

CALCULATING YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE

One of the main requirements for entry into the Professional Education Program is a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher. If you intend to take Education 302-303, you must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher prior to the first day of that class. While you may register for an education course before you are eligible, you must be eligible by the time that course starts.

Students who have low GPAs must learn to calculate their own GPA for three main reasons:

- To see if they are going to make the 2.5 standard by the time they plan to start their first education course
- To determine the grades they need in their classes in order to earn a 2.5
- To see what the affect would be on their GPA of re-taking courses for a higher grade

The college calculates your GPA by dividing your cumulative honor points by the number of calculated semester hours that you have completed (calculated semester hours consist of all graded courses, including failed courses but excluding pass/fail courses). The chart below shows the honor points associated with each grade.

Students with cumulative GPA's further away from the 2.5 standard have a problem that often cannot be solved by just taking more courses and doing better. These individuals are faced with a choice of spending extra time at Calvin or retaking courses for a higher grade. For these people, knowing how to calculate a GPA is crucial. Consider the following example of a first year student:

FALL SEMESTER					SPRING SEMESTER						
Course	Hours	Grade	Honor Pts		Course	Hours	Grade	Honor Pts			
Engl 101	4	D	4.0		Phys 112	4	F	0.0			
Hist 151	4	D+	5.2		Art 215	4	C	8.0			
Biol 112	4	C-	6.8		Pol Sci 101	3	D-	2.1			
Phil 153	3	D-	2.8		Rel 121	3	D+	3.9			
	Registered	Credited	Calculated	GPA		Registered	Credited	Calculated	GPA		
Semester	15	15	15	18.8	1.25	Semester	14	10	14.0	1.0	
Cumulative	15	15	15	18.8	1.25	Cumulative	29	25	29	32.8	1.13

Note: These grades result in a GPA of 1.13 at the end of the freshman year, which indicates trouble for a student in need of a 2.5 for acceptance into the Teacher Education Program. This GPA was determined using the college's method of dividing the cumulative honor points, 32.8, by the calculated semester hours, 29. Be aware that when a course is failed, it is still counted in the GPA as a calculated semester hour.

This person would have to get A's in nine more 3 semester hour courses to get a GPA of 2.51 by the end of the sophomore year, which is unlikely given the record in the freshman year. What to do? Students may re-take courses for another, hopefully higher, grade. To calculate the effect of retaking courses for a higher grade, start with the existing cumulative honor points and calculated semester hours printed on the transcript. Subtract the old honor points from the course you plan to retake and add in the honor points that you would expect to receive if you retake the course. Then divide the cumulative honor points by the number of calculated semester hours.

Use Calvin's support systems to improve your grades, including free tutoring and study groups from Student Academic Services, the Rhetoric Center to help with paper writing and editing, counseling from the Broene Center, and conferences with your instructors, who are eager to help you succeed.

HONOR POINT CHART												
S. Hrs	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
4	16.0	14.8	13.2	12.0	10.8	9.2	8.0	6.8	5.2	4.0	2.8	0
3	12.0	11.1	9.9	9.0	8.1	6.9	6.0	5.1	3.9	3.0	2.1	0
2	8.0	7.4	6.6	6.0	5.4	4.6	4.0	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.4	0
1	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

Go to the Registrar's office if you need assistance calculating your GPA.