

How do you read your report card to understand your GPA?

Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is one of the first criteria US college admissions officers will look at. The better your grades are, the more options you will have when considering colleges, and the more opportunities you will have to apply for money to help pay for college (merit-aid, scholarships, etc.).

Some courses you take as early as 8th grade can count towards your GPA, and every course you take in 9th – 12th grade will count toward your overall Cumulative GPA. See how the grades below translate towards your GPA:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grad	GPA Points
97 - 100	A+	4.33
93 - 96	A	4.00
90 - 92	A-	3.67
87 - 89	B+	3.33
83 - 86	B	3.00
80 - 82	B-	2.67
77 - 79	C+	2.33
73 - 76	C	2.00
70 - 72	C-	1.67
0 - 69	F	0

Use the table below to calculate your Semester GPA from Semester 1. Although this is only one semester GPA you can use past report cards to see how this semester compares to past semesters.

Course	S1 Grade	My GPA Points
English		
Math		
Science		
Social Studies		

Total GPA Points / Number of Classes = GPA

_____ / _____ =

MY GPA is: (Rounded to hundredths place): ____ . ____ ____

- **Step 1.** Write your Semesters in the correct column.
- **Step 2.** Match your grades to GPA Points and write them in the correct column
- **Step 3.** Add up your total GPA Points
- **Step 4.** Divide your total GPA Points by the number of Classes on the lines above.

This provides your Semester GPA. Your semester GPAs are averaged together to calculate your cumulative GPA.

How do your child's grades affect your child's college aspirations?

Research indicates that students are more likely to graduate from college when they attend a college or university that **MATCHes** their academic credentials. Put another way, students are more likely to graduate from college when they enroll in the most academically demanding institution that will admit them.

MATCH is determined by two factors: (1) GPA and (2) test scores, such as the SAT. For your son or daughter to **MATCH** with a college or university, his/her GPA and/or test scores should fall within the average academic profile, or the "Middle 50%," of students accepted to institution.

While SAT scores provide a single score in time, your student's GPA may be viewed by colleges as an overall number or as a trend over time. In terms of GPA, colleges may look at:

1. **Consistency** of grades, semester over semester, year over year.
2. **An upward trend** in grades across each grade level.
3. **Strengths in a particular subject area** that may be a student's major.

Every college has a unique student admission profile, but the chart below can help you and your student get an idea the types of colleges/universities your student may have access to, based on his/her current GPA based on their grades.

This chart may be used to set GPA goals around the types of colleges/universities that interest you. These colleges are only meant as examples. **Having the GPA listed does not guarantee you will get into that college**, as there are other factors considered in admissions. **Additionally, these are by no means the only example of that type of college in each of these categories.** There are only 10 colleges on this chart. There are over 140 Community Colleges, Colleges, and Universities in Texas. There are over 5,000 different college and universities in the United States.

This chart is just to serve as examples of what type of college you may be able to aspire to.

Example of Colleges based on Selectivity

2-Year Colleges & Noncompetitive	GPA < 2.5		
Less Competitive	2.50 - 2.99		
Competitive	3.00 - 3.49		
Very Competitive	3.50 - 3.99		
Highly Competitive	3.50 - 3.99 + Strong SAT		
Most Competitive	GPA > 4.00 + Strong SAT		

Conversation Starters

Your student's report card mirrors the academic record that will be sent with their college applications during their senior year. It is essential to review your student's report card with him/her throughout their time at YES Prep Public Schools to help support your student in building their strongest academic profile possible. This conversation guide can help guide you in talking to ensure your student is on track to attend a college that matches their college aspirations.

For 8th Graders / 9th Graders

1. How do you feel about your grades?
2. What are some factors that have contributed to the trends you see in your grades?
3. How do you feel about the type of college your semester GPA Matches with? Is this in line with the type of college you want to go to?
4. What steps can you take to strengthen your report card?

For 10th Graders / 11th Graders

1. What trends do you notice about your grades over time?
 - Strong grades consistently
 - An upward trend across each grade level
 - Strengths in a particular subject area
2. How do you feel about the type of college your semester GPA Matches with? Is this in line with the type of college you want to go to?
3. What kind of assumptions might a college admissions officer make about you based on your grades, semester over semester?
4. What would you like to change about how your GPA looks to admissions officers?
5. If you're not happy about your Grades or SAT, how can we work on your college essays and resumes to strengthen your college application?

For 12th Graders

1. Which of the following describes your grades?
 - Strong grades consistently
 - An upward trend across each grade level
 - Strengths in a particular subject area
 - None of the above
2. Is your GPA still matching with the types of college you applied to in the fall?
3. **If their GPA dropped in the S1:** Do we need to apply to any new colleges based on your new GPA?
4. What classes do we need to focus on this Spring to finish high school with a strong GPA?