Chapter 2- College Grades

Understanding the reasons to strive for good grades and the rewards and impact of course grades motivates you to earn the best grades.

• Your **course grade** is an evaluation of your quality of work in class/college.

• **You are ultimately responsible for the outcome of your course grade.**

• Grades are the result of many factors and typically stem from your **attitude** toward studying and the **choices** you make regarding your **study habits and time management**.

• Your grades are used to indicate your **level of academic performance**.

• A grade can be expressed in numbers, points, or percentages, and can be modified by plus (+) and minus (-).
Grading System

A grading system assigns specific points values for each grade. Be responsible for understanding how college grading works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.00-3.50</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.49-2.50</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>2.49-1.60</td>
<td>79-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely passing</td>
<td>1.59-.80</td>
<td>69-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>.79-00</td>
<td>59-00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>withdrawal from a course</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Passed</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>Not passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For discussion: Grade Analysis Survey
## Impact of Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Grades Impact</th>
<th>🎓 For discussion: How are these areas impacted by your grades?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Personal Growth:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Job opportunities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• College:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Life:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Additional areas of grades impact:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Therefore, STRIVE for good grades.

1. Understand the importance of **working hard** to achieve your best grades.

2. Make **choices** that allow you to earn the best grades you can achieve.

3. Increase your grades by improving your study habits.
   – Make informed decisions about how to study for each subject.

4. Understand the rubric
   – Know how the professor is going to evaluate your work.
   – Know exactly how your final grade is calculated for each semester.


6. Identifying the reasons you have for good grades in college motivates you to strive for good grades.
What Motivates You to Strive for Good Grades?

(Inspire, Stimulate, Encourage, Induce, Cause, Trigger off)

Understanding what motivates you will help you to strive for good grades.

For discussion: Reasons for Good Grades

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What motivates you, move you.

Your Personal Motivation can help you to:

1. improve performance
2. better your attitude towards subject matter
3. enhance your learning skills
4. direct your behavior toward particular goals
5. increase effort and energy
6. boost initiation of and persistence in activities
7. propel expected results
Your level of Motivation determines

1. the intensity of your interest
2. the will that you bring to a task
3. the ability to achieve high grades
4. the way that you engage with academic tasks
5. Positive outcomes such as persistence in the face of failure and creativity for problem solving
6. the choices that guide your behavior
7. the causes of your success or failure
Types of Motivation
Intrinsic motivation and Extrinsic motivation.
Motivation comes from two things, you and other people.

**Intrinsic Motivation** - comes from within you.

Occurs when students are internally motivated to do something because it either brings them pleasure, they think it is important, or they feel that what they are learning is significant. Enjoy what you do.

(like compete for the love of the sport, contributing to a common good, or interested in mastering a topic)

**Extrinsic Motivation** - comes from others, from outside.

Occurs when a student is compelled to do something or act a certain way because of factors external to him or her (like money, recognition, or good grades).

Intrinsic Motivation is associated with high educational achievement and enjoyment by students.

**For discussion:** What is the best motivation and why?
Rewards

FOCUS on your REWARDS to strive for good grades.

- A reward is a prize, recompense, or compensation for your actions. (College degree, well-paid job)
- Rewards induce learning and feelings of positive emotions. (An A or perfect score on a test)
- Rewards can also be organized as extrinsic or intrinsic.
  - **Intrinsic rewards** are internal to the person; for example, satisfaction or a feeling of accomplishment.
  - **Extrinsic rewards** are external to the person; for example, praise or money.

chat icon  For discussion: What rewards are you going to get for earning good grades in college?
Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Grade Point Average is a measure of your academic performance expressed in a number.

1. It is a demonstration of your college achievement.
2. GPA makes a statement about your overall commitment while in college.
3. It is used by employers and others to assess and compare students.
4. GPA is an indication of the kind of employee you will be because it reflects on your work habits.
GPA Calculation

- Courses grades are averaged at the end of each semester to determine your numeric grade point average.

To calculate GPA:

1. Convert the letter grades to points (point value).
2. Multiply the number of credit earned by the point value of the letter grade to determine your grade points for each class.
3. Add the grade points in all your classes for that semester.
4. Divide the total grade points by the total of registered credits to get your GPA for the semester.

\[
\text{GPA Calculation} = \frac{\text{Total grade points earned}}{\text{Total credits registered}}
\]

A cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is the average GPA from all semesters, whereas GPA may only refer to a semester.
### GPA Calculation Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Conversion Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTH 165</td>
<td>C = 2.0</td>
<td>x 3 cr  =</td>
<td>6.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td>C = 2.0</td>
<td>x 3 cr  =</td>
<td>6.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 110</td>
<td>C = 2.0</td>
<td>x 3 cr  =</td>
<td>6.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOT 140</td>
<td>C = 2.0</td>
<td>x 3 cr  =</td>
<td>6.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEC 101</td>
<td>F = 0</td>
<td>x 1 cr  =</td>
<td>0.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>13 credits</td>
<td>24 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA Calc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>= 1.84 GPA</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEC 101</td>
<td>A = 4.0</td>
<td>x 1 cr  =</td>
<td>4.0 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>13 credits</td>
<td>28 grade pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA Calc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>= 2.25 GPA</td>
</tr>
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Never underestimate the value of a one credit course.
First Semester Grades Count!

**Semester 1**
Student takes 15 credits and earns a low GPA

**Overall GPA = 1.9**

Student wants to increase the overall GPA from 1.9 to 2.5

To accomplish this, the second semester the student must earn a GPA of 3.1

**Semester 2**
Student takes 15 credits and earns a GPA of 3.1

**Overall GPA = 2.5**

Student wants to increase the overall GPA from 2.5 to 3.0

To accomplish this, the third semester the student must earn a GPA of 4.0

Exercise: GPA Calculation
For Discussion: How does the saying relate to earning good grades?

If you want to get somewhere, you’ve got to give up wanting to get to that place.