HW: Grade Calculator

This is an individual assignment. Do not share your code with other students. Do not show your code to other students. Do not look at the code of other students. Do not ask other students how they solved a problem. HWs are **individual** practice assignments (LWs, on the other hand, are collaborative practice assignments). If you have questions about this assignment, talk to a Peer Teacher, a TA, or an instructor.

If you know about another student who is sharing their code with other students (or in any other way is violating the Aggie Code of Honor), you should report them to the instructor or to the AHSO (<https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TexasAMUniv&layout_id=11>).

# **tl;dr[[1]](#footnote-0)**

Use the syllabus, starter code, and test cases to build a grade calculator for CSCE 121.

# **Requirements**

The specification for the homework is the grading section of the syllabus and the test cases.

Submit only grade\_calculator.cpp

# **Starter Code**Mimir "Submit" and "Download Starter Code" buttons.

The starter code is available on Mimir. To get the starter code go to Mimir and select the Grade Calculator Homework. Click the “Download Starter Code” button.

The starter code includes a skeleton grade\_calculator.cpp. **Everything except the actual grade calculation is already implemented for you**   
([you're welcome!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79DijItQXMM)).

Test cases (the *exact same* as on Mimir) are provided along with the starter code. Do not submit the test cases to Mimir (they will be ignored and you will waste bandwidth).

# **Grade Input Format**

Grades are specified as: <category> <score>.

<category> values are: exam, final-exam, hw, lw, engagement

<score> values for exam, final-exam, hw, engagement are specified as percentages (i.e. numbers from 0.0 to 100.0, but sometimes more when there is an opportunity for extra credit). Converting a fraction to a decimal percentage is easy: 123/164 = (do the division) 0.75 = (multiply by 100) 75%.

<score> values for lw are boolean-valued (0 or not-0, for incomplete or complete).

This is an example of grade input:

exam 78.2

exam 83.8

exam 95.9

final-exam 71.2

hw 62

hw 65.4

hw 70

hw 77.4

hw 82.8

lw 1

lw 1

lw 1

lw 1

lw 1

lw 1

engagement 10

engagement 26

engagement 28

engagement 21

# **Getting Started**

Read the code in grade\_calculator.cpp. Don’t worry if you don’t understand everything there, you’ll eventually learn to do everything that is there.

Take note of the TODO(student) comments.

# **Compiling and Executing the Program (testing)**

## **Compile**

$ g++ -std=c++17 -Wall -Wextra -pedantic -Weffc++ grade\_calculator.cpp

If you are curious about what the options we are specifying in this command line mean, you can look at [Appendix 1](#_5u4wztu91sjv) below.

## **Execute**

$ ./a.out  
enter grades as <category> <score>

<category> := exam | final-exam | hw | lw | engagement

<score> := numeric value

enter an empty line to end input

## If the text in the figure with the ‘:=’ symbol looks alien to you, just ignore it. If you are curious, you can look at [Appendix 2](#_d51rzzzg2xhi).

## **Input Redirection**

Instead of typing grades in line-by-line, we can use a capability of Unix-based operating systems to redirect the contents of a file to the standard input stream of the program. For programs that have a lot of input, as this one does, it is inconvenient to have to type the input again every time we run the program. By using input redirection, we can put the grades in a file, but still use console input for the program by default (i.e. grades *can* go in a file, but they don't have to). Putting a '<' symbol after the name of the program we are executing tells the shell to redirect the contents of the file on the right to the standard input stream of the program on the left.

$ ./a.out < test\_complete\_1.txt

enter grades as <category> <score>

<category> := exam | final-exam | hw | lw | engagement

<score> := numeric value

enter an empty line to end input

summary:

exam average: 95.4

hw average: 77.36

lw average: 100

engagement: 94.6

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weighted total: 88.564

final letter grade: B

Additional information about input redirection is in [Appendix 3](#_5cwo23gghaff).

# **Note on Mimir Submissions**

One of the benefits of Mimir is that the test cases usually provide some kind of feedback. To access the feedback information, click on the test case name.

# [**Have Fun!**](https://imgur.com/sQlSVFD)

## Tips

Start by handling HW or Engagement grades. Use the test\_hw\_#.txt and test\_engagement\_#.txt test files to test your code locally before submitting to Mimir.

Don’t add extra cin statements. The starter code already handles all input and validation.

# Appendices

Students are not required to read the Appendices.

## Appendix 1: Compiler Flags

g++, the compiler we use in this course, is very flexible.

It is designed to issue warnings regarding several aspects of the program being compiled, including warnings about program statements that are valid, but that programmers commonly misuse by mistake. The command line we provided tells the compiler to provide warnings of several categories:

* -Wall: this option turns on warnings for dozens of situations, including a few that programmers disagree about their rationale. The name is misleading, as it does not turn on all possible warnings.
* -Wextra: this adds more than a dozen warnings that we consider useful for novice programmers.
* -pedantic: it turns on all warnings related to the strict use of the C++ official standard.
* -Weffc++: it turns on warnings related to the guidelines from the [book Effective C++](https://www.aristeia.com/books.html)

The option ‘-std=c++17’ specifies the language standard (i.e., its definition version) that the compiler should apply. Other possible standards are ‘c++14’ (default) and ‘c++11’.

## Appendix 2: Input Format: The Language of Grades

The text

<category> := exam | final-exam | hw | lw | engagement

<score> := numeric value

expresses the formatting of valid input in a formal way. It is a precise, very concise way of expressing the syntactical rules of a ‘language’, i.e., the expected sequence of letters and symbols.

The course *CSCE 433: Formal Language and Automata*, is an elective course that covers this rich field of study. All of the CSCE 121 instructors find this course to be interesting, useful, and fun.

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## Appendix 3: Pipes: Another Input Redirection Tool

Another version of this "hack" that doesn't necessarily even require a file uses a "pipe" to redirect the standard output stream of one program to the standard input stream of another program. The cat program performs file concatenation. In this case, we (ab)use it to output the contents of a file by concatenating the file to standard output. The '|' symbol redirects the output of the program on the left to the input of the program on the right.

$ cat test\_complete\_5.txt | ./a.out

enter grades as <category> <score>

<category> := exam | final-exam | hw | lw | engagement

<score> := numeric value

enter an empty line to end input

summary:

exam average: 59.95

hw average: 100

lw average: 100

engagement: 100

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weighted total: 83.98

final letter grade: B

If we just want to provide data to standard input, but don't want or need to store it in a file, we can use echo to produce the output that we need. This is useful for quickly and easily changing small parts of long inputs since, instead of editing a file or retyping input interactively, we can use the terminal history (hit up in the terminal to see previous commands) and edit the input. The echo program copies its input to standard output. The -e flag enables interpretation of backslash (\) escape sequences, e.g. \n for the newline character.

$ echo -e "hw 100\nhw 80\n" | ./a.out

enter grades as <category> <score>

<category> := exam | final-exam | hw | lw | engagement

<score> := numeric value

enter an empty line to end input

summary:

exam average: 0

hw average: 90

lw average: 0

engagement: 0

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weighted total: 36

final letter grade: F

[learn more about redirection in](https://www.gnu.org/software/bash/manual/html_node/Redirections.html) a shell script language such as Bash

1. *Initialism of* [**too long; didn't read**](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/too_long;_didn%27t_read#English). *Used to indicate that one did not read a (long) text, or to introduce a short summary of an overly long text.* [↑](#footnote-ref-0)