

4. Measuring Academic Progress

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Grade Point Averages

A summary grade point average (GPA) can be calculated from your course grades by dividing the number of credits attempted for a letter grade into the number of grade points earned for those credits. This calculation is described in more detail in the box below. Students are expected to maintain a GPA of at least 2.0, calculated from courses taken for a letter grade within the University of California system. (See the section on the [UC Grade Point Average](#) below.)

UCSC Grade Point Average

Students are subject to different rules for the UCSC GPA depending on date of first enrollment.

Students Entering UCSC for the First Time in Fall 2001 or After:

The registrar calculates both a current UCSC GPA, based upon courses attempted in the current term, and a cumulative UCSC GPA, based upon all courses attempted at UCSC. Both UCSC GPAs are part of your official record and appear on your transcript. They are used in calculating your academic standing. (See the section on [Academic Standing](#), page 66.) Courses that you take at other institutions are not counted in your UCSC GPA unless they become part of your official UCSC transcript. (For example, transfer work from a community college is not included in your UCSC GPA, but courses that you take while on the UC Education Abroad Program are included in your UCSC transcript and hence in your UCSC GPA.)

Students Who Entered UCSC Between Fall 1997 and Spring 2001 (Inclusive):

You will have a cumulative UCSC GPA if, and only if, you have elected letter grades in at least two-thirds of your attempted credits. If you attempt more than one-third of your credits for P/NP grading, you cannot have an official UCSC GPA. For example, if you elected letter grades for 10 of the 15 credits attempted for your first term, a grade point average based upon the 10 graded credits would be printed on your transcript at the end of the fall quarter. But if you then decide in the winter quarter to elect P/NP grading for 10 of your 15 credits, you will have changed the balance of letter-graded to P/NP credits to half and half. As a result, you would no longer have an official UCSC GPA at the end of the winter term. You should decide whether you wish to have a cumulative UCSC GPA and make your choice of grading options accordingly.

Students Who Entered UCSC Before Fall 1997:

You cannot have an official UCSC GPA, regardless of how many courses you have taken for a letter grade. No GPA appears on your transcript. However you must still maintain a minimum requirement of 2.0 in your [UC GPA](#) (immediately below).

UC Grade Point Average

A UC GPA is different from the UCSC GPA because it is based on all courses attempted for a letter grade at any campus of the University of California system. Your UC GPA is not displayed on your official transcript; it is available from my.ucsc.edu on your academic summary page.

All students, regardless of when they entered UCSC, must maintain a minimum UC GPA of 2.0 even if they do not have a UCSC GPA. If your UC GPA is lower than 2.0, you will be notified by the registrar or your college that you have a UC grade point deficit. You must remove that deficit by earning letter grades above C in UC courses. Course work attempted for a letter grade at UCSC or at another UC campus can be used to improve a UC grade point average. This includes courses taken in the summer term. Consult with your college academic preceptor for advice if you are informed that you have a UC grade point deficit. You cannot earn a degree from UC if you have a UC grade point deficit.

Grade Points

Grade points are assigned to each letter grade as shown below. Grades shown in bold (W, I, IP, P, NP) are not included in the UCSC GPA.

A+ = 4.0	D = 1.0
A = 4.0	F = 0.0
A- = 3.7	W = 0.0
B+ = 3.3	I = 0.0
B = 3.0	IP = 0.0
B- = 2.7	P = 0.0
C+ = 2.3	NP = 0.0
C = 2.0	

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Calculating Your Grade Point Average

The grade point average is determined by dividing the number of grade points earned by the number of credits attempted for a letter grade. The number of grade points earned for a course equals the number of grade points assigned multiplied by the number of course credits. For example, suppose a student takes three 5-credit courses and receives grades of A-, B-, and C+.

Grade	Grade Points	Course Credits	Total Grade Points
A-	3.7	5	18.5
B-	2.7	5	13.5
C+	2.3	5	11.5
Total		15	43.5

43.5 divided by 15 = 2.9 GPA