

GPA scale: the 4.0 conversion chart, weighted and unweighted, and how to calculate

Letter	Percentage (College Board chart)	Unweighted	Honors (+0.5)	AP or IB (+1.0)
A+	97-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
A	93-96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90-92	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83-86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73-76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67-69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65-66	1.0	1.5	2.0
E or F	below 65	0.0	0.0	0.0

Schools without pluses and minuses: A 90-100 = 4.0, B 80-89 = 3.0, C 70-79 = 2.0, D 65-69 = 1.0, F = 0. Weights differ by school (some A+ = 4.3, some AP = +2.0); the transcript's key is the authority for that school.

How to calculate

- [] 1 Convert each grade to points (add the weight for a weighted GPA)
- [] 2 Multiply each course's points by its credits (year course 1, semester course 0.5)
- [] 3 Add the results and divide by the total credits
- [] Example: A, A, A, B, C in five 1-credit courses: $4 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 2 = 17$, $17 / 5 = 3.4$ unweighted. Two of the A's in AP: $5 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 = 19$, $19 / 5 = 3.8$ weighted

Weighted against unweighted

	Unweighted	Weighted
scale	4.0	usually 5.0
an A in a regular / honors / AP course	4.0 / 4.0 / 4.0	4.0 / 4.5 / 5.0
rewards	grades only	grades and course difficulty
who uses it	most colleges when they recalculate; scholarship cut-offs	most transcripts and class ranks

Colleges usually RECALCULATE: core academic courses only (English, maths, science, social studies, world language), with their own weighting or none, so applicants from different schools are compared on one scale.

From

sciencewithshobha.com/blog/gpa-scale-the-4-0-conversion-chart-weighted-against-unweighted-gpa-what-gpa-scale-reporting-means-on-the-common-app-what-a-3-6-3-8-4-2-and-5-0-gpa-mean-and-a-gpa-calculator/ · 1-on-1 online SAT, ACT, PSAT and school subjects, US after-school hours, free 30-minute first class.

GPA scale reporting on the Common App, what each GPA means, and a worksheet

The Common App Education section, Grades screen

GPA scale	the scale the school's GPA is on: 4 to 20, 100, or none
GPA weighting	weighted or unweighted, as the transcript states
Cumulative GPA	the number from the official transcript, copied exactly; do not convert it yourself
Class rank reporting	exact, decile, quintile, quartile or none, if the school ranks
Examples	3.82 on a 4.0 unweighted transcript: scale 4, unweighted, 3.82. 4.27 on a 5.0 weighted transcript: scale 5, weighted, 4.27. 87% at a school abroad: scale 100.

What each GPA means

Unweighted	Letter	About	For admissions
4.0	A	93-100%	the top; the most selective colleges' middle range is 3.9-4.0
3.8	A- to A	90-93%	strong everywhere; typical at selective state flagships
3.6	A- to B+	88-91%	above the middle at most universities
3.3	B+	87-89%	competitive at many state universities
3.0	B	83-86%	the usual minimum for merit scholarships
2.5	B- to C+	78-82%	open-access and many regional universities
2.0	C	73-76%	the usual minimum for graduation

Weighted: 5.0 = straight A's in all-AP or IB on a +1.0 scale (rare); 4.5 = an A average with about half the courses weighted; 4.3 = an A- to A average with some AP or honors (unweighted 3.8-3.9 typical); 4.2 = an A- average with several weighted courses. A weighted GPA only means something next to the number of weighted courses the school offers.

Worksheet: eight courses

Course	Grade	Type (regular / honors / AP-IB)	Credits	Points x credits (unweighted)	Points x credits (weighted)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
Totals					
GPA = total / credits					