Calculated columns

In the Grade Center, you can calculate grades with calculated columns. Calculated columns combine data from multiple columns to attain performance results.

You can include a calculated column when creating another calculated column. For example, if you created a calculated column that weighs quiz grades, you can include the column when creating a final grade column.

For more information, access a calculated column header's menu and select Quick Column Information. For calculated columns, Points Possible includes the phrase (may vary by student) because some students may be exempt from a test or assignment. Some students may not submitted all of the items included in the column's calculation.

You can change a calculated column’s settings and change what is included. The calculation updates automatically.

A calculated column with text as the grade display is not included in the column's calculation. For example, if you set a column to display text, such as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, you can't use it in grade calculations.

You can't type in a calculated column's cell to edit the calculated grade. No menu appears in these column's individual cells.

By default, the system creates two calculated columns that appear in new courses—total and weighted total.

Create total columns

1. In the Grade Center, access the Create Calculated Column menu and select Total Column.

2. On the Create Total Column page, type a brief name and an optional description. The name becomes the column name in the Grade Center and on students' My Grades pages. If the name is too long to display clearly in the Grade Center, add a shorter name in the Grade Center Name box. Only the first 14-15 characters appear in the column heading in the Grade Center grid.
3. Make a selection in the Primary Display menu. The selection is the grade format shown in the Grade Center and to students in My Grades. If you created custom grading schemas, they appear in the list.

4. Optionally, make a selection in the Secondary Display menu. The default setting is None. In the Grade Center column, the secondary value appears in parentheses. The secondary value doesn't appear to students.

5. If grading periods exist, you can associate the column with a grading period. If no grading periods exist, the menu doesn't appear. You can use grading periods to filter Grade Center data and create calculated columns.

6. In the Select Columns section, select what to include in the column’s calculation.

7. Calculate as Running Total: Select Yes to calculate as a running total. Running totals exempt cells that don't contain data. Select No to include all selected columns in the calculation, using a value of 0 if no grade exists. The result can make grades appear artificially low.

8. Select the Options:
   - Include this Column in Grade Center Calculations:
   - Show this Column to Student
   - Show Statistics (average and median) for this Column to Students in My Grades

9. Select Submit.

*If you delete a column from the Grade Center that is included in a total calculation, the column is also removed from the calculation.*