

# Understanding Grade Point Average (GPA)

GPA stands for Grade Point Average. All students receive a cumulative GPA at the end of first semester (January) and second semester (June) each year. Each letter grade received earns an honor point value. All honors points received throughout high school are averaged together in order to compute the cumulative GPA. GPA is calculated using either a 4.0 (unweighted) scale or 5.0 (weighted) scale. Grades earned in driver education and courses taken on a pass/fail basis are not used in computing GPA.

Students who are interested in being admitted to a four year college should strive for a minimum of a 3.0 GPA which is a "B" average in regular and advanced level classes. Students interested in more competitive colleges should strive for even a higher GPA. Also, a higher GPA will open up more scholarship opportunities.

## Unweighted vs. Weighted Cumulative GPA

**Unweighted Cumulative GPA** is the average of all final course grades received in high school courses based on a 4.0 scale (see table below). Unweighted GPA is calculated by adding all the honors points awarded together and then dividing by the number of semester classes completed (see example #1).

### 4.0 unweighted scale

Grade	Honors Points
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
F	0

### Example 1: Calculating unweighted (4.0 scale) cumulative GPA for freshman student

Course	Semester	Final Grade	Honor Points
OWC	1 <sup>st</sup>	A	4
Algebra 1	1 <sup>st</sup>	C	2
Biology	1 <sup>st</sup>	A	4
Social Studies	1 <sup>st</sup>	B	3
Computer Tech	1 <sup>st</sup>	B	3
Elective	1 <sup>st</sup>	D	1
OWC	2 <sup>nd</sup>	C	2
Algebra 1	2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	3
Biology	2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	3
Social Studies	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A	4
PE	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A	4
Elective	2 <sup>nd</sup>	F	0
	<b>12 classes</b>		<b>33</b>
		<b>Unweighted GPA 33 divided by 12</b>	<b>2.75</b>

**Weighted Cumulative GPA** is used for any student who has completed one or more grade weighted courses (list of grade weighted course are below). A weighted GPA uses a 5.0 scale (see table below) instead of the above mentioned 4.0 scale used for an unweighted GPA. Weighted GPA is calculated the same way by adding all the honors points awarded together and then dividing by the number of semester classes completed (see example #2).

**Grade Weighted Courses:**

Honors Oral and Written Communication  
 Honors World Literature & Composition  
 AP English Literature & Composition  
 AP English Literature & Composition  
 French 3 & 4  
 German 3/4  
 Spanish 3 & 4  
 Honors Geometry  
 Honors Algebra 2  
 Honors Pre-Calculus  
 AP Calculus AB/BC  
 AP Statistics  
 Honors Biology

Honors Chemistry  
 AP Biology  
 AP Chemistry  
 AP Environmental Science  
 AP Physics 1  
 AP Physics 2  
 Honors Social Studies  
 Honors World History  
 AP United States History  
 AP United States Government and Politics  
 AP Psychology  
 AP Studio Art

**5.0 weighted scale**

Grade	Honors Points
A	5
B	4
C	3
D	1
F	0

**Example 2: Calculating weighted (5.0 scale) cumulative GPA for junior student**

Course	Semester	Final Grade	Weighted	Honor Points
<b>AP English Lit &amp; Comp</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	B	Yes	4
Algebra 2	1 <sup>st</sup>	C	No	2
<b>AP Physics 1</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	D	Yes	1
<b>AP US History</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	A	Yes	5
PE	1 <sup>st</sup>	B	No	3
Elective	1 <sup>st</sup>	A	No	4
<b>AP English Lit &amp; Comp</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	C	Yes	3
Algebra 2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	No	3
<b>AP Physics 1</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	Yes	4
<b>AP US History</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A	Yes	5
PE	2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	No	3
Elective	2 <sup>nd</sup>	F	No	0
	<b>12 classes</b>			<b>37</b>
<b>Weighted GPA</b>				
<b>37 divided by 12</b>				<b>3.08</b>