



# Understanding GPA

The purpose of this document is to explain GPA calculations in the wake of COVID-19.

## Regular GPA Calculations

In a regular class worth 1 credit with the NC 10-point grade scale, the following tables list the number of GPA points awarded by letter grade. **The cumulative GPA is calculated by dividing the total GPA points earned by the total number of potential credits.** This follows typical GPA calculation methods used in high schools and colleges across the nation. The number of GPA points earned is multiplied by the number of credits earned to give a final GPA calculation for each course on the North Carolina Transcript. [See NC State Board of Education Policy GRAD-009 for additional details.](#)

### One Credit Courses

Most high school courses are worth one credit and follow the table below:

Traditional Grade <i>(NC awards numeric grades.)</i>	NC Grade Range	GPA Points Earned	Final Points Earned (Points * 1 Credit)
A	90-100	4.00	4.00
B	80-89	3.00	3.00
C	70-79	2.00	2.00
D	60-69	1.00	1.00
F	0-59	0.00	0.00

### Two Credit Courses

Some high school courses — for example, some CTE courses — are worth two credits. In this case, the number of GPA points earned will be multiplied by the two credits earned for that course:

Traditional Grade <i>(NC awards numeric grades.)</i>	NC Grade Range	GPA Points Earned	Final Points Earned (Points * 2 Credits)
A	90-100	4.00	8.00
B	80-89	3.00	6.00
C	70-79	2.00	4.00
D	60-69	1.00	2.00
F	0-59	0.00	0.00

This document is provided by NCDPI under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).

## COVID-19 GPA Calculations

Due to the school closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, parents and students will note some differences in transcripts produced in the 2019-2020 school year.

### Semester 2 Courses

Courses that were scheduled for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year will award one of two possible grades: PC19 or WC19. A PC19 indicates the student passed the course and is receiving credit. A WC19 indicates the student is being withdrawn from the course and is not receiving credit. Neither grade will award any GPA points nor will they negatively impact GPA. Zero GPA points are earned out of zero possible GPA points. For example, the following figure shows the transcript for an English IV course scheduled for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

10245X0	English IV Honors	PC19	0.000	0.000	1.00
---------	-------------------	------	-------	-------	------

Key: Course Number — Course Name — Course Grade — Weighted GPA — Unweighted GPA — Credits

### Year-Long Courses

Courses that were scheduled for the entire 2019-2020 school year will appear twice on transcripts. Each entry on the transcript awards half of that course's credit.

For the first half of the year-long course, students' grades from the first semester in the year-long course are being counted for half of that course's total credit. Therefore, the total number of GPA points that can be earned is reduced by half. For a course worth one total credit, the following table shows the GPA points earned for half of that credit:

Traditional Grade <i>(NC awards numeric grades.)</i>	NC Grade Range	GPA Points Earned (1 Credit)	Final Points (0.5 Credit) (Points * 0.5 Credit)
A	90-100	4.00	2.00
B	80-89	3.00	1.50
C	70-79	2.00	1.00
D	60-69	1.00	0.50
F	0-59	0.00	0.00

For the second half of the year-long course, students will earn a PC19 or WC19. This grade does not count toward GPA, therefore it awards zero GPA points out of zero possible GPA points. These grades will neither help nor hurt a student's overall GPA. For example, the following figure shows the transcript for an AP Environmental Science course scheduled for the entire 2019-2020 school year:

3A027X0	AP Environmental Science	PC19	0.000	0.000	0.50
3A027X0	AP Environmental Science	99	2.500	2.000	0.50

Key: Course Number — Course Name — Course Grade — Weighted GPA — Unweighted GPA — Credits

# Final Overall GPA

## Standard Calculation

A student's final cumulative GPA is calculated based on the number of GPA points earned and the number of potential credits eligible toward GPA. For example, a student's overall GPA for the first semester could be:

Course	Grade	Credits	GPA Earned	Max GPA
English IV	92	1.0	4.0	4.0
Math III	86	1.0	3.0	4.0
Biology	78	1.0	2.0	4.0
PE	98	1.0	4.0	4.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	4	13	16

In this case, their total earned GPA points is 13 and the number of GPA points possible is 16. The student earned 4 credits eligible toward GPA. **The cumulative GPA is calculated by dividing the total GPA points earned by the total number of potential credits.** This student's final GPA would be  $13/4 = 3.25$ .

## Calculation with a Year-Long Course in 2019-2020

If this same student were enrolled in a year-long Spanish II course and received a passing grade for the first half of that course, their GPA would increase:

Course	Grade	Credits	GPA Earned	Max GPA
English IV	92	1.0	4.0	4.0
Math III	86	1.0	3.0	4.0
Biology	78	1.0	2.0	4.0
PE	98	1.0	4.0	4.0
Spanish II	97	0.5	2.0	2.0
Spanish II	PC19 <i>(exempt from GPA)</i>	0.5 <i>(exempt from GPA)</i>	0.0	0.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	5.0 (Only 4.5 count in GPA)	15	18

In this case, their total earned GPA points is 15 and the number of GPA points possible is 18. The student earned 4.5 credits eligible toward GPA. The final GPA is again calculated by dividing the total GPA points earned by the total number of potential credits. This student's final GPA would be  $15/4.5 = 3.33$ . Their GPA increased from 3.25 to 3.33 due to the first half of the Spanish II credit.