

How to Determine Your GPA

Understanding & Calculating Your GPA

Each letter grade has a specific numeric value assigned to it EXCEPT for Withdrawal (W), Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) or Audit (AU), which have no numeric value and are not calculated in a student's GPA. CSUSM courses numbered below 100 are also not included in the GPA calculation.

A student's total grade points are calculated by multiplying the number of units by the number of grade points associated with each grade assigned.

Consider the following example for a 3-unit course:

Grade	Numeric Value	Units	Total Grade Points (Multiply Units by Grade Points)
A	4	3	12
B	3	3	9
C	2	3	6
D	1	3	3
F/WU	0	3	0

The student's GPA is determined by dividing the total number of units attempted into the total number of grade points awarded.

Thus, if a student takes four 3-unit courses and receives 3 B's and 1 C, then the student's GPA is as follows:

Grade	Units	Total Grade Points (Multiply Units by Grade Points)
B	3	9
B	3	9
B	3	9
C	3	6

Total Units = 12

Total Grade Points = 33

Total Units (12) divided into Total Grade Points (33) = 2.75 GPA

Plus and Minus Grade Points

While the GPA gives a student a ranking on the traditional 4.0 scale, plus and minus grade points tell students exactly how far they are above or below a 2.0 GPA.

A = 4.0	C = 2.0
A- = 3.7	C- = 1.7
B+ = 3.3	D+ = 1.3
B = 3.0	D = 1.0
B- = 2.7	D- = 0.7
C+ = 2.3	F/WU = 0

The number of points below a 2.0 GPA is termed a grade point deficiency. Students must keep track of their grade point deficiencies especially if they

are on academic probation.

For each A, students receive +2 times the number of units for the course.
For each B, students receive +1 times the number of units for the course.
For each C earned, students do not earn plus or minus grade points. For each D, F or WU, students accumulate minus grade points for not meeting expectations.

Consider the following example: Using the following chart.

	1 Unit	2 Units	3 Units	4 Units	5 Units
A	+2	+4	+6	+8	+10
B	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
C	+0	+0	+0	+0	+0
D	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
F/U	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10

Example

A student earns the following grades in a semester

- "A" - 3 units = +6
- "C" - 3 units = +0
- "D" - 2 units = -2
- "F" - 4 units = -8

This student has earned a total of -4 grade points for the semester. It will be necessary for this student to earn at least 4 units of "B" (and no grade less than "C") to bring the GPA to the 2.0.

Probation and subsequent disqualification occurs whenever students do not earn enough plus grade points to offset the number of minus grade points accumulated. Once on probation, C grades do not help to reduce minus grade points.

Students must earn grades higher than a "C" to improve their standing and reduce or eliminate grade point deficiencies.
