

Understanding and Calculating your GPA

What is GPA?

- GPA, or Grade Point Average, is a standard way of measuring academic achievement.
- Cumulative GPA is based off all your classes taken at NDSU.
- Semester GPA is based off the classes taken in this semester at NDSU.

Calculating Semester GPA:

$$\text{Semester GPA} = \text{Total Quality Points} / \text{Total Credits}$$

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

- 1) Determine your **Grades**: make a list of all your classes and then predict your final letter grade for each course. Use your syllabus to review each course's grading policy.
- 2) Determine the number of **Credits** each of your classes is worth. (A typical full-semester course at NDSU is worth 3 credits). Then, add all of the credits to determine **Total Credits**.
- 3) Determine your **Quality Points**: each letter grade is associated with a specific number of quality points. Use the table above to determine the quality points for each course
- 4) For each class, multiply the number of credits by quality points. Then, add these numbers up to determine **Total Quality Points**.
- 5) Divide total credits by total quality points to find your **Semester GPA**.

Example:

Course	Grade	Credits	Quality Points	Credits x Quality Points
BIOL 150	B	3	3	9
ENGL 110	A	3	4	12
MATH 103	C	3	2	6
SOC 110	B	3	3	9
COMM 110	A	3	4	12
UNIV 189	B	1	3	3
		Total Credits: 16		Total Quality Points: 51

$$\text{Total Quality Points} / \text{Total Credits} = \text{Semester GPA}$$

$$51/16 = 3.19$$

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Important Considerations:

- **MATH 98**
 - Does not affect your **Semester GPA**. However, you must earn a C or above in MATH 98 to pass the course.
 - Does impact **financial aid qualifications**. Learn more here: https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/finaid/sap/sap_policy/
 - Does impact **Dean's List eligibility**. To see whether or not you qualify for the Dean's List, include MATH 98 into your calculations.
- Scholastic Standards
 - In order to continue your studies at NDSU without condition, you must maintain and aim for good academic standing (2.0).

First Semester GPA	Standing	Definition
3.5 – 4.0	Academic Dean's List	The Dean's List is list of students recognized for academic achievement following a semester. Besides meeting the GPA requirements, students must also be enrolled in 12 or more credits.
2.0 – 4.0	Good Academic Standing	Students who maintain good academic standing are eligible to register continuously without conditions.
0.0 – 1.99	Academic Probation	When a student's first semester GPA falls below 2.0, the student is put on academic probation. If a student's second semester GPA is below 2.0, the student is suspended. If their second semester GPA is 2.0 or higher, but their cumulative GPA is below 2.0, the student is placed on continued probation.

*Some majors may require GPAs higher than 2.0. Check with your advisor for more information.

Dropping and Withdrawing:

Dropping a class: When you drop a class, you receive a 'W' on your academic record. This means that the class will not count toward your GPA calculation. Instead a 'W' will appear on your transcript, which shows that you withdrew from the course. Talk to your advisor about how withdrawing from a course could affect your plan of study or financial aid qualification.

Withdrawing to 0 credits for semester: This means that you would not receive any academic credits for any of your classes. You must fill out a form on NDSU's website to withdraw to 0 credits. Talk to One Stop about withdrawing to 0 credits.

Drop and Withdraw Deadlines: <https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/dates/>

GPA Calculation Worksheet

Semester GPA = Total Quality Points / Total Credits

Quality Points:

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

Semester GPA Calculation Table:

Course	Grade	Credits	Quality Points	Credits x Quality Points
		Total Credits:		Total Quality Points:

/ =

Total Quality Points / Total Credits = Semester GPA

Cumulative GPA Calculator: <https://gpacalculator.io/cumulative-gpa-calculator/>

Tips to Improve Cumulative GPA: <https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/academics/gpatips/>