

# HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR GPA (GRADE POINT AVERAGE)

There are two grade point averages that are important. Your **semester grade point average** is the average of your grades for any one semester of your high school career (this includes 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade if you took any high school courses!). Your semester GPA is usually not as important as your cumulative GPA, but your most recent semester grade point average is probably the most important semester GPA to you.

Your **cumulative grade point average** is the average of your grades throughout your high school career. Your cumulative grade point average is the one that universities and colleges will ask about. Your cumulative GPA is the one used to determine if you are in good academic standing, if you can graduate, if you are able to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, if you are to be placed on probation, etc. When someone asks you what your grade point average is, they will almost always mean your **cumulative grade point average**.

Grade point averages are computed using **ALL** high school courses, Dual Enrollment, AP, IB, and AICE courses that you take. The calculation is taken to three decimal places and is not "rounded up" or "rounded down".

## Quality Points

Each grade is assigned a numerical equivalent. This numerical equivalent is used to determine how many "quality points" you receive for each course. You will need the quality point number to determine your GPA. The numerical equivalents are as follows:

Grade	Regular Courses	Level III Courses	Dual Enrollment / AP / IB/ AICE
A	4	4.5	5
B	3	3.5	4
C	2	2.5	3
D	1	1	1
F	0	0	0

## Semester grade point average

For your semester grade point average, figure out the number of quality points by the method above for each course and add them. Divide this sum of quality points for the semester by the number of courses that you took. (Included in this are courses in which you earned an F.).

EXAMPLE: Let us assume that a student (we will call this student Pat) had grades and quality points for a semester as follows:

Algebra 1B	C	2 quality points
English 1	B	3 quality points
Biology	C	2 quality points
World History	F	0 quality points
Career Research	A	4 quality points
Spanish 1	C	2 quality points
Band 1	A	4 quality points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17 quality points</b>

The total number of quality points is 17.0. The total number of semester classes that Pat took in the example is 7. Divide the total quality points, 17.0, by the total number of classes, 7. The resulting GPA is 2.42 ( $17 / 7 = 2.42$ )

NOTE: The yearlong courses Algebra 1, Algebra 1B, Geometry, and Algebra 2, U.S. History, and Biology, will generate a temporary GPA at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester the yearlong grade earned in the class will be used to re-calculate the cumulative grade point average.

## Cumulative grade point average

If you have completed more than one semester of high school courses, you must divide the total number of quality points you have earned by the total number of classes, for all the semesters you have been taking high school class.

EXAMPLE: Let's assume that the grades you worked with above are for Pat's first semester in high school. Let's assume that Pat made the following grades for the second semester.

Algebra 1B	C	2 quality points
English 1	A	4 quality points
Biology	B	3 quality points
World History	C	2 quality points
PE	A	4 quality points
Spanish 1	C	2 quality points
Band 1	A	4 quality points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>21 quality points</b>

Pat's total number of quality points for the second semester is 21.0. Dividing this sum by the semester hour total, 7, gives a semester grade point average of 3.0. ( $21 / 7 = 3.0$ )

For her cumulative grade point average, you must take total number of quality points from the beginning, 38.0 (21+17) and divide by the total number of relevant semester hours from the beginning, 14 (7+7). The result is Pat's cumulative grade point average, 2.71. ( $38 / 14 = 2.71$ )

After Pat's third semester, and each subsequent semester, there will be a new total of quality points and semester hours to divide to arrive at Pat's current cumulative GPA.