

Simplified Grading: The “1000 Point Grading Method”

Do any of the following statements ring true about your current grading method?

- ✓ I use a lot of formulas to figure my grades.
- ✓ My formulas are getting more complicated.
- ✓ My students want to know what their grades are throughout the semester, but I would have to sit down for hours to calculate them.
- ✓ My grading scheme is a headache.

- ✓ Someone else setup my grade book for me in Excel, and now I want to make changes, but don't understand these formulas!
- ✓ My grading scheme is hard to explain to my students.
- ✓ I am a new faculty and haven't had to create a grading system before.

Grading Headache



If so, you just might consider the 1000 Point grading method!

What is so great about the 1000 Point grading system?

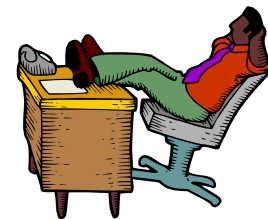
“A few years ago I decided to take a statistics course at the college taught by one of my colleagues, Kate McLaughlin. As soon as Kate passed out the syllabus and described her 1000-point grading system, I realized, “This is genius!” and immediately appropriated her grading system in my own classes. I’ve been using the system for about seven years now. I love it because it makes it very simple to weight assignments and calculate grades, and students like it because they can easily keep track of their progress. It’s especially useful when students are looking at the “My Grades” tool in Blackboard; they can easily see how many points they’ve earned and how that stacks up against the 1000-point goal.”

Rae Strickland

Associate Professor of English, Manchester CC

Advantages:

- Very flexible for many different grading variations.
- No “convoluted” formulas for you to figure out, keep track of , or explain to your students.
- Students can easily figure out where they stand at any point throughout the semester.
- Figuring out the “Final” grade is as easy as adding up all the points at the end.



“Weights” and “Percentages” Dispersed as Points

If you are using weighting and/or percentages, you are probably using several calculations to figure out grades. Using the 1000 point method you will be weighting based on how you disperse the points. The following exercise will guide you in converting your grade system to the 1000 point method to give you an idea of how it works. You will have to do some *basic* math to set it up, but after it's set up, you will only need to tweak it in the future by adjusting points...not by redoing formulas!

Developing Your Own 1000 Point Scale

This worksheet will guide you by example in applying the 1000 point grading method to your course. You can use the "My 1000 Point Worksheet" in this packet to create your own.

- Write down the **categories** you grade.
(Let's say one of your categories is "quizzes". Don't worry about *how many* quizzes you are going to have at this point.)

Categories
Assignments
Quizzes
Discussions
Midterm Exam
Group Project
Final Exam

- Now beside each category, determine how much the category is worth (in terms of percentage) of the overall grade. (To add up to 100%)

Categories	Weight by %
Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group Project	10%
Final Exam	30%
	100%

- Next, take the "**Weight by %**" numbers you just came up with and multiply by 1000, for each of the categories. This will determine how many "points" the overall category is worth.

HINT: You don't even really have to "calculate" this. Simply just add a "0" to the % number, and take off the % sign and this is your "points" value. (See below.)

Categories	Weight by %	Multiply By 1000	Points
Assignments	10%	so $10\% \times 1000 =$	100
Quizzes	10%	Or just add a zero take of the "%" →	100
Discussions	20%		200
Midterm Exam	20%		200
Group Project	10%		100
Final Exam	30%		300
	100%		1000

- 4) Now, let's say you have a total of *10 assignments*. To determine the point value for *each* assignment, divide the total assignment points (in this case 100) by how many assignments you have.

So you would take the 100 total assignments points, divide it by the 10 assignments, and now you know that each assignment is worth...10 points.

Categories	Weight by %	Total Points
10 Assignments <i>10 points each</i>	10%	100
5 Quizzes <i>Q 1-4=18 points</i> <i>Q5 = 28 points</i>	10% (see note below)*	100
10 Discussions <i>(20 points each)</i>	20%	200
Midterm Exam	20%	200
Group Project	10%	100
Final Exam	30%	300
	100%	1000

Example of figuring points per assignment:

100 Total assignment points divided by 10 assignments

= *10 points each.*

***Note:** Of course you don't have to divide a category "equally" as just demonstrated with the assignments. You can disperse the total category points however you want. Let's say you have 5 quizzes. If you have one BIG quiz, it could be worth 30 points. And the other 4 quizzes could be worth...17.5 points each. (and now you can adjust some of the quiz values if you don't want half points.)

Keep Your Students On Track with the 1000 Point System

When an instructor uses the "1000 Point Grading System", students can always figure out where they stand on the grading scale at any point throughout the semester by simply adding up the points they've earned.

Sample Grade Scale with Points

Letter Grade	Point Ranges	Grade Point Value
A+	990 - 1000	4.000
A	910 - 989	4.000
A-	900 - 909	3.667
B+	890 - 899	3.333
B	810 - 889	3.000
B-	800 - 809	2.667
C+	790 - 799	2.333
C	710 - 789	2.000
C-	700 - 709	1.667
D+	690 - 699	1.333
D	610 - 679	1.000
D-	600 - 609	0.667
F	0 - 599	0.000

My 1000 Point Worksheet

- 1) **In the first column**, list the categories you grade:
(Assignments, Labs, Homework, Quizzes, Discussions, Exams, etc...)
- 2) **In the second column**, determine how much the category is worth (in terms of percentage) of the overall grade. (To add up to 100%)
- 3) Convert the “Weight by %” by adding a zero to it and dropping the % sign. Place that number **in the third column**.
- 4) If you need to, break the points down further within the category.
Example: If one of your categories is “Labs”, and you assigned 400 total points to it, and you have 20 labs, divide 400 by 20. Each Lab is worth 20 points.)

400 total Lab points ÷ 20 labs = 20 points each.

Categories	Weight by %	Point Value
Labs	40% of total grade	400 (each of 20 labs is worth 20 points each)
	100%	1000 points

1000 Point Grading System: The Student Perspective

When an instructor uses the “1000 Point Grading System”, students can always figure out where they stand on the grading scale at any point throughout the semester by simply adding up the points they’ve earned. As long as students know how much the outstanding gradable activities are worth, they can figure out how many points they need to earn in order to get the grade they want.

Sample Grade Scale with Points

Letter Grade	Point Ranges	Grade Point Value
A	950 - 1000	4.000
A-	900 - 949	3.667
B+	890 - 899	3.333
B	810 - 889	3.000
B-	800 - 809	2.667
C+	790 - 799	2.333
C	710 - 789	2.000
C-	700 - 709	1.667
D+	690 - 699	1.333
D	610 - 679	1.000
D-	600 - 609	0.667
F	0 - 599	0.000

1000 Point Grading with two Totals columns

- **Total Score** (primary display) shows points earned for all items graded to date. Secondary display shows %. Based on running total = Yes.
- **Letter Grade** (primary display) is based on the default Grading Schema. Secondary display shows %. Based on running total = Yes.
- The instructor must enter a "0" for unsubmitted assignments.

	25 possible points	25 possible points	25 possible points	25 possible points	75 possible points	Totals column showing Score and %	Totals column showing Letter Grade and %
Username	Essay1	Essay2	U1_Assign_1	U1_Assign_2	Final Exam	Total Score	Letter Grade
Student	22.00 (88.00%)	22.00 (88.00%)	0	--	69.00	113.00 (90.40%)	A- (90.40%)

Since Running Total = "Yes" in the settings for ALL of the totals columns, null (ungraded) values are not included in the calculated percentages of any of the totals columns.

Both of these "Totals" columns display grades based on "points earned" divided by "total possible points" for only columns with scores.

In this example, the total possible points = 125, so the student's grade is based on 113 / 125 or 90.4% avg and an A-.

Note that the percentages in the Secondary display match. *This is a good doublecheck to include to be sure you've set RunningTotal properties the same in all totals columns.*