

Calculating Your GPA & Repeated Course Policies

Terminology

Grade Points: Each letter grade is assigned a certain number of points

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

Credit Hours: Each course is assigned a certain number of hours

Quality Points: Grade points multiplied by credit hours

Grade Point Average (GPA): Quality points divided by credit hours attempted

Calculating a GPA

Course	Grade	Grade Points		Credit Hours		Quality Points
Course 1	A	4.0	X	3	=	12
Course 2	C	2.0	X	4	=	8
Course 3	B	3.0	X	3	=	9
Course 4	A	4.0	X	3	=	12
Course 5	B	3.0	X	3	=	9
TOTAL				16		50

GPA (Quality Points/Credit Hours Attempted): $50/16 = 3.12$

Retaking Courses—Important Considerations

Wondering whether to retake a class to get a better grade? Here are several important considerations when making this decision.

- Many programs require at least a C (2.0) in required classes. If you are below this (even a C-), you may be required to repeat the course. Professional schools generally expect you to repeat the course at the same institution where the original grade was earned.
- Professional schools do not like repeated coursework. Try to do well the first time. If you received at least a C in the course, move on and do not repeat the class.
- Professional programs will expect you to get an A if you are going to retake a class. Be certain you're up to that challenge.
- How much will your GPA improve by retaking the class? Do the math! How much will your GPA increase even if you get an A?
- Be aware of how professional programs in your field of choice handle repeated coursework. They don't use Purdue's GPA—they will calculate their own. Most programs will include all attempts for the same course in their calculation of your GPA.
- Consider taking an upper-level class in the same subject instead of retaking a class. Doing so can improve your GPA and provide an opportunity to show mastery of the subject at a higher level.
- If you have dual credit from high school or courses that were taken at other institutions, these grades will also be included in your professional school GPA.
- Talk to a Pre-Professional Advisor before repeating coursework.

Calculating the New GPA after Repeating a Course

In the example above, assume Course 2 was retaken and the C replaced with an A. This would increase the quality points to 16. Total quality points would change to 58. **The new GPA would be 3.6.** ($\text{GPA} = 58/16$)

The more semesters of coursework a student completes and/or the lower the GPA, the more difficult it becomes to significantly raise the GPA by retaking courses. Consider the following scenario:

Current GPA: 3.00

Current Credit Hours: 72

Current Quality Points: 216

Original Grade Example	Retake Grade Example
Original Grade: C+	Retake Grade: A
Credit Hours: 5	Credit Hours: 5
Quality Points: 11.5	Quality Points: 20

Receiving an A in the course adds 8.5 points to the total quality points ($20 - 11.5 = 8.5$ which is the amount the quality points improved). Add the new quality points to the old quality points: 216 current quality points plus 8.5 additional points = 224.5. The number of credit hours stays the same at 72.

New GPA = $224.5 \text{ Quality Points} / 72 \text{ Credit Hours} = 3.11$ (changing from a 3.00)

Calculating the Science GPA

In addition to looking at your overall GPA, health care programs often calculate a science GPA. What classes are included in a science GPA? The answer depends on the specific program. Some programs include all Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math courses (BCPM). Others include only Biology, Chemistry and Physics (BCP). Still others will include only those classes they identify as pre-requisites to the program. Research the programs of interest to you to determine how your science GPA will be calculated.

Calculating Your GPA

Included in myPurdue is the ability to calculate GPA scenarios. You can also make use of the [College of Science GPA Calculator](https://www.science.purdue.edu/Current_Students/gpa-calculator.html) https://www.science.purdue.edu/Current_Students/gpa-calculator.html

Online Applications & Repeat Coursework Policies

- AACOMAS: Osteopathic Medical Schools (D.O.)—all grades used
- AMCAS: Allopathic Medical Schools (M.D.)—all grades used
- AACPMAS: Podiatric Medical Schools—all grades used
- CASPA: Physician Assistant Programs—all grades used (school policies vary)
- AADSAS: Dental Schools—all grades used
- NursingCAS: Nursing Schools—all grades used
- PharmCAS: Pharmacy Programs—all grades used
- PTCAS: Physical Therapy Programs—all grades used
- SOPHAS: Public Health Programs—most recent grade used
- VMCAS: Veterinary Medical Schools—all grades used
- OptomCAS: Optometry Schools—most recent grade used (though school policies vary)
- OTCAS: Occupational Therapy Programs—all grades used
- NDCAS: Naturopathic Medical Programs—all grades used
- HAMPCAS: Healthcare Administration Programs—most recent grade used if taken at same school (though school policies vary)
- CSDCAS: Communication Sciences & Disorders—all grades used
- CASAA: Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs—all grades used
- TMDSAS: Texas Med, Dent & Vet Programs—all grades used
- LSAC-CAS: Law Schools—all grades used

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