

Blackboard: Grade Center – Advanced Features

- Calculated Columns:** A Calculated Column gathers data from multiple Grade Center columns and performs a calculation to attain performance results, such as an average grade for a set of assignments. In turn, data from multiple Calculated Columns can be gathered to create a composite Calculated Column. New Courses contain two Calculated columns by default: A Total Points column and a Weighted Grade column. The Calculated Columns available are: Weighted Grade, Average, Total, and Minimum/Maximum.
- Categories:** A Grade Center Category is a classification for columns. For instance, Homework, Test, or Quiz are possible Categories. Categories may also be used to create Smart Views comprised of columns associated with specific Categories. Categories can be used in Grade Center Calculated Columns.
- Download Grade Center:** Grade Center data can be downloaded as a delimited (separated) file and used in other applications such as Microsoft Excel or other spreadsheet or statistical analysis programs. Instructors can select specific data to download or download the complete Grade Center data set.
- Freezing Columns:** Grade Center columns can be frozen in place, so they do not move while scrolling through the other data. The columns containing students' first and last names are frozen by default. This feature can be used to easily match up individual students with their data across the length of the Grade Center. Freeze and unfreeze any of the columns through the Organize Grade Center page.
- Grade Center Statistics:** View various statistical information related to columns and students in the Grade Center. Column Statistics displays statistics for a Grade Item, such as average, median, and standard deviation.
- Grading Period:** Grading Periods are time segments that can help manage the Grade Center. Grading Periods can be defined as Terms, Semesters, Quarters, or Years, and can have date ranges that further define them. Instructors can filter the Grade Center by Grading Period to display only the relevant columns in the segment. Grading Periods can also be used to view the performance of students in a certain Grading Period, create a Report that displays the performance for a Grading Period, and calculate a grade column for a Grading Period.

- Grading Schema:** A Grading Schema is a mapping of percentage ranges to specific grade displays. For example, a student's numeric score on a quiz that has 100 possible points is an 88. In a Grading Schema in which a percentage of 87.5 to 89.5 equal a B+, this score results in a B+. If the grade display Letter option is chosen, the B+ will display to the student.
- Hide Columns:** Hiding a column from displaying saves all existing information associated with the column but hides it from your view in the Grade Center. Hiding columns that are not currently being used reduces the length of the grid and scrolling.
- Reports:** Printable Reports, like a progress report, are available by clicking Reports on the Action Bar and defining the report data. Reports print the data for one Student per page. Reports can display all or several Students or Groups; Grade Columns or Calculated Columns; a Grading Period; or all the columns in a Category. Reports can be customized in a variety of ways, including Report header and footer information. Reports can also include a signature line, date, Course Information, and many other data elements.
- Smart Views:** Smart Views are specific views of the Grade Center based on a variety of criteria. Once created and saved, Smart Views become an item on the Current View drop-down menu of the Grade Center page. Users can toggle back and forth between the Full Grade Center view, Smart Views, and Grading Periods. Any Smart View can be saved as the default view of the Grade Center.