

COMPUTING YOUR GRADE

On the syllabus, we are given a breakdown for grades in Math 116.

Quizzes	30%	90-100%	A
Exam 1	20%	80-89%	B
Exam 2	20%	70-79%	C
Final Exam	30%	60-69%	D
		below 60%	F

Based on this, the formula for computing your final grade is

$$.3q + .2x + .2y + .3z \tag{1}$$

where q is your percentage quiz average, x is your percentage grade on the first exam, y is your percentage grade on the final exam, and z is your percentage grade on the final exam.

Blackboard is set to calculate your running quiz average as a percentage. You can find this under the heading “Quiz Average” in your Blackboard Grade Center. This number is your current quiz average with your lowest quiz grade already dropped and it will be your q in formula (1).

Example

Suppose you’ve taken the first two exams and 10 quizzes and you’d like to see what you need on the final to get a “C” in the course. You’ve got the following grades:

Exam 1: 48 %
 Exam 2: 76 %
 Quiz Avg: 75 %

Now to get a good approximation of your final grade, you can use formula (1) with $x = 48$, $y = 76$, and $q = 75$, so

$$.3(75) + .2(48) + .2(76) + .3z.$$

Now plug in some different values for z to see what sort of overall grade that would give you. For example, if you get 100% on the final, then you have an overall grade of

$$.3(75) + .2(48) + .2(76) + .3(100) \approx 77\%$$

which would be somewhere in the “C” range. If you get 65% on the final, then you have an overall grade of

$$.3(75) + .2(48) + .2(76) + .3(65) \approx 67\%$$

which would be somewhere in the “D” range. If you get 76% on the final, then you have an overall grade of

$$.3(75) + .2(48) + .2(76) + .3(76) \approx 70\%$$

which would be just enough to keep you in the “C” range. But remember these are just good approximations, since you likely still have a few quizzes to take and that might change q a bit.