

ME 320 Grades

Prepared by Professor J. M. Cimbala, Penn State University. Latest revision: 17 August 2023

General Information

- The grades for this course are available on Penn State's <http://canvas.psu.edu/>.
- Grades are updated regularly during the semester.
- The Teaching Assistants (TAs) will grade all homework. The TAs have nothing to do with the quizzes or the final exam – **do not ask the grader about quizzes or the final exam** – ask Professor Cimbala instead.
- Quizzes are graded electronically by Canvas. Professor Cimbala can modify a quiz grade if necessary, but only under extreme circumstances. See Professor Cimbala for all questions about quizzes and/or the final exam.

Grading Scale

In the “old days,” the grading scale was much simpler – 90% was an A, 80% was a B, 70% was a C, and 60% was a D. When Penn State adopted the plus/minus grading system several years ago, Professor Cimbala decided to keep the same scale as the previous one, but simply **interpolated linearly for the plus and minus grades**. Thus, this is the standard grading cut-off scale that Professor Cimbala has adopted for all his courses:

Cut-off score (%)	Letter grade
90.00	A
86.66	A-
83.33	B+
80.00	B
76.66	B-
73.33	C+
70.00	C
60.00	D
0.00	F

This grading scale is *not* open to negotiation. If you end up just below one of the cut-offs, Professor Cimbala will look very carefully at your final exam to see if the grading was possibly too strict. If so, he may be able to push you to the higher grade. If not, nothing can be done to change your grade. It is inevitable that someone is always just below the borderline.

Final Grade Distribution

There is a short quiz after most of the video lessons. I expect to have a total of 75 quizzes this semester. To keep the grade calculations clean and to give students a bit of a break, I directed Canvas to drop the lowest 10 quiz grades so that the total quiz grade is averaged over the 65 highest quiz scores. There are 15 homework assignments, but we drop the lowest score. There is a final exam. Here are the grade weights:

- **Homework = 21%** Each homework is $(21\%)/14 = 1.5\%$ of final course grade (after dropping lowest one).
- **Quizzes = 65%** Each quiz is **1%** of final course grade (after dropping lowest ten).
- **Final Exam = 14%** The final exam is **14%** of final course grade.

Grade Calculator

You can calculate your course grade using the following formula, where all homework, quiz, and exam scores are reported as 0 to 100 points. The final score then ranges from 0 to 100 points.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score} &= [(\text{sum of 14 highest homework scores})/ 14]*0.21 \\ &+ [(\text{sum of your 65 highest quiz scores})/ 65]*0.65 \\ &+ (\text{Final Exam score})*0.14 \end{aligned}$$