

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

STUDENT GUIDE
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What is a Grade Point Average (GPA)?

A GPA is a way of representing a student's overall achievement on an undergraduate programme:

- where Grade refers to the level of achievement
- the Grade Point is the number attached to each grade
- and the Grade Point Average is the arithmetic mean of the grade points being counted¹

¹ At Winchester, your GPA will be calculated slightly differently because the current marking scheme uses percentage marks rather than grades. Therefore, your GPA will be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the percentage marks for your module results and this final mark will be converted to a Grade Point Average

Percentage mark range	Grade Point Average
75 +	4.25
71 – 74	4.00
67 – 70	3.75
64 – 66	3.50
61 – 63	3.25
57 – 60	3.00
54 – 56	2.75
50 – 53	2.50

Percentage mark range	Grade Point Average
48 – 49	2.25
43 – 47	2.00
40 – 42	1.50
38 – 39	1.00
35 – 37	0.75
30 – 34	0.50
29 or less	0.00

Why is the University introducing a GPA?

Most undergraduate students at Winchester are studying towards an Honours degree, which follows the award classification scheme developed at Cambridge University over a century ago and results in students gaining one of four broad classes: First, Upper Second (2.1), Lower Second (2.2) and Third Class.²

There are some in the Higher Education (HE) sector, business community and Government who think these bands are too general and would prefer to adopt a scheme that provides a wider range of outcomes. So the Higher Education Academy (HEA) has asked HE providers to trial a GPA scheme for five years.

The GPA scheme above follows the model recommended by the HEA, which is similar to schemes used in the US and other countries.

So is there something wrong with the degree classification system?

No. The degree classification system does have some limitations but it is widely recognised and understood by UK employers. It is also complemented by the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR), which all qualifying students receive and includes a transcript (ie a record of all the modules results for your programme) together with a final percentage mark indicating where your performance falls within the classification range.

² Mark ranges for determining Honours degree classification:

1st Class	70%+
2nd Class (Upper Second)	60 - 69%
2nd Class (Lower Second)	50 - 59%
3rd Class	40 - 49%

So what is the advantage of GPA?

GPA enables students to measure their performance at the end of each year of study.

It also provides a consistent grading scheme across all undergraduate programmes. So undergraduate students who are studying for a Foundation Degree or leave their studies with an exit award³ also receive a GPA.

Will my first year Honours degree modules count towards the GPA?

Yes. The modules you take in your first year will count towards your GPA.

Are some modules given more weight in the GPA?

No. Each module counts equally according to its credit value. No additional weighting is given to modules based on their level; so a level 4 module worth 15 credits (normally taken in year 1) and a level 6 module worth 15 credits (normally taken in year 3) are weighted equally.

Will failed modules count towards my GPA?

Yes. All modules will count equally towards your GPA except for the following, which shall be omitted altogether:

- Modules graded pass/fail only (ie no % mark is given)
- Where a module is failed and repeated, only the better result of the two attempts will be counted
- Where a module is failed and a replacement module is taken, only the better result of the two modules taken will be counted

Will I still receive a classification?

Yes. The current Academic Regulations for classifications will be retained.

Will my GPA affect my degree classification?

No. The calculation of the degree classification is entirely independent of the calculation of the GPA.

Will all Winchester students receive a GPA from now on?

The GPA rules and grading scheme are being phased in for all undergraduate students (whether full- or part-time) as follows:

2017/18	students studying level 4 modules only
2018/19	students studying level 4 and those progressing to level 5
2019/20	students studying levels 4 and 5 and those progressing to level 6

By 2020/21 it is anticipated that all new and continuing undergraduate students will receive a GPA.

When will I receive my GPA?

All your module marks and your GPA are recorded on a 'transcript', ie an official records of your results. Your GPA will be calculated prior to each Exam Board and the transcript will be sent to your Unimail account via email. For most students this will normally occur in July each year. If you need to (re)submit work over the summer then the results, including your GPA, will be recalculated by the Exam Board and a revised transcript emailed to you.

³ An exit award may be given if a student leaves before completing their intended award. For an Honours degree, this could be a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education or a Pass Degree.

So how is a GPA calculated?

The GPA is a mean average in which each module is counted equally according to its credit value, irrespective of level, subject or date taken. The weighted mean average shall be rounded to a whole number and converted to the equivalent GPA score according to the Mark Scheme on page 1 and in the *Assessment Regulations*. An example of how an actual GPA is calculated is given at the end of this Guide.

GPA

Final mark = Weighted average of % marks for all modules taken at L4, 5 and 6

This mark is then converted to the equivalent GPA

All marks are included except for:

- Modules graded pass/fail only (ie no % mark is given)
- Where a module is failed and repeated or a replacement module is taken, only the better result of the two attempts will be counted

You will receive a GPA even if you don't qualify for an award

How is an Honours degree calculated?

In order to be considered for an Honours degree, students must take and pass 360 credits in total and meet pathway requirements as defined in the Programme Specification for their intended award. An example of this is given at the end of this Guide.

Honours degree calculation

60% of the final mark = Weighted average of best 90 credits at L6 *

40% of the final mark = Weighted average of best remaining 120 L5/L6 credits

This mark determines the degree classification (*see footnote on page 1*)

You will only receive an Honours classification if you take and pass 360 credits

While the classification excludes all L4 results and 30 credits of L5/L6, students are still required to pass these modules in order to gain an Honours degree.

* Including the Extended Independent Study (EIS) where students are required to take one

Does my GPA affect my ability to progress to the next year of study or graduate?

No. Eligibility to progress or receive an award is dependent on passing the modules that you were registered to take and meeting any specific pathway requirements set by your programme.

Where can I get more information?

Regulations relating to GPA can be found in the following:

[Award and Classification Rules and Credit Framework Summary](#)

(for details of the calculation method for GPA)

[Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#)

(for operational details about GPA)

[Assessment Regulations](#)

(for a list of GPA scores and their percentage equivalences)

Example of a transcript showing how a GPA calculation and an Honours degree calculation are made: **Anne Other – BA Honours degree programme**

Key Grey box – module not counted in GPA because failed and replaced by module in blue box
Lilac box – module not counted in GPA as module graded pass/fail only
Pink box – modules omitted from Honours calculation (see rule on page above)

GPA calculated on results in red

Module	Credits	Mark	Credits x Mark
Level 4 AA1001	15	52	780
AA1002	15	56	840
AA1003	15	48	720
AA1004	15	62	930
AA1005	30	36	N/A
AA1006	15	50	750
AA1007	15	45	675
AA1005	30	40	1200
Level 5 AA2001	30	55	1650
AA2002	15	56	840
AA2003	15	49	735
AA2004	30	57	1710
AA2005	15	62	930
AA2008	15	Ungraded Pass	N/A
Level 6 AA3001 (EIS module)	30	58	1740
AA3002	30	50	1500
AA3004	30	64	1920
AA3005	15	59	885
AA3006	15	63	945
Total credits passed	360	-	Total 18750
Credits included in GPA	345		

100% of the final mark = 18750 / 345 credits = 54% = 2.75 GPA

Honours award calculated on results in red and blue

Module	Credits	Mark	Mark x Credits
Level 4 AA1001	15	52	N/A
AA1002	15	56	N/A
AA1003	15	48	N/A
AA1004	15	62	N/A
AA1005	30	36	N/A
AA1006	15	50	N/A
AA1007	15	45	N/A
AA1005	30	40	N/A
Level 5 AA2001	30	55	1650
AA2002	15	56	840
AA2003	15	49	N/A
AA2004	30	57	1710
AA2005	15	62	930
AA2008	15	Ungraded Pass	N/A
Level 6 AA3001 (EIS module)	30	58	1740
AA3002	30	50	1500
AA3004	30	64	1920
AA3005	15	59	885
AA3006	15	63	945
Total credits required	360	-	Calculation rule on page above
Credits used in calculation	210		

60% of the final mark = (1740 + 1920 + 885 + 945)/90 credits = 37+
 40% of the final mark = (1650 + 840 + 1710 + 930 + 1500)/120 credits = 22
Lower second class Honours degree (2.2) = 59%