

MATH 120 Spring 26: Standards-Based-Grading (SBG) Guide

Overview

The Spring 2026 section of MATH 120 adopts a Standards-Based Grading scheme.

Instead of two midterms and a final exam, the course includes five short biweekly exams that assess student proficiency across 19 Learning Objectives. These exams offer multiple opportunities for reassessments, allowing students to improve through practice and feedback.

In addition to the 19 Learning Objectives assessed by exams, there is also one WebAssign HW objective and one Worksheet Objectives. These ensure students dedicate the necessary time and effort to practice and prepare for the assessments.

Final grades are determined by the total number of Objectives for which a student demonstrates proficiency by the end of the quarter.

This approach is designed to emphasize mastery of more granular core skills rather than performance on high stakes comprehensive exams. It also supports students' learning by offering clear objectives and retake opportunities to demonstrate growth.

Assessment Criteria

- Each of the **19 learning objectives (O1-O19)** is evaluated as follows:
 - **Proficient (P):** Showed correct work on the assessment problem.
 - **Proficient with Correction (PC):** Showed mostly correct work on the assessment problem with minor error. Must submit a written correction within one week of the assessment.
 - **Not Proficient (NP):** Showed incorrect work on the assessment problem. Should practice and retake the assessment on the objective in a later QZ section.
- **WebAssign HW objective (O20)** is evaluated by:
 - **P:** Earned 80% or more of the total points across all 19 assignments.
 - **NP:** Earned less than 80% of the total points across all 19 assignments.
- **Worksheet objective (O21)** is evaluated by:
 - **P:** Attended QZ sections in-person and turned in Worksheets during QZ sections as evidence of attendance. Missed no more than 5 Worksheet submissions.
 - **NP:** Missed more than 5 Worksheet submissions during QZ sections.

Assessment Schedule and Retake Policy

The Thursday quiz sections in Week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and the Tuesday final exam session, are reserved for exams. Each exam assesses 3 or 4 learning objectives (O1–O19). Students may also use quiz section time to retake assessments on earlier objectives that was marked NP.

- **Cumulative Retakes:** On each exam day, students can retake assessments on earlier objectives that was marked NP.

Example: If a student received P on Q1, PC on O2, NP on O3. They have passed O1; they should submit a written correction for O2 within a week; they can retake a different version of assessment for O3 during the time of Exam 2 or a later exam day.

- **Quiz Section Extension:** On each exam day, students are welcome to attend both quiz sections (8:30–9:20 AM and 9:30–10:20 AM) if their schedules allow. This gives time to complete both the new assessments and reassessments on earlier objectives.
- **Additional Retake Time:** If a student need more time for retakes than the quiz section provides, they may contact the instructor or TA to schedule a time for retake during office hours.
- **Attempt Limits:** Each objective from Exams 1–4 may be attempted up to 3 times total. Objectives introduced in Exam 5 may be attempted up to 2 times total.
- **Final Exam Session (Tuesday, June 9):** The final exam period (8:30–10:20 AM) is the final opportunity to retake any assessment on objectives (O1–O19) within their attempt limits.

Tentative Assessment Schedule

Week	Primary Assessment Focus	Retake Opportunities
Week 2, 4/9	Exam 1 (O1–O3)	—
Week 4, 4/23	Exam 2 (O4–O7)	O1 – O3
Week 6, 5/7	Exam 3 (O8–O11)	O1 – O7
Week 8, 5/21	Exam 4 (O12–O15)	O1 – O11
Week 10, 6/4	Exam 5 (O16–O19)	O1 – O15
Finals Week, 6/9	Final Retake	O1 – O19
Week 1-10	WebAssign HW 1-19 (O20)	
Week 1-10	Worksheet 1-19 (O21)	

Tentative Grading Scale and GPA Cutoffs

The final course grade is determined by the total number of objectives for which a mark of **Proficient (P)** or **Proficient with Correction (PC)** has been earned by the end of the term. Intermediate GPA values will be determined by a linear scale between the cutoffs.

# of Objectives marked P or PC	Tentative GPA
20 / 21	4.0
16 / 21	3.0
12 / 21	2.0