

## Twelve new tools in Blackboard's Grade Center

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Blackboard's Grade Center, replacing the Gradebook on December 22, includes new instructor tools to support assessment and communication.

1. Add comments for any grade in the Grade Center to give students individual feedback.
2. Use the integrated tool for Email to contact students who get a low grade on a quiz or exam.
3. Define grading periods such as Mid-term and Final Grade and move grade columns into the appropriate period.
4. For each grading period, create a new Calculated column for Weighted, Total, Average, or Minimum/Maximum, as you wish.
5. Define as many grade schemas (equivalency tables of letter grades and scores) as needed. For example, if you want to provide different grading curves for easier tests and harder tests.
6. Create individual grade reports that can be distributed to students.
7. Double-check the grade columns that are hidden or displayed for students to see in My Grades.
8. Exempt a grade for an individual student or remove from calculations any graded item you want to exclude for the whole class.
9. Use the Focus option to monitor grade performance for an individual student.
10. Use the Group option to create a customized SmartView for each section of students enrolled in a multi-section course shell.
11. Use the Benchmark option to pull information on students who scored below (or above) the benchmark number you specify for a test or other grade.
12. Use the Investigate option to combine the three options above for a more sophisticated review of student performance, based on multiple criteria.