

CALCULATING A STUDENT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Definitions

On a **traditional schedule**, a one semester course (55 minutes a day) carries ½ unit of credit.

On a **block schedule**, a one semester course (90 minutes a day) carries 1 unit of credit.

Quality Point – When a student completes a course, a final grade is determined and recorded on the student's high school transcript. A Grade Point Average can be determined when a grade is given a number of **Quality Points**. In Cobb County, we are on a 4.0 Grade Point System. An "A" earns 4 quality points, a "B" earns 3 quality points, a "C" earns 2 quality points, a "D" earns 1 quality point, and an "F" earns no quality points. Sometimes **Bonus Quality Points (BQP's)**, also referred to as weighting, are earned if the course is an honors course or Advanced Placement (AP) course.

In Cobb County – Honors courses (except for H Ninth Lit, H Physical Science, and Pre-AP Soc. Stud.) are given .5 BQP. AP courses, For. Lang. level IV and higher, and some upper level courses (like Analysis and Chemistry II) are given 1.0 BQP. See your school's Profile or web site for a complete list of weighted courses. **NOTE: A course with a grade of "P" or "NC" would not be used in a GPA calculation.**

Colleges – Colleges vary in how they review GPA's. Some colleges will use a student's **overall weighted GPA**. This would mean they would take all courses the student had taken in high school at that time, convert the grades earned to Quality Points, and include any Bonus Quality Points awarded for honors or AP courses taken. This is the GPA listed on a Cobb County SchoolMax transcript. Some colleges will only use a **weighted core or academic GPA**. This means they would recalculate the student's GPA using only grades earned in **core courses** (Eng. Math, Science, Social Studies, and For. Lang). Core courses taken as academic electives are included. They would include any BQP's awarded for honors or AP courses taken. Grades earned in non-core elective areas (P.E., Fine Arts, Business, Technology/Career, etc.) are not used in this GPA calculation. Some Colleges want to recalculate a student's GPA using an **unweighted academic or core GPA**. This is the same as just described, but no BQP's are allowed for any honors or AP courses taken. Also, colleges may choose to allow different BQP's than the high school does. Some colleges will award BQP's like Cobb County (see above), some only weight AP courses, and may only award .5 BQP's for them (this is what UGA does). You may find out how a college calculates a student's GPA's on their website, by calling or e-mailing the admissions office, or speaking with an admission counselor.

HOPE – The HOPE Scholarship pays for tuition and fees at any Georgia public college or university, and some tuition at any Georgia private college. A high school student's eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship is determined by their GPA in **all core courses** upon graduation from high school. Students earning a College Prep Diploma must earn a 3.0 HOPE GPA to be eligible for the scholarship for the first 30 credit hours of college work, and students earning a Technology Career diploma must earn a 3.2 HOPE GPA to be eligible. The Georgia Student Finance Commission determines eligibility and will calculate a student's GPA's using the student's high school's grading system, but they **do not** give any weight or BQP's for honors courses taken. They **will** weight AP courses taken, but only with .5 BQP. They do not allow any quality points higher than 4.0 for any given course (so an "A" in an AP course would be awarded 4.0 quality points, not 4.5).

How to Compute a Student's GPA

Determine the quality points earned for each course. Determine if calculating for an overall GPA or core GPA. Grading scale: A 100-90 B- 89-80 C-79-74 D-73-70 F- below 70 (for Cobb County) Quality points awarded by grade: A=4 B=3 C=2 D=1 F=0 BQP's awarded for honors and AP courses based on the entity (i.e. Cobb County/Pope, the college, HOPE)	Determine units of credit attempted for each course.	Find the final quality points earned – Multiply quality points earned by class by the number of units attempted for that class.	Find the sum of the final quality points earned and the sum of the units attempted.	Calculating the GPA – Divide the sum of the final quality points earned by the sum of the units attempted.
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SEE ABBREVIATED EXAMPLES ON BACK

Example 1

Note: For this example, this school is on a 4x4 block schedule and weights their courses like Cobb County. We are determining a **core unweighted** GPA (only core courses will be evaluated (non-core electives will not be included) and no BQP's are awarded for honors and AP courses).

4x4 Block Schedule / One Semester				
Course	Grade	Quality Points Earned	Units Attempted	Quality Points x Units Attempted= Final Quality Points Earned
AP US History	B	3	.5	3 x .5 = 1.5
Hon. Amer Lit.	A	4	.5	4 x .5 = 2
Hon. Alg. II	B	3	1	3 x 1 = 3
Hon. Chemistry	C	2	1	2 x 1 = 2
P.E. course	F	0	1	0 x 1 = 0
TOTALS			3.0	8.5

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{8.5}{3} = 2.833$$

= Bundled Course – course taught every other day all year long. Student earns .5 unit for each course each semester.

Example 2

Note: For this example this school is on a 4x4 block schedule and we are determining the students **HOPE** GPA. All core courses will be evaluated (non-core electives will not be included), no BQP's are being allowed for honors courses, and .5 BQP's are being allowed for AP courses, up to 4.0 max.

4x4 Block Schedule / One Semester				
Course	Grade	Quality Points Earned	Units Attempted	Quality Points x Units Attempted= Final Quality Points Earned
AP Economics	B	3 + .5 BQP	.5	3.5 x .5 = 1.75
AP Government	A	4 (no BQP added Since it's at the 4.0 max)	.5	4 x .5 = 2
Hon. Alg. II	B	3	1	3 x 1 = 3
Astronomy	C	2	1	2 x 1 = 2
P.E. course	F	0	1	0 x .5 = 0
TOTALS			3.0	8.75

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{8.75}{3} = 2.916$$

= Bundled Course – course taught every other day all year long. Student earns .5 unit for each course each semester.

Example 3

Note: For this example, this school is on a traditional schedule and weights their courses like Cobb County (see definitions above). We are determining an **overall weighted** GPA (All courses will be evaluated and BQP's are awarded for honors and AP courses).

Traditional Schedule / One Semester				
Course	Grade	Quality Points Earned	Units Attempted	Quality Points x Units Attempted= Final Quality Points Earned
AP Biology	B	3 + 1 BQP	.5	4 x .5 = 2
On-level English	A	4	.5	4 x .5 = 2
Alg. II Honors	B	3 + .5 BQP	.5	3.5 x .5 = 1.75
Spanish IV	C	2 + 1 BQP	.5	3 x .5 = 1.5
P.E. course	F	0	.5	0 x .5 = 0
Business Course	A	4	.5	4 x .5 = 2
TOTALS			3	9.25

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{9.25}{3} = 3.083$$