

Ditch the Points

**Introduction to
Contract/Standards Grading**

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Agenda

- Review Contract/Standards Grading
- Explain why we chose this path
- Provide details about what this looks like in our classes
- Q&A
- Please put comments during the first half in the chat, and we'll discuss and answer at the end



What is Contract/Standards Grading?

The basic premise here is that we move away from focusing on points and grades and shift that focus to content and learning either by tying their final grades to an outline of objectives/outcomes or standards specific to the class.

Why move away from points/grades?

Meghan

- Focus on learning and content rather than grades/points
- Grades didn't always reflect how they were doing
- Foster Dweck's Growth Mindset
- More transparency in what needs to be learned rather than relying on a grade to speak for me
- More opportunity for failure

David

- Focus on the learning the material and not accumulating points
- Material can take time to master. Growth Mindset
- Being transparent about what is required to earn a grade
- More Equity and Accuracy

Equitable Grading Pillars

Contract/Standards grading aligns with Feldman's pillars for equitable grading:

Joe Feldman *Grading for Equity*

- Grading must be Accurate
- Grading must be Bias-Resistant
- Grading must be Motivational
- [Gradingforequity.org](https://gradingforequity.org)

David's Standards-Based Class

My [Contract Grading](#) Example

- 17 measurable objectives were broken down into 25 course standards.
- Students final grades are determined by the number of course standards they show mastery of by the end of the semester.
- Students demonstrate mastery of a course standard by how they perform on questions on a test (3-5 questions).
- Students can re-test on any course standards they previously failed to show mastery of but must first demonstrate growth. Either through test corrections or assigned similar problems.
- Homework problems are assigned but not graded.

General impressions have been positive.

1. So I read the grading policy and I know that you are not using a points based grading system, but rather basing our grades on the number of course standards that we master. I think this is a really cool way to grade.
2. I really like this style of grading.

Meghan's Contract-Based Class

My [Contract Grading](#) Example

Contract Elements to Note:

- Explains why (for the student audience) there are no grades or points (until the end)
 - Assignments marked complete/incomplete
 - Rubrics, written and video comments help to convey feedback and progress along the way.
- Outlines what a final C/B/A grade looks like
- Policies reflect a Growth Mindset, including opportunities for revision and late passes
- Grades determined through [Mid and Final Grade Reflections](#)
 - Midterm grade reflection and subsequent conversation shows the students what is going well and what needs improvement in a transparent way.
 - Final grade justification allows the student (and I) to look at the whole student and their work throughout the semester to determine their final grade.
- Student Feedback: Early through line is that most reflections talk about feeling supported in the class.

**Thanks for listening--What
Questions/Comments Do
you Have?**

We're happy to continue this conversation.

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Please give us your feedback.

<https://forms.gle/FJZwMdA6GCPqLxPbA>