

Hello all,

Within the next one to two weeks, if not already, the Gradebook tab in casa now has a hyperlink in the upper-left corner of the screen reading, "Click here for a calculation of your letter grade."

This letter grade calculator will display tabular format of your grades so far (sorted by category) and your course average as of that day. *There are a couple things you need to know about with this display that are not self-explanatory, so please continue reading.*

First, this is not a live update. Depending on how the assignment was originally coded into casa, your grade may show up immediately, it may take until the next business, or it may take several days.

Second, once 20% of the class enrollment has a completed and been assigned a grade to a specific assignment, the calculator will automatically insert a grade of zero for everyone else. This will be corrected with your actual grade once you have completed the assignment (this is a particular concern when viewing quiz grades). Please do not email me saying you have a zero on an assignment that isn't due yet; this is the reason you are seeing that.

Third, each exam grade will be in its own table and inserted in pieces (multiple choice, free response, practice test). Since there are no free response sections for exams this semester, this may display a zero, but that is a 0 out of a possible 0 points, so it will have no impact on your actual exam grade. On this spreadsheet, the extra credit awarded from your Practice Test will be calculated and added onto your exam grade. If, due to your personal situation, you did not take the exam in the casa testing center, your grade will take a little while longer to appear.

Fourth, dropped grades will be done until the end of the semester, and even then, they will still be displayed in the list of grades and the grade calculation spreadsheet, however they will not be calculated in your course average. (This is done so there is no confusion over which grade was the lowest to be dropped.) The NADFA entry lists how many grades from that table were dropped before calculating the course average, and it will remain zero until just before the Final Exam. The Popper Normalization entry is the number of questions that your poppers are graded out of, and it will increase with every additional popper completed.

***This is not meant to replace the list of grades that appear in the Gradebook tab.*** If you are unsure if an assignment has been graded, look at that list, not the Letter Grade Calculator. Only look at the Letter Grade Calculator for a calculation of your current letter grade in the class; not for grades on individual assignments or to check on the progress of an assignment being graded.

Also, your review of this calculation and seeing the impact of some of the assignments that have been missed ***does not mean*** that deadlines are going to be re-opened and late assignments will be accepted. All course requirements were explained in the beginning of the course, and those have not changed. Seeing how these missing assignments have impacted your course average (while sometimes startling and upsetting) does not warrant a modification of department-set deadlines or policies.

The main purpose of this feature is to give you an idea of if you are working hard enough or not in the course, so you can, if needed, adjust your routine now while the semester is only roughly 25% completed. If you are unhappy with the grade you are seeing, do not spend time trying to manually (or through a website) recalculate your average to find a discrepancy; the average is accurate. That time would be better spent preparing for upcoming exams and working to improve your grade that way.

--Dr. Matt