

**Chemistry 204**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Dr. Brian Anderson**

**Calculating Your Grade**

Your lab write-ups make up 70% of your overall grade, and the quizzes make up the remaining 30%.

To calculate your overall grade you will need to determine your lab average and your quiz average, then calculate an overall weighted average.

**Determine your lab average**

- 1) Add up all the points you've gotten on the lab write-ups (pre-lab, lab report, discussion questions, post-lab, and unknown summary sheets).
- 2) Divide by the total number of points possible.

Experiments 1, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are worth **55** points each.  
Experiments 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 are worth **75** points each.

- 3) Multiply by 100.

**Determine your quiz average**

- 4) Drop the lowest quiz score so far and add up the others.
- 5) Divide by the total number of points possible (20 for each quiz kept).
- 6) Multiply by 100.

**Calculate your overall grade**

- 7) Multiply your lab average by 0.7
- 8) Multiply your quiz average by 0.3
- 9) Add them up. This will give you a number between 0 and 100, which is your percent for the course. Letter grades are assigned on a 90/80/70/60 basis.

## Example

After Week 4, Alice wants to calculate his grade. These are his scores so far:

Experiment 1: Pre-Lab 4.5, Report/Discussion 28, Post-Lab 8  
Experiment 2: Pre-Lab 4, Report/Discussion 35, Post-Lab 7, Unknown Summary Sheet 14  
Experiment 3: Pre-Lab 4, Report/Discussion 34, Post-Lab 6, Unknown Summary Sheet 20  
Experiment 4: Pre-Lab 5, Report/Discussion 39, Post-Lab 10, Unknown Summary Sheet 17

Quiz 1: 20    Quiz 2: 16    Quiz 3: 10    Quiz 4: 14

**Calculating the lab average:** Alice adds up all the points he has earned on the lab reports so far and gets 221.5. The first four labs are worth a total of 280 points (55+75+75+75), so his lab average is  $(221.5/280) \times 100 = 79.1\%$

**Calculating the quiz average:** Alice throws out the lowest score (a 10 on Quiz 3) and adds the rest to get a total of 50 for the three remaining quizzes. Three quizzes are worth a total of 60 points, so his quiz average is  $(50/60) \times 100 = 83.3\%$ .

**To calculate an overall grade,** Alice multiplies his lab average by 0.7 and his quiz average by 0.3 and adds the results:

$$79.1\% \times 0.7 = 55.4$$

$$83.3\% \times 0.3 = 25.0$$

$55.4 + 25.0 = 80.4\%$  Alice is running a low B at this point in the course.

These calculations do not take into account the TA's safety/technique evaluation points. If Alice has been coming to lab prepared and on time, has been dressing appropriately, and hasn't been a problem for his fellow students, he has been earning an additional 3 points each week. That's enough to bump his lab average up to 80.0%, and his overall grade to an 81%. But if he habitually shows up late, unprepared, or wearing shorts and sandals, he has been losing those 3 points each week, his lab average will be only 75.9% (221.5 points out of a possible 292), and his overall grade will be only 78.1%.

In addition to the safety/technique evaluation, your TA will give you a notebook grade when you turn in your lab notebook at the end of the semester. This is worth 8 points toward your lab grade. All told, the lab portion of the class adds up to a total of 685 points over the course of the semester. The notebook grade is 1.2% of your overall lab average, and the safety/technique points are a total of 3.9% of your overall lab average.

If you have any questions about how grades are calculated, feel free to ask your TA or Dr. Anderson.