# Setup Weighted Grades in Brightspace

Weighted grades allow you to assign percentages to certain grade categories or individual items within Brightspace. Unlike points, weighted grades can allow you to place a higher value on certain categories of grades in the overall evaluation of learners.

## Determine Grading Categories and Weights

Determine the grading categories you will use for your class and the weighting you will assign. The total must be equal to 100%. For example:

Assignments 30%

Tests 40%

Quizzes 20%

Final Exam 10%

You may also include individual non-categorized items; for example, if you have a Final Exam worth 10% of the total grade, that can be set as 10% on its own without being considered part of any category.

## Set Gradebook To Use Weighted Grades

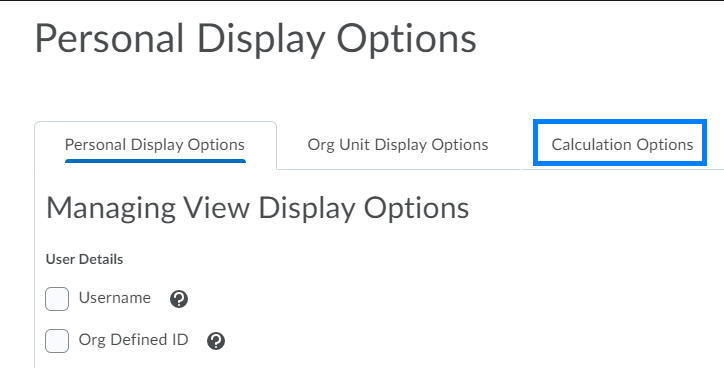
* **Log in** to Brightspace and **open** the class where you want to set up weighted grades.
* From the *course navigation* bar, **click Grades**.



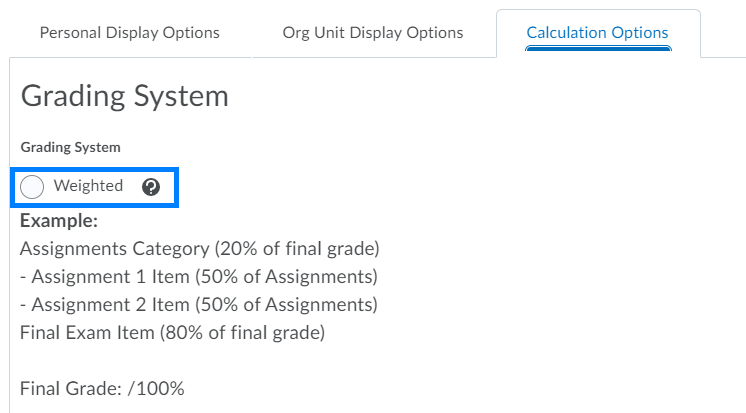
* **Click** **Settings** near the top-right.

screenshot

* The *Personal Display Options* screen will open. **Click** the **Calculation Options** tab.



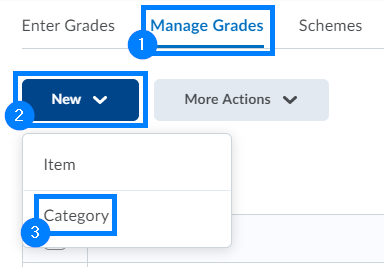
* **Click** the **Weighted** option and **click** **Save**.



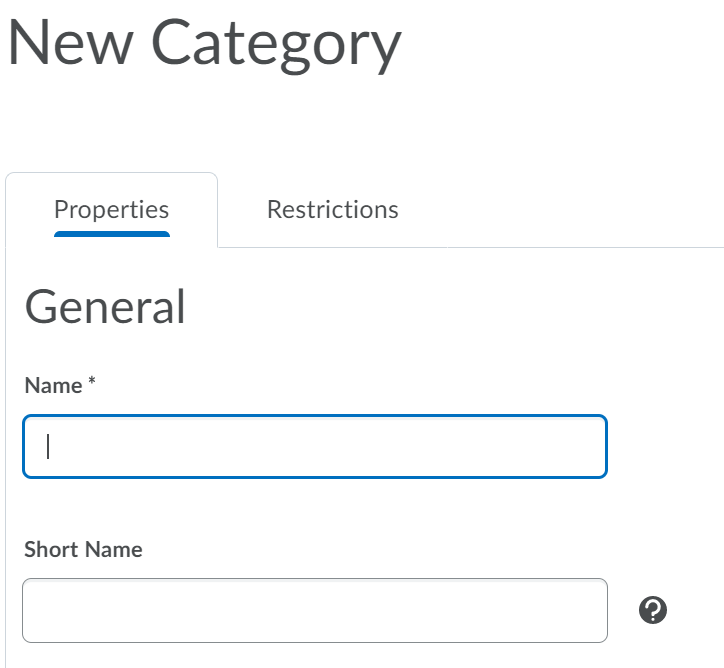
* **Click** **Yes** on the pop-up boxes to confirm the changes. Your gradebook is now set to use weighted grades.
* **Click** the **Close** button at the bottom of the screen to return to the gradebook.

## Add Categories And Weights To Gradebook

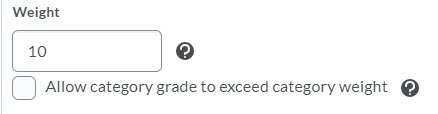
* In the *Gradebook*, **click** the **Manage Grades** tab. **Click New** and **select Category** from the drop-down.



* On the *New Category* screen, **enter** a **name** for the category.



* **Scroll** down to the Gradingsection:
  + **Enter** the **weight** for the overall category in the Weight text box. You may optionally choose to allow the weight to exceed the total for the column if you use any bonus within the category.



* + In the *Distribution* area, **select** how you want individual grade columns assigned to the category weighted within the category itself:  
    - **Manually assign weight to items in the category***:* Allows the choice to assign a percentage to individual grade columns assigned to the category. The total percentages to the individual grade columns mustequal 100%.
    - **Distribute weights by points across all items in the category**: If individual items within a category have different point values, those with higher point values will be given more value than those with lower values.
    - ***Distribute weight evenly across all items*:** Regardless of the number of items assigned to the category, each item will have the same weight. If you have two items within the category, regardless of points they’ll be worth 50% each of the value of the category. If you have 10 items, they’ll be worth 10% each of the value of the category. This option also gives you the option to drop a specified number of highest and lowest scores for each user.
* **Click Save and Close** to finish your work on the category or **click Save and New** to create a new grading category with weights.



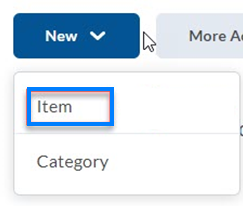
**PLEASE NOTE:** You may choose different distributions for your categories. For example, you can manually assign weights to items in one category and distribute weight evenly across all items in another category.

## Create An Item Within A Weighted Gradebook

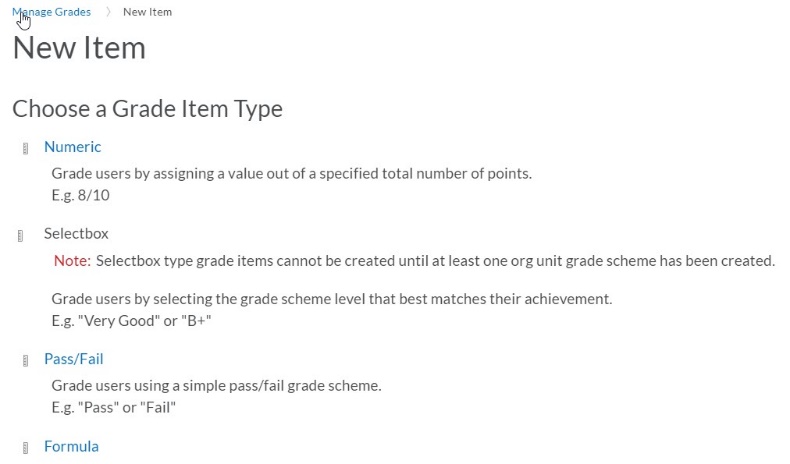
* In the *Gradebook*, **click** the **Manage Grades** tab.

screenshot

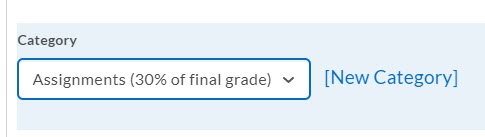
* **Click New** and **select Item**.



* **Choose** the type of column you want by **clicking** on the type. In this example, the **Numeric**option is being used.



* **Type** in the name for your item.
* If your item will be part of a category:
  + In the *Category* drop-down, **select** the **category** for the item.



* + **Type** in a description for the column (optional).
  + In the *Maximum Points* area, **enter** the **total possible points** for the item.



* + If you are individually weighting each item within the category with the **Manually assign weight to items in the category**option, **enter** the percentage weight for the column. Otherwise, this field will be disabled.



* + If you will allow this column to exceed the maximum points, **check** the **Can Exceed**option. If this is for *Bonus Points* only, **check** the **Bonus** option.
  + You may then **change** the scheme or add a rubric.
  + **Click** **Save and Close** if you are done or **Save and New** to create and move on to a new item.
* If your item will stand alone and be weighted separately:
  + Leave the **Category** drop-down set to **None.**
  + **Enter** a description for the column (optional).
  + In the *Maximum Points* area, **enter** the **total possible points** for the item.



* + In the *Weight* text box, **enter** the **percentage** that this column will be worth for the overall course grade.



* + If you will allow this column to exceed the maximum points, **check** the **Can Exceed**option. If this is for **Bonus Points** only, **check** the **Bonus** option.

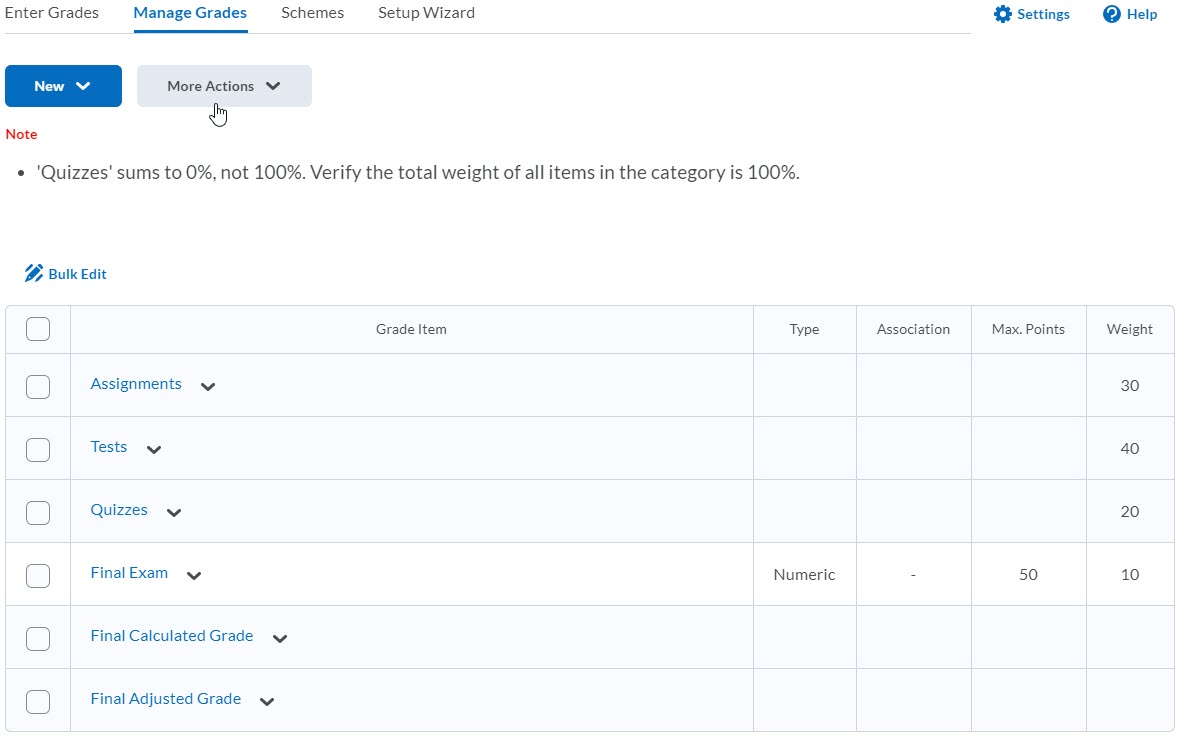
**If this is a standalone weighted column, it is not recommended to check the *Bonus* option.**

* + You may then change the scheme or add a rubric.
  + **Click** **Save and Close** if you are done or **click** **Save and New** to create your item and move on to a new item.

## Review Weighting

* In *Grades*, **click** the **Manage Grades**tab.

screenshot

* **Review** your weighting scheme.   
    
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If there are any issues, Brightspace will include a notification at the top of the screen. If you plan on adding items through the term, you may ignore the notification, but you will need to fix any issues by the end of the term to generate an accurate final grade.