

Guidance Document: Calculation Method

Calculation Method: The way in which multiple assessments are combined into a single outcome score (per outcome, per student, per section).

1. There are five different calculation methods to choose from (see Calculation Method Summary below).
2. The default calculation method is Decaying Average.
3. Disciplines select a single calculation method for all outcomes of each course type.
4. Disciplines can select a different calculation method for each course type but all sections of the same course type must contain the same calculation method.
5. Cross-listed courses must have the same calculation method as their cross-listed partners.
6. Calculation method updates will be managed by IE.
7. Requests for updated calculation methods can be made anytime but will be stored until the next update period.
8. Calculation methods will be updated once per year during the update period each summer before the Fall semester.
9. Requests must be made using the request form. The requestor must attach evidence discipline consensus.

Calculation Method Summary:

XX/YY Decaying Average:

Most recent result counts as XX% of mastery weight, average of all other results count as YY% of weight. If there is only one result, the single score will be returned.

Example: 60% /40% Decaying Average

Most recent result counts as 60% of mastery weight, average of all other results count as 40% of weight. If there is only one result, the single score will be returned.

Item Scores: 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6, 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6

Final Score: 5.03

Average:

Central value in a set of results. Calculated by dividing the sum of all item scores by the number of scores.

Warning: Average is not a good fit for most outcomes-based or mastery-based learning use cases because students may need time to reach mastery of an outcome and early poorer performance can bring down an average.

Example:

Item Scores: 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6

Final Score: 3.43

N Number of Times:

Must achieve mastery at least 'n' times. Scores above mastery will be averaged to calculate final score.

Example: 5 Number of Times

Must achieve mastery at least n=5 times. Assume mastery is a 3. Scores above mastery will be averaged to calculate final score.

Item Scores: 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6, 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6

Final Score: 4.2

Most recent score:

Mastery score reflects the most recent graded assignment or quiz.

Example:

Item Scores: 1, 4, 2, 3

Final Score: 3

Highest Score:

Mastery score reflects the highest score of a graded assignment or quiz.

Example:

Item Scores: 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6, 1, 4, 2, 3, 5, 3, 6

Final Score: 6