Grading Options

canvas

Different Point Values = Proportional Grading in Points AND Weighted Grading Settings

Here are some examples of the same grades with the Points grading option (default) and the Weighted Grading categories option. The comparison also shows the effect of different point values.

Points Based

Example 1 = Overall Score of 72.38

Assignments

      Proposal - 40 out of 50 earned

      PPT - 30 out of 50 earned

Discussions

      #1 - 5 out of 5 earned

      #2 - 2 out of 5 earned

Assessment

      Unit 1 - 75 out of 100 earned

The Math:

The student earned 80% on the assignment called 'Proposal'. The assignment was worth 50 points which is 23.81% of the total point value. Therefore the student will earn 14.286. Repeat this process for each assignment and the students overall score equals **72.381**

Consider

A student might notice the comparative point value of the discussions. If a student made these same scores and did NOT participate in ANY discussions their grade would still be a 69.048%.

The Gist

When using points, Canvas does not average straight percentages, and rightfully so! Canvas will take into account the proportional value   Each assignment will be converted to a percentage score and then multiplied by the weight of the overall point value for that assignment as compared to the total points assigned.

Recommendation: Be aware of the impact of the point value on the students' grades. Divide the point value of the individual assignment by the total points in the course. If you have several assignments that are less than 3% of the total course points, these assignments will have very little impact even if the student receives a 0.

Weighted Grading : Weighted grading is perfect if you do not wish to keep track of the overall value of individual assignments but would rather categorize assignments and make certain a final is worth 10% of the students' overall score and is not diluted.

Weighted Grading

Example 1: All Scores Equal within

Assignments = 35%
       Proposal - 40/50
       PPT - 30/50

Discussions = 5%
       #1 - 5/5
       #2 - 2 out of 5

Assessment = 60%
       Unit 1 - 75/100
Overall Score of 73%

The Math:

Canvas will convert each assignment to a percentage and then average the scores within a category. That average is then applied to the category weight. Each weighted score from each category is then added together.

Assignments Average = 70% x 35% = .245

Discussions Average = 70% x 5% = .035

Assessment Average = 75% x 60% = .450

Assignments Vary: In the above example, all points in each category were the same. Let's look at another example where the students earns the same grades as example 1, but the instructor has varied points within the same category..

Example 2 Points Vary within Categories

Assignments = 35%
       Proposal - 16/20
       PPT - 30/50
Discussion - 5%
       1 - 5/5
       2 - 2/5
Assessment = 60%
       Unit 1 - 75/100
Score = 71.5%

1.5% different than the same grades earned in example 1

The Math:

Since not all of the point values are consistent, Canvas will find the proportional value of the total points of the assignment in relation to the overall points of the course.

Here is how the Assignments category is calculated in this example:

Proposal = 80% x 28.5% (weight of 20 out of 70 points). PPT = 60% x 42.9%

Total 65.7% now the 35% weighting is applied = .23

The Discussions = 70% x 5% = .035

Total Assessment = 75% x 60% = .45

Total Grade = .23 + .035 + .45 = 71.5%

The Gist

We do have situations where we have more significant assignments and need to adjust points. However, it can be difficult to really understand the impact on the overall grade. Typically, if you have a project or an assessment that is of particular importance, you may wish to create an entire separate category so that you are clear of the overall value and impact on the students' score.