92.50	6.00	6.67	78.93
 Euclid Alexandria	98.00	85.00	91.50	2.00	10.00	87.75
 Leonhard Euler	87.00	82.00	84.50	7.00	8.67	83.93
Range	0.00–100.00	0.00–100.00	0.00–100.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–10.00	0.00–100.00
Overall average	92.00	87.00	89.50	5.00	8.45	83.54

- To calculate Abu Al-Khwarizmi’s grade, sum up each **Category total** (or **item** if it is not in a category) multiplied by its weight. Then divide by the Maximum Weight Total:

$$\frac{\frac{92.50 * 50}{100} + \frac{6.00 * 10}{10} + \frac{6.67 * 40}{10} \text{ (Category Totals by weight)}}{100 \text{ (Maximum Weight Total)}} * 100 = 78.93$$

Notes:

- You can keep an item from being factored into the course grade by assigning a weight of 0.
- The Maximum Weight Total does not have to add to 100. If you have two categories with weights of 1 and 2, the second is given twice as much value in computing the course grade.
- If you hide an item/category it will not be factored in the course grade.



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