

CS5670 Revised Grading Policy

March 26, 2020

Given the current global pandemic and the resulting instability in everyone's lives, we are updating the grading policy for the course, in order to make it easier to fulfill the course requirements. The revised grading breakdown will be as follows:

Quizzes: 2.5%
Projects: 62.5%
Exams: 35% (midterm and final, weighted as specified below)

As a reminder, the old grading breakdown is at the end of this document.

Additional considerations include:

Projects

There will still be five projects (two more after this week), but **we only consider the top four projects for each student** when computing your final grade. We will still grade every project you submit and provide feedback. You should work with your project partner to make sure you calibrate expectations between yourselves. Each student's four top project scores will be counted equally towards the project portion of your final grade. Note that each project will generally continue to have opportunities for extra credit.

Quizzes

There have been two quizzes so far in the class, and we do not plan to administer any more. As a result, quizzes are now worth 3% of your grade, though **we will still drop the lowest of your two quiz grades** when calculating your final grade.

Final exam

The final exam will be take-home, released near the end of the semester. We will determine the format and protocol for submission closer to that time. To compute your final grade, we will count **the higher of your two exam scores** (either the midterm or the final) toward **67%** of the exam portion of your final grade, and **the lower of your two exam scores toward 33%** of the exam portion of your final grade (i.e., a two-thirds/one-third split).

Previous Grade Breakdown

As a reference, the previous grade breakdown (before this change went into effect) was as follows. (Note that the numbers were given as a range, as opposed to the specific values used in the new policy.)

- Quizzes: 5% (lowest quiz grade dropped)
- Midterm: 15-18%
- Programming projects: 60-65%
- Final exam: 15-18%