

The new version of Blackboard 6.1 has introduced changes to the Gradebook which may mislead students about their progress in your course.

While we are in discussions with Blackboard to change the way the Gradebook displays marks, in the interim we would ask you to take the following three steps to ensure that students are not confused by the marks that are displayed in Blackboard:

1. Set the Total and the Weighted Total to be invisible to students.
2. If you are using the Blackboard Gradebook to translate marks into letter grades, set the Score to Letter Grade conversion to reflect Algonquin's Grading Policy (Directive E11).
3. If you have not already done so, please post an announcement in your course making clear to students what marks they will be able to see using "Check Grades".

Set the Total and the Weighted Total to be invisible to students.

Unless all the marks for all class assignments are posted to Blackboard, the Total and Weighted Total mislead students about their actual standing in the course. Students conclude that they have either higher or lower marks than they actually have. Also, course marks are only official once they have been issued by the Registrar's Office.

To set weight and total to be invisible:



1. Use Control Panel à Gradebook
2. Click on **Total**
3. Select ▶ **Item Information**
4. At 2. Options set Make Item Visible to Students to No.
5. Click on **Weighted Total**
6. Select ▶ **Item Information**
7. At 2. Options set Make Item Visible to Students to No.

Translate marks into letter grades

If you are using the Blackboard Gradebook to translate marks into letter grades, set the Score to Letter Grade conversion to reflect Algonquin's Grading Policy (Directive E11).

The default settings in Blackboard do not reflect the College Grading Policy.

To change the settings:

1. Use Control Panel à Gradebook à  Gradebook Settings.
2. Select Manage Display Options
3. At Letter, click on 
4. Set the Grade Conversion Table to reflect College Values.

Percent	Letter Grade	Enter into Blackboard Gradebook* (See note below)
90 - 100	A+	<input type="text" value="90.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="100.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="A+"/>
85 - 89	A	<input type="text" value="85.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="90.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="A"/>
80 - 84	A-	<input type="text" value="80.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="85.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="A-"/>
77 - 79	B+	<input type="text" value="77.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="80.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="B+"/>
73 - 76	B	<input type="text" value="73.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="77.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="B"/>
70 - 72	B-	<input type="text" value="70.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="73.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="B-"/>
67 - 69	C+	<input type="text" value="67.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="70.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="C+"/>
63 - 66	C	<input type="text" value="63.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="67.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="C"/>
60 - 62	C-	<input type="text" value="60.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="63.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="C-"/>
57 - 59	D+	<input type="text" value="57.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="60.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="D+"/>
53 - 56	D	<input type="text" value="53.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="57.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="D"/>
50 - 52	D-	<input type="text" value="50.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="53.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="D-"/>
	F	<input type="text" value="0.0"/> % to <input type="text" value="50.0"/> % will display as: <input type="text" value="F"/>

- ➡ *When you enter these values into the Blackboard Gradebook, the upper limit of a range must be equal to the lower limit of the range directly above. Thus, a range of 85 to 90 includes all grades up to, but not including 90. The highest range does, however, include 100%.*

If you have not already done so, please post an announcement in your course making clear to students what marks they will be able to see using "Check Grades". Some professors only post marks for assignments marked in Blackboard and some post marks for every assignment in the course. Please make sure your students know which marks you are posting to your Blackboard course.

Many teachers have a "student persona" that allows them to log into their Blackboard courses and view the course (and check grades, etc.) as a student sees it. If you would like to have a "student persona" to log in to your Blackboard courses, contact bbhelp@algonquincollege.com.