

Processing Meaningful Grades of Weighted Average Grades

Using GPACAL=V to Determine Meaningful Composite Grades

How do I show more meaningful composite grades?

Situation: Articulated many-to-many, or many-to-one courses, with un-alike grades appear on the audit as TWA. Students and advisors want to view more meaningful grades for these courses.

Note: Additional set-up for in-progress composite grades, and composite grades used for alternate GPA checking appears at the end of this document.

Encoding to allow DARS to assign a more meaningful composite grade (instead of TWA - transfer weighted average) based on GPA points assigned to the TARGET course, occurs in two places:

- **Target Institutional Reference Table**
- **Audit Grade table**

The recommended default set-up is to use a grade 'symbol' like TWA for any many-to-one or many-to-many course articulations where both source courses have an 'addct' of 1, or to use a grade symbol like NTWA for any many-to-one or many-to-many course articulations where one or both source courses have an 'addct' of 0.

The set up provided here will show you how to use the GPACAL field in the TARGET IREF Grade Definition to test for quality points entered in the GPA field against the GPA quality points already assigned to the composite course through the articulation process of the many-to-one or many-to-many articulation.

Target Institutional Reference Table

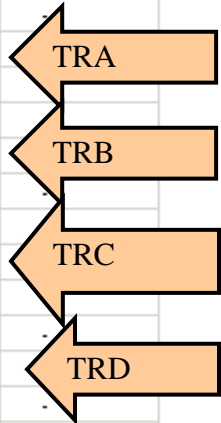
Choose your own institution (TARGET) and click on the Grade Definition in the tree view. You will need to add a grade for each GPA check level that you wish to use. The following example shows eleven grade entries plus an entry for in-progress grades, using its own condition symbol. If you don't use + and - grading you'd only need 4 grade entries, (Indicated by tan-colored arrows) plus an entry for combined courses where one or both has a failing grade - like NTWA.

- In our example, the school has chosen to use TR as the first two characters of the grade followed by the actual letter grade. Optionally, you could use "TV" plus

the grade. Miami University uses TA V, TA-V, TB+B, etc. We assume the 'V' stands for 'variable'. You can choose how you wish to report the grade.

➤ **Target Grade Definition**

-999999 WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY - TARGET																	
A	Type	IU	Grade	A	R	UI	UGrd	Acu	Rcu	GPA	Calc	Crdt	Ct	C1C2UC1UC2	Yr	Trm	Range
8	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRZ			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS	INP		.000	V	I	1				
9	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRA			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			4.000	V	I	1				
10	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRA-			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			3.670	V	I	1				
11	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRB+			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			3.300	V	I	1				
12	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRB			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			3.000	V	I	1				
13	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRB-			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			2.700	V	I	1				
14	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRC+			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			2.300	V	I	1				
15	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRC			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			2.000	V	I	1				
16	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRC-			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			1.700	V	I	1				
17	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRD+			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			1.300	V	I	1				
18	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRD			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			1.000	V	I	1				
19	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRD-			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS			.700	V	I	1				



GPA TEST VALUE

CAPITAL 'I' – TELLS DARS TO BRING IN QUALITY POINTS

TEST TO SEE IF COMPOSITE IS THE GPA POINT OR HIGHER

UNIVERSAL SYMBOL THAT GETS ASSIGNED BASED ON THE VALUES YOU IDENTIFY UNDER THE GPA TAB (TARGET IREF) FOR UNIVERSAL PASSED AND UNIVERSAL NOT PASSED.

Course	Credit	GPA
GPA Scale: 0.000		
Default Grades		
Universal Passed: VARS		
Universal Not Passed: FAIL		

Audit Grade Table

Remember that each of the grades defined on the Target Grade Definition table, must also be entered into your audit grade table under the Support Tables icon. Each grade is defined with Add Credit of < Y >, Add Count of < 1 >.

A*	Grade	Report Grade	GPA Pt	GPA Calc	Add Credit	Add Count	IP	Condg
7	TRA		4.000		Y	1		TABC
8	TRA-		3.670		Y	1		TABC
9	TRB+		3.330		Y	1		TBC
10	TRB		3.000		Y	1		TBC
11	TRB-		2.670		Y	1		TBC
12	TRC+		2.330		Y	1		TC
13	TRC		2.000		Y	1		TC
14	TRC-		1.670		Y	1		TC
15	TRD+		1.330		Y	1		TD
16	TRD		1.000		Y	1		TD
17	TRD-		.670		Y	1		TD

Audit appearance

Here's how a Weighted Average grade looks on an audit using the default TWA set up:

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OK      Transfer Courses that apply to Emphasis Area 8 of the MnTC
        at Anoka Ramsey

+ 1) Global Perspective Emphasis Area
    12.67 CREDITS ADDED
    S 88 GERM1101      5.0 TWA   Beginning German I      ++
    NO. HENN: GERM0101,0102,0103
    S 88 GERM1102      5.0 TWA   Beginning German I      ++
    NO. HENN: GERM0101,0102,0103
    S189 PSYC2215      2.6 TB    Human Growth & Development
    S189 PSYC2215
  
```

Here's how a Weighted Average grade looks on an audit using the 'meaningful composite grade' set up:

EVALUATED TRANSFER WORK:				
EARNED:	10.0 HOURS		3.46 GPA	
* Southwest State University				
Abbreviated on Report as: SWSU				
	7.0 HOURS ADDED	2 COURSES TAKEN	3.23 GPA	
F 02	ELECT001	1.0 TA-	Fund of College Writing	
			SWSU : ENG 101	
S 03	ENG 111	6.0 TRB	The Essay	++
			SWSU : ENG 102,103	

Note: Reporting the number of grade characters is supported by COM.GRADE4. Allowing 4 characters of a grade (e.g., TRB+) to report on your audit, requires the Value of < Y >, or < B >.

In-Progress Transfer

Additional set-up for In-Progress transfer courses:

You will need additional setup to accommodate in progress grades; in MnSCU, these are courses with a grade of Z. Without this special setup, a Z graded course, which typically has an AddCt of 1, will combine with any non-Z graded course that also has an AddCt of 1 and will just have the identity associated with the non-Z graded course. For example, in a many to one rule, with the student earning a C grade in one course and a Z in the second, they will combine, but will become a TRC.


We suggest you use the following set up so that all source courses in a many-to-one or many-to-many rule, process with a TRZ transfer in-progress grade, as long as any one of the courses used by that rule carry a Z (in-progress) grade.

Encoding occurs in two places:

- Source Institutional Reference Table
- Target Institutional Reference Table


Source Institutional Reference Table

In the Source Grade Table, add a user defined three-character condition code to the source in-progress grade, which is a Z grade in this example. We used IPZ in this example. Put the code in the UC1 field.

	Type	IU	Grade	A	R	UI	UGrd	Acu	Rcu	GPA	Calc	Crdt	Ct	C1	C2	UC1	UC2	Yr	Trm	Range
23	Grade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IP				(500			.000	N	Y	1							-
24	Grade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Z				(500			.000	N	Y	1			IPZ				-
25	Grade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#				(513			.000	N	N	0							-


Target Institutional Reference Table


In the Target Grade table, in your set up for the VARS transfer in-progress grade (in this case TRZ) put that same three-character code in the Acu column.

	Type	IU	Grade	A	R	UI	UGrd	Acu	Rcu	GPA	Calc	Crdt	Ct	C1	C2	UC1	UC2	Yr	Trm	Range
27	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	NTWA				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FAIL		.000	N	N	0							-
28	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRZ				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS IPZ		.000		Y	1							-
29	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRA				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VARS		4.000	V	I	I							-

Audit appearance

In this test scenario, the student has finished CHEM117 with a grade of A, but has a Z (in progress) grade in the CHEM117L lab course.


	Yr/Trm	Course	RCredit	Grade	ECredit	Title
1	20073	CHEM117	3.00	A	3.00	Chemical Concepts & Appl
2	20075	CHEM117L	1.00	Z	1.00	Chemical Concepts & Appl Lab
AA**99**			4.00		4.00	


	Yr/Trm	Crs Num	RCredit	Grade	ECredit	Pflg	Condc	Alt
1	20075	CHEM1101	4.00	TRZ	4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Here is how this appears in an audit:

S	07	CHEM1101	4.0	TRZ	Chemical Concepts & Appl La++	
					NDSU	: CHEM117L,117

Once the completed grade comes in for the CHEM117L class and re-articulation is done, the grade changes.

 Yr/Trm	Course	RCredit	Grade	Ecredit	Title	
1	20073	CHEM117	3.00	A	3.00	Chemical Concepts & Appl
2	20075	CHEM117L	1.00	B	1.00	Chemical Concepts & Appl Lab
AA**99**		4.00		4.00		

 Yr/Trm	Crs Num	RCredit	Grade	Ecredit	Pflg	Condc	Alt
1	20075	CHEM1101	4.00	TRB	4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Here is how this appears in the audit:

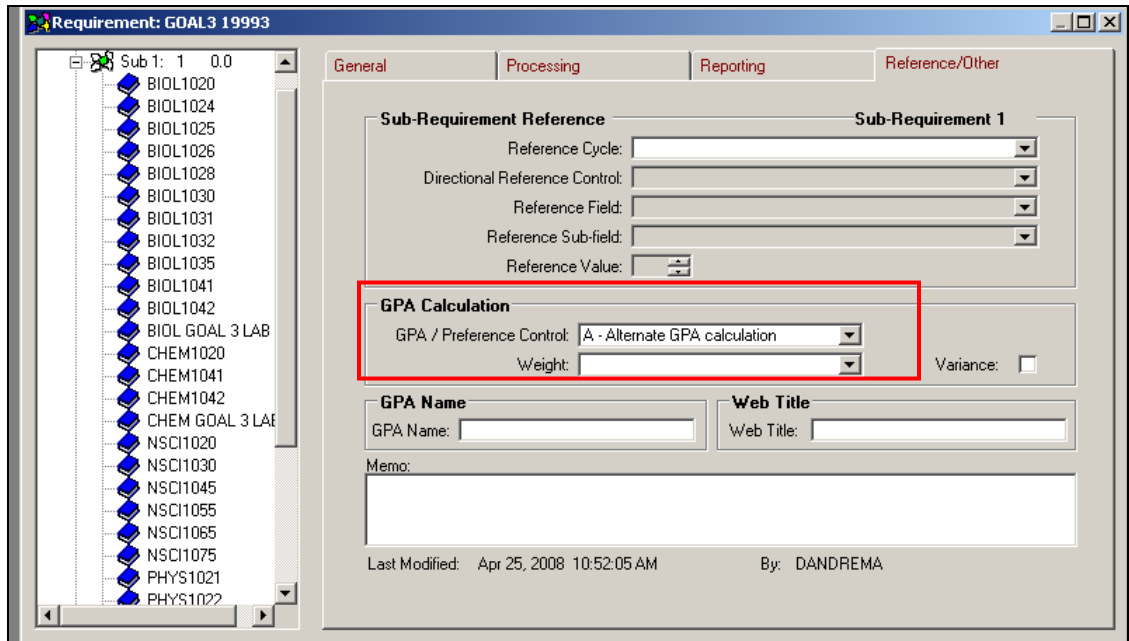
S	07	CHEM1101	4.0	TRB	Chemical Concepts & Appl La++	
					NDSU	: CHEM117L,117

Composite grades and Alternate GPA

Additional set-up when composite grades are used for alternate GPA checking

Note: Documentation for Alternate GPA is found at:
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/AlternateGPA.pdf>

When sub-requirements set “GPA Calculation” to “A-Alternate GPA calculation”, as seen below, then additional encoding is required for composite grades.



Additional encoding occurs on the Audit Grade Table.

Audit Grade Table

The Audit Grade Table will need the composite grades for alternate GPA checking. In the example below, the composite grades of TRA, TRA-, TRB+, TRB, etc. are defined.

Grade	Report Grade	GPA Pt	GPA Calc	Add Credit	Add Count	IP	Condg	Ac tion	Pseu do	Force	Delig	Re place	C K
?		.000			0						X	R	more
*		.000		Z	0		i						more
*		.000			0		1			X	R	more	
*		.000	Y	Y	1		2			X	R	more	
*		.000	Y	Y	1		3			X	R	more	
*		.000		Y	1		4			X	R	more	
TRA		4.000		Y	1		TABC			X	R	more	
TRA-		3.670		Y	1		TABC			X	R	more	
TRB+		3.330		Y	1		TBC			X	R	more	
TRB		3.000		Y	1		TBC			X	R	more	
TRB-		2.670		Y	1		TBC			X	R	more	
TRC+		2.330		Y	1		TC			X	R	more	
TRC		2.000		Y	1		TC			X	R	more	
TRC-		1.670		Y	1		TC			X	R	more	
TRD+		1.330		Y	1		TD			X	R	more	
TRD		1.000		Y	1		TD			X	R	more	
TRD-		.670		Y	1		TD			X	R	more	

To calculate the GPA affect of composite grades, add the composite grades for each TR grade listed in your Target grade table with the GPA Calc of < A >. Add Credit is

< I > Use Import Credits, points. (I is an upper case i)

Note: GPA Calc of < A > grades must process on the Audit table before the non-calculating grades.

Setup Tables: Grades for 999999

A	Grade	Report Grade	GPA Pt	GPA Calc	Add Credit	Add Count	IP	Condg	Action	Pseu do	Force	Delig	Re place	C K	
7	TRA		4.000	A	I	1		TABC				X	R		more
8	TRA		4.000		Y	1		TABC				X	R		more
9	TRA-		3.667	A	I	1		TABC				X	R		more
10	TRA-		3.667		Y	1		TABC				X	R		more
11	TRB+		3.660	A	I	1		TBC				X	R		more
12	TRB+		3.660		Y	1		TBC				X	R		more
13	TRB+		3.333	A	I	1		TBC				X	R		more
14	TRB+		3.333		Y	1		TBC				X	R		more
15	TRB		3.000	A	I	1		TBC				X	R		more
16	TRB		3.000		Y	1		TBC				X	R		more
17	TRB-		2.667	A	I	1		TBC				X	R		more
18	TRB-		2.667		Y	1		TBC				X	R		more
19	TRC+		2.333	A	I	1		TC				X	R		more
20	TRC+		2.333		Y	1		TC				X	R		more
21	TRC		2.000	A	I	1		TC				X	R		more
22	TRC		2.000		Y	1		TC				X	R		more
23	TRC-		1.667	A	I	1		TC				X	R		more
24	TRC-		1.667		Y	1		TC				X	R		more
25	TRD+		1.333	A	I	1		TD				X	R		more
26	TRD+		1.333		Y	1		TD				X	R		more
27	TRD		1.000	A	I	1		TD				X	R		more
28	TRD		1.000		Y	1		TD				X	R		more
29	TRD-		.667	A	I	1		TD				X	R		more
30	TRD-		.667		Y	1		TD				X	R		more

Rows: 92

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