Getting Started with Canvas Gradebook

Summer 2014
TLTC Learning Technologies
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Introduction to Canvas Gradebook

Gradebook is a central repository for assessment data, and student information. Instructors can use Canvas Gradebook to record data, monitor student progress, and communicate information to students. Gradebook can be accessed from the Grades link on the left navigation menu in a Canvas space.

Columns in Gradebook

- **Assignments = Gradebook columns**
  
  Gradebook columns are created and controlled by items in Assignments.
  
  - All GRADED items in Assignments have corresponding columns in the Gradebook.
  
  - An ungraded item in Assignments does not have a column in the Gradebook.

Adding/Removing a Column

Columns in the Gradebook are added by adding graded items via the Assignments link. Columns in the Gradebook are removed by deleting items via the Assignments link.

- Click on the **Assignments** link on the left navigation.
- Click the Add Assignment plus sign to add a graded assignment to an Assignment Group which will automatically add a column in the Gradebook.
To remove a Gradebook column, click the gear icon on the right side of an Assignment item and select **Delete** to remove the assignment.

![Image of Gradebook column removal](image)

**Reordering Columns**

Gradebook columns could be reordered in two ways:

1. You can reorder the Gradebook columns by reordering the items via the Assignments link.

   ![Image of reordering items](image)

2. You can also arrange columns by drag the assignment title cell in the Gradebook.
3. You can also arrange columns by assignment due dates via Gradebook.
   - Click on the Gear Option icon in the Gradebook.
   - Select **Arrange columns by due date** to arrange the columns in the Gradebook by due dates.
Sorting Columns

Columns could be sorted by clicking on a column title in the Gradebook.

For example:
Click on the Secondary ID column title to sort students in ascending or descending order by the student’s secondary ID.

Click on the total grade percentage column title to sort students in ascending or descending order by grade percentages.

Column Options

Column options feature enables instructors to perform different functions for a column in the Gradebook.

Clicking the drop-down arrow atop any column will show the column options drop down menu.

You can email students, curve grades and batch download submissions from the drop down menu.

Assignment Details shows you the average score, and the total number of submissions, etc...

SpeedGrader takes you directly to SpeedGrader interface to grade/view each student submission right on the screen.

“Mute Assignment”: In some cases, you may want to delay the release of grades to students until you’ve graded all of the submissions. The Mute Assignment feature enables
you to hide student grades temporarily. A muted assignment will not send out grade change notifications or any new instructor comments until the assignment is unmuted. A muted assignment displays a "mute" icon on the student grades page so students know the assignment is muted.

Managing Grades in Gradebook

Entering scores

To manually enter grades directly into the Gradebook:

1. Move the cursor over the appropriate cell in the Gradebook, and click on the cell.
2. Type the value of the score.
3. Hit Enter from your keyboard.

(You can also upload grades from Excel. The instructions on how to download and upload grades from a spreadsheet are given later in this handout.)

Total Grade

Here are three key things you need to know about the Total Grade in Canvas Gradebook.

- Total grade calculation only includes graded columns. It omits all empty columns from the total calculation. Total Score (as Percentage) = Points Earned/Points Possible of Graded Columns.
- In non-weighted assignment groups, you can choose whether to view grades total column by points or percentage.

- You can hide the Total column in the Gradebook from students before Final.
  1. Go to Settings on the left navigation, and then click Edit Course Details button under Course Details tab.
  2. Then you will see small blue text more options near the bottom. Click more options.
  3. Check Hide totals in student grades summary. This will hide the total grade based on all Assignment Groups. Students will still see the totals for each assignment group.
Letter Grade

You can set up a letter grading scheme for the Total grade.

You can also choose to display a letter grade for any column in the Gradebook.

Setting up the Letter Grade for the Total Column

1. Select Settings from the left navigation.
2. On Course Details tab, click the Edit Course Details button at the bottom of the page.
3. Then check **Enable course grading scheme**.

   ![Set grading scheme](image)

   Click **set grading scheme**. You are able to see the default grading scheme.

4. To edit or modify a grading scheme, click the pencil icon on the right.

   ![View and edit grading scheme](image)

5. On the Edit Grading Scheme page:
   a. Name your new grading scheme by typing in the Scheme Name field.
   b. Add ranges by clicking the **Insert here** link when you hover over a range name checkbox.
   c. Edit the grade ranges by typing in the appropriate fields.
   d. Remove individual ranges by clicking the trash “X” icon.

6. Click the **Save** button to save the grading scheme you have created.
7. Click **Done** to go back to the Course Details page.
8. Click **Update Course Details** button to save changes.

Now, if you go back to the Gradebook and you will see your custom grading scheme is applied to the Total column in the Gradebook. The Total column will show both percentage and letter grade based on your grading scheme.

**Note:** if you want to use any existing grading scheme, on the scheme editing window, click on the **Select Another Scheme** button to see all existing grading schemes. Then you can replace the default grading scheme.

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**Setting up a Letter Grade Display for a Graded Column in Gradebook**

To set up a letter grade display option for a graded column (such as assignment or a discussion assignment column) in Gradebook, you need to go to **Assignments**.

**Note:** Quiz column doesn’t have the letter grade display option.

1. Select **Assignments** link.
2. Click the title for the column (assignment) for which the letter grade needs to be set up.
3. Click the Edit Assignment button.
4. Click **Display Grade as** drop down menu to display more options on the page.
5. From the drop down menu, select **Letter Grade**.

6. Then click **Update Assignment** to save the change.
7. The grades in the Gradebook for that column are displayed both in letter and points.

**Weighting Final Grade**

In Canvas, grade weighting is done via the **Assignment Groups**. Establishing the percentage weight for Assignment Groups is done via the **Assignments** link or the **Options** menu in the Gradebook.

**Setting Group Weights via Assignments:**

1. Go to **Assignments** via the left navigation.
2. Click on the Gear icon on the top of the assignments page.
3. Check the **Weight final grade based on assignment groups** checkbox.
4. Enter the percentage weight for each of the assignment groups. Canvas uses the percentage weights you specify here to calculate the final grade as percentages. Weights are equal 100%, but can exceed 100% for extra credit.

Dropping the lowest/highest scores

Dropping the lowest/ highest X number of scores is done via **Assignments**. Since dropping scores are based on an assignment group, you will need to put the assignments in an appropriate group first.

For each Assignment Group, you can create one of three grading rules:

- Drop (ignore) the lowest x scores for each student
- Drop (ignore) the highest x scores for each student
- Never drop a specific assignment. [This option will only display assignments that already exist in your assignment group. You can add assignments and set this rule at a later time.]
1. Click the **Assignments** link.
2. Click the Gear icon for an assignment group.
3. Then you can drop lowest or highest numbers of scores.

4. Click **Save** button to save all changes.
   If rules are assigned to the group, Canvas will show the number of rules; You can hover over the link to view the rules.
As an instructor, you are able to see the dropped grade cells are shaded in the Gradebook as shown below:

![Gradebook with dropped grades shaded](image)

**Downloading/uploading Grades**

Sometimes, you may prefer saving your grades or just want to perform some calculations or edit grades in a spreadsheet program (e.g., Excel). You can download your Gradebook as a .CSV file. Downloaded files can then be saved on a local computer drive, modified, and then uploaded back into the Canvas Gradebook.

**Downloading Grades**

1. Click the **Grades** to access the Gradebook.
2. Click the Gear Option icon and then select **Download Scores (.csv)** from the drop down menu.

3. The Gradebook is downloaded to your local drive and saved as .CSV file. You can then modify the file in Excel and perform the desired changes in Excel. Then save the modified file as a .CSV file using **the same file name**.
Uploading Grades to Canvas

You can only upload a .CSV file to Canvas Gradebook.

**Note:** It is highly recommended that instructors planning on uploading the Gradebook data from an external spreadsheet program always download the Gradebook from Canvas first in order to ensure a right format for uploading.

1. To upload grades to Canvas, click the **Grades** link in a Canvas space to access the Gradebook.
2. Click the Gear icon and select **Upload Scores (from.csv)**.

3. Browse” to the .CSV file to upload Data. If you are not sure what the CSV file should look like, click on the “What should the CSV file look like?” link.

4. Click **Upload Data** to complete the process.