

Eastern Blackboard Help

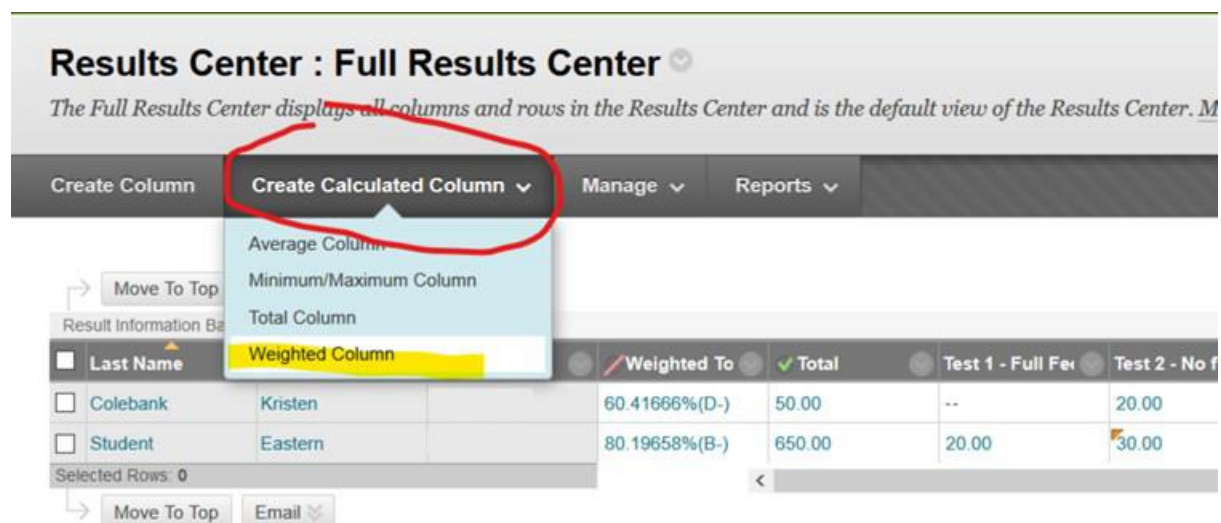
Using Weighted Columns to Calculate Course Grades

In this example, a Weighted Column, which is a type of Calculated Column, was used in the Results Center to automatically calculate the final grades in a class.

This technique is used when different components of a class are weighted with different values to determine the final grade. In the case of this example, the weights are quizzes 50%, tests 30% and exercises/written homework 20%.

I have already created categories for these (exams and exercises are available by default; I added a “quiz” category) *See the Managing Blackboard’s Results Center document to learn how to create categories.*

I clicked on “Create Calculated Column” and selected “Weighted Column” from the menu.



In this section, you can assign the settings for your weighted column and base the final course grade on the category percentages you choose.

The critical piece is the section represented below, where you assign the percentage weights to the columns or categories. Since my weighting is based on categories (quizzes 50%, tests 30% and exercises 20%) I used the category fields box. As I moved each category over to the right, I could select the weight and appropriate settings for each. The weights must total 100 percent for the calculation to work (my 50% category is out of the view here...., but you can see the settings for my 20 and 30 percent categories.

Include in Weighted Result

Columns to Select:

- Total
- Test 1 - Full Feedback at Submission
- Test 2 - No feedback at submission, full feedback
- Test 3 - Default points per question at submission
- Quiz 1
- Quiz 2
- Quiz 3
- Week One Exercise - Use the text submission ed

Categories to Select:

- Survey
- Discussion
- Blog
- Journal
- Self and Peer

Selected Columns:

Enter the weight percentage for each item. Percentages should add up to 100 percent.

20 % Category: Exercise

Weight Columns: ☐ Equally ☒ Proportionally

☒ Drop Results OR ☐ Use only the

Drop ☐ Highest Results ☐ Lowest Value to Calculate

Drop ☐ Lowest Results ☐ Highest Value to Calculate

30 % Category: Quiz

Weight Columns: ☒ Equally ☐ Proportionally

☒ Drop Results OR ☐ Use only the

Drop ☐ Highest Results ☐ Lowest Value to Calculate

Drop ☐ Lowest Results ☐ Highest Value to Calculate

50 % Category: Test

Total Weight: 100.00%

Calculate as Running Total ☒ Yes ☐ No

A running total only includes items that have results or attempts. Selecting No includes all items in the calculations, using a value of 0 for an item if there is no result.

For more information regarding some of the settings, particularly on weighting each categories' member columns equally or proportionally, and on using running totals, see the Cornell University BB help page <https://bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu/grade-center-calculated-columns/>

You also can decide in these settings whether you want learners to see this weighted column in their My Results, or hide it.

Once have your settings in place, submit, and a weighted column will appear in your Results Center (though you may need to move it to the location your prefer... you can use the Column Organization setting page to easily move it).

If you have an outlier assignment, you can also assign weights to assignments individually. Use the "Columns to Select" option, rather than Categories to Select, to move those individual assignments over to the right, and select the weight percentages. Again, the total of all the selected weights must equal 100.