

Three Types of Columns

In the Grade Center, three types of columns appear: **user**, **grade** and **calculated**. Each column has a contextual menu with options. The options that appear vary depending on the type of column. When you create or edit grade and calculated columns, you can select the appropriate settings to configure the Grade Center to calculate and display the data most useful to you. You also have the abilities to hide and show columns, associate columns with categories and grading periods, and view columns in any order.

Grade Center columns are utilized by course functions outside of the Grade Center. To learn more, see [Grade Center Interactions](#). For example, when you create adaptive release and Retention Center rules, you can select Grade Center grade and calculated columns as rule criteria. To learn more, see [Release Content](#) and [Retention Center](#).

Grade Center Interactions

Related content

- [Grade Center](#)
- [Grade Center Interface](#)
- [Needs Grading Page](#)
- [Customize Grade Center](#)
- [Grade Center Categories](#)

The Grade Center interacts with several tools and components in Blackboard Learn. Understanding how and where these interactions happen provides a comprehensive view of the Grade Center and helps users take full advantage of this tool.

The following table explains how the Grade Center interacts with other tools and components.

Tool/Component	Interaction
Course Content	When you create gradable items in your course, such as gradable journals, blogs, wikis, discussion posts, tests, and assignments, a grade column is created automatically in the Grade Center.

Tool/Component	Interaction
	<p>For example, when you create a journal, you can select the grading option. A grade column is created automatically in the Grade Center with the name of the journal.</p>
Retention Center	<p>The Retention Center provides an easy way for you to discover which students in your course are at risk. Based on preconfigured rules and rules you create, students' engagement and participation are visually displayed, quickly alerting you to potential risk. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.</p> <p>For example, you can create a rule to list students who score below 60 percent on an exam. Then, you can send an email to each student to offer help or set a meeting time.</p> <p>Your institution controls whether this tool is available.</p> <p>To learn more, see Retention Center.</p>
Observers	<p>Observers can log in and access their observed students' released grades. Examples of observers might include a student's parents or guardians, or a tutor.</p> <p>Your institution controls observer access. If allowed institution-wide, you can determine observer access on a course-by-course basis.</p> <p>To learn more, see Allow Guest and Observer Access.</p>

Tool/Component	Interaction
My Grades	<p>Students view their course grades in My Grades. Grades are available by default, but you may choose to make a grade or grades unavailable in the settings for each column.</p>
Report Card module	<p>Students can include the Report Card module on their My Institution tabs. The module displays each course's external grade in the Grade Center. The external grade is the grade column chosen by an instructor to use for the final grade, such as the total column. External grades are shared with your institution to report students' grades for your course.</p> <p>Your institution controls which modules are available to select from.</p>
Performance Dashboard	<p>The Performance Dashboard tool provides an up-to-date report with pertinent information about all users and their progress and activity in your course.</p> <p>Your institution controls whether this tool is available.</p> <p>To learn more, see Performance Dashboard.</p>
Email tool	<p>You can use the email tool in the Grade Center to send messages to students and, if applicable, their observers.</p>
External data from other grading systems	<p>You can export and import data to the Grade Center by uploading and downloading delimited files. To learn more, see</p>

