Checking Blackboard Running Total Calculations (Weighted Gradebook)

In a Weighted Gradebook the running total calculates throughout the term based on weights defined in the column. For this example, we are going to "check" our grade calculations a couple weeks into the course when students have just started submitting work.

Here is the grade breakdown and student data we will be working with:

Grade Breakdown	Student Data for John Doe *
Homework 20%	Homework 1 = 85 Hands On 1 = 100
Hands On 50%	Homework 2 = 90 Hands On 2 = 90
Tests 30%	Homework 3 = 70
(Total = 100% [20+50+30])	* NOTE: No tests have been completed at this time.

First: Blackboard calculates the average for each category **that has grades**.

> Homework Average → (85 + 90 + 70) → 245 / 3 = 81.67
> Hands On Average → (100 + 90) → 190 / 2 = 95
> Tests → Not calculated because no test grades have been recorded.

Second: Blackboard applies the weights for each category **that has grades** to get the weighted value.

> Homework Weighted Value → 81.67 x 0.20 = 16.34
> Hands On Weighted Value → 95 x 0.50 = 47.5
> Tests → Not calculated because no test grades have been recorded.

Third: Blackboard adds calculated weighted values together.

> If all categories have values, then this is the last step; **if one or more categories are empty then there will be a step four**.

> Applicable Category Total → 16.34 (Homework Weight) + 47.5 (Hands On Weight) = 63.84

> 63.84 is **NOT what is displayed as the running total** because it is only 70% of the course grade. This is because Tests (the other 30% does not have any grades entered).

Fourth: Blackboard takes the total calculated in step three and converts it to 100% until grades are entered into the empty categories.

> 63.84 is 70% of the course grade; which at this point is 100% of what **can be earned** at this time because no tests have been completed.

> To convert the grade → (63.84 x 100) → 6,384 / 70 = 91.2
> > NOTE: The 70 value here represents how much of the grade is currently earned; this will change based on your configuration.

> Running Total Displayed in Blackboard = 91.2

✓ Weighted To	Homework 1	Homework 2	Homework 3	Hands On 1	Hands On 2	
91.19048%	85.00	90.00	70.00	100.00	90.00	

NOTE 1 - The 5 decimal places is a known bug.