

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

SAS uses a Grade Point System (GPA) to report overall academic performance. While GPA gives a very broad overview, it does not tell the full story. Most colleges are very interested in what courses a student has taken and the level of rigor in addition to the grade earned. As well, many colleges recalculate GPAs. Some will not include ninth grade, some will only include core academic subjects, some will weight, some will not. We encourage students and families not to become obsessed with GPA but rather to consider whether they are taking an appropriate level of rigor and working to their best ability.

Sometimes students attempt to calculate their cumulative GPA and wonder why their calculation does not result in the same GPA as listed in Powerschool or on their transcripts. The following is a summary of how GPAs are calculated.

Don't Average the Semester Averages

Students can take a different number of courses each semester, resulting in a different number of course credits earned in different semesters. Because of that, it is not mathematically accurate to simply average the semester GPAs to get a cumulative GPA.

As well, since Interim has a different credit amount (0.25 vs. 0.5 for semester classes), it does not carry the same value in the GPA calculation.

Because of these reasons, the "averaging of semester averages" won't work.

Correct Method to Calculate GPA

(you really should not waste your time doing this though as Powerschool has always been correct)

1. If you are calculating your GPA you have to convert your letter grade to the proper grade point. This means converting your letter grade into the numerical value based on the chart below.

*AP and AT courses get an additional weighting of 0.5. So, for example, a B grade in US History has a value of 3.0 whereas the B grade in AP US History has a value of 3.5

Letter Grade	GPA point value	
	Reg Course	AP/AT Course*
A+	4.5	5
A	4	4.5
B+	3.5	4
B	3	3.5
C+	2.5	3

C	2	2.5
D+	1.5	2
D	1	1.5
F	0	0

2. Multiply each grade point by its potential credit. For most courses it is 0.5 per semester but it is 0.25 for Interim and 1.0 for American Studies and World Studies given that they are double block courses.
3. Add together all of the (GPA points*credits). Divide that sum by the total Credits and round it to two digits. That is your GPA.

Sample GPA Calculation

Grade	Grade Points	Credits	(Gr Pts* Credits)
B+	3.5	0.5	1.75
A	4	0.5	2
B	3	0.5	1.5
B+	3.5	0.5	1.75
B+(in interim)	3.5	0.25	0.875
A+	4.5	0.5	2.25
B+	3.5	0.5	1.75
A	4	0.5	2
A	4	0.5	2
B(in AP)	3.5	0.5	1.75
B(in AP)	3.5	0.5	1.75
B(in AP)	3.5	0.5	1.75
B+(in AP)	4	0.5	2
B+(in AP)	4	0.5	2
A(in AP)	4.5	0.5	2.25
TOTALS		7.25	27.375

GPA	3.78
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(Gr. Pts /credits)