

## Weighted Grades explained

**What does it mean to weight a grade?** When grades are weighted, some assignments (e.g. Final Exam) or categories of assignments (e.g. homework or quizzes) count more than others.

**Why not just assign more points to the things that are harder?** In a perfect world this would work. However, there is far more flexibility in weighting grades. If a professor decides that quizzes should make up 25% of the total points in a course, it doesn't matter whether there is 1 quiz, 5 quizzes or, heaven forbid, 50 quizzes. The total points earned for the quizzes still makes up 25% of the final grade.

If a professor decides to increase or decrease the number of assignments, quizzes or projects based on the particular needs of any group of students, weighted grades make that easy. In a scenario where grades are weighted by category and the number of assignments in a category changes, no changes to the course points or syllabus would be necessary. If, on the other hand, the point system were used, and a change to the course assignments is needed, the total points for the class would change and the syllabus would need to be updated.

**How are the points for a weighted item calculated?** Multiply your average score over the total points possible by the weight. For example, the midterm is worth 100 points, and is 25% of your overall grade. If you earned 90/100 the calculation would be  $.25(90/100) = .225$ . Expressed as a percent, you earned 22.5% toward your final grade.

**\*\*How can my grade go down when I get a high score on an assignment?** Remember that grades are weighted by category. So if the score on the assignment is lower than the *average* for that category, the overall grade will go down.

Calculate Bucky Buchanan's grade for his Geometry class based on the following spreadsheet:

<u>Homework</u>	<u>HW (cont.)</u>	<u>Quizzes</u>	<u>Tests</u>	<u>Khan Academy</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>
10	10	88	68	100	Not taken yet
10	0	56	54	100	
10	10	78	50	87	
10	10	50	89	62	
10	10	90	91		
0	10	95	78		
0	10	100			
10	10	97			
10	10				
10	10				
10	10				
0	10				
10					

What is Bucky's current grade? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Bucky need on the final exam to get an A in the class?? \_\_\_\_\_

What will Bucky's grade be if he skips the final exam?? \_\_\_\_\_