

## How do I calculate your Chem 452 grade?

1) Pin the high score on each exam or the homework to 100%  
(Divide raw scores by the high score.  
Call this new set of scores “pin1.0”.)

2) Find the average of each new set of scores.  
(Call each average avgpin1.0)

3) Scale all the rest of the scores to have a mean of 65%.  
(Call this new set of scores “mean65”.) Use the equation:

$$\text{mean65} = 100 \left\{ \text{pin1.0} - \left[ \frac{1 - \text{pin1.0}}{1 - \text{avgpin1.0}} \right] (\text{avgpin1.0} - 0.65) \right\}$$

(Note: In the rare case that the class mean is higher than 65% and a student has a zero for any of the exams (or a very low score), the resulting number can be negative! That's o.k. This method still works.)

4) Make a table of the “mean65” scores of the following five:  
homework  
midterm1  
midterm2  
final  
final

Note that the same score on the final exam is counted twice.

5) Drop the lowest score of the five.  
(Set the lowest score equal to zero.  
If the lowest score is the final, do this operation only once.)

6) Add the remaining four scores.

7) Divide by the high score to get a final, curved score on a scale from 0 to 100.

8) Set the mean to 2.9 (usually). Each standard deviation in score corresponds to roughly 1.0 change in the grade.