

How to Calculate Your Grade Point Average (GPA)

There are several GPA scales available and every college will use their own to recalculate your GPA once you submit your transcript. But you should include both a weighted and unweighted GPA on your transcript.

In order to show that work done in certain courses is more rigorous, you may choose to weight those grades. The typical grade point scale is the 4.0 scale in which As receive 4 points, Bs receive 3, etc.

A half-point weighted scale will add a half point to your GPA. A full-point scale will add one point to your grades. Typically only As, Bs and Cs are weighted – not Ds or Fs for obvious reasons. If the course only receives a half-credit, you would also need to divide your GPA by half.

My recommendation is that students use the half-point scale. In this way, should a college use a different scale, they end up bringing your GPA up – not down. No sad surprises.

| UNWEIGHTED Quality Points | | | HALF-POINT WEIGHTED Quality Points | | | FULL POINT WEIGHTED Quality Points | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Letter Grade | For a Half credit | For a Full credit | Letter Grade | For a Half credit | For a Full credit | Letter Grade | For a Half credit | For a Full credit |
| A | 2.0 | 4.0 | A | 2.25 | 4.5 | A | 2.5 | 5.0 |
| B | 1.5 | 3.0 | B | 1.75 | 3.5 | B | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| C | 1.0 | 2.0 | C | 1.25 | 2.5 | C | 1.5 | 3.0 |
| D | 0.5 | 1.0 | D | 0.5 | 1.0 | D | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| F | 0.0 | 0.0 | F | 0.0 | 0.0 | F | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Even if you have only one weighted course in your calculations – that is now your weighted GPA. To calculate the unweighted version, simply remove the extra half (or full) point and recalculate.

You will want to calculate a cumulative GPA only – not a separate one for each year. So, simply total all high school credits and all grade points and find the overall average.

Note on the **sample transcript** on page 112 that some classes earned 4.5 GPA quality points for an A, and 3.5 GPA quality points for a B. This is because they are advanced courses and may be weighted. (See chapter 3.)

Now, let's look at how the weighted and unweighted GPAs were calculated:

First – we total the number of credits: 23

Then – we add the number of GPA quality points: 93

Now – we divide the total number of GPA points by the total number of credits: $93/23=4.04$

The weighted GPA is 4.04

In order to calculate the unweighted GPA, we will have to reduce the weighted points to an unweighted value – As get 4.0, Bs get 3.0, etc.

Total of the unweighted points: 88.5

Divide total unweighted GPA quality points by total number of credits: $88.5/23=3.85$

The unweighted GPA is 3.85