

GPA Math

While on probation, your primary concern should be raising your GPA. To really know where you stand and what it will take to get you off probation, we'll do some calculating of your GPA.

Understanding your GPA

At the University of Idaho, we use Quality Points to determine GPA. You can view your transcript using Vandal Web to see the Quality Points in action. View your last semester's transcript and see what the Quality Point situation was like. Understanding how the Quality Points were calculated is key to understanding how GPA works. To illustrate this, I'll use the example of a student named Ima Lerner. These are her grades from last semester:

B in PHIL 101: Reason and Rhetoric

A in POLS 101: Intro to Political Science

C in MATH 108: Intermediate Algebra

D in PSYC 101: Intro to Psychology

P in PEB 106: Cardio Blast

C in INTR 101: College Success Strategies

First thing, Quality Points are based on the grade earned in your class.

○ A = 4.0

○ D = 1.0

○ B = 3.0

○ F = 0.0

○ C = 2.0

Then, the corresponding score is multiplied by the number of credits that class was worth. So far Ima's GPA calculation looks a bit like this.

B in PHIL 101 (2 credits) B = 3.0 $3.0 \times 2 = 6.0$

A in POLS 101 (3 credits) A = 4.0 $4.0 \times 3 = 12.0$

C in MATH 108 (3 credits) C = 2.0 $2.0 \times 3 = 6.0$

D in PSYC 101 (3 credits) D = 1.0 $1.0 \times 3 = 3.0$

P in PEB 106 (1 credit)

C in INTR 101 (2 credits) C = 2.0 $2.0 \times 2 = 4.0$

You take those figures, add them together, and then divide by your total number of credits to get an average.

$$6.0 + 6.0 + 12.0 + 3.0 + 4.0 = 31$$

$$31/13 \text{ (total credits)} = 2.38$$

Ima's GPA for that semester is 2.38. You may have noticed that she actually took 14 credits last semester, yet we only used 13 to calculate her GPA. That's because a P (Pass) does not count towards Quality Points. An F in these classes does count *against* a GPA but students that take and pass Pass/Fail classes (like ENGL 101 and PEB classes) are often frustrated to find that their passing grade does not positively impact their GPA. If you're on probation and need a solid GPA, keep this in mind when planning class schedules.

It is also important to note that role that credits play in calculating GPA. You'll notice that Ima's B in PHIL 101 was equal to her C in MATH 108 in her GPA calculation. A student who aced their 2 credit class will find it far outweighed by a fail in a 4 credit class.

Predicting your GPA

As a Probation student, you are encouraged to predict your grades for next semester and aim for at least a 2.0 (a C average) to get off probation status. This is all well and good but many students who achieve a 2.0 find themselves still on Probation. This is because to get completely off Probation, you must raise your *cumulative* GPA to above a 2.0. Achieving a 2.0 in the semester following Probation is enough to prevent Disqualifying Status, but may not be enough to raise your cumulative GPA.

Let's go back to Ima Lerner. Let's say she's on probation as a second year student. Her cumulative GPA is 1.74 and the above calculations were actually her projected grades for the coming semester (since she's predicting she'll get a D in PSYC 101, I'd recommend she take something else). The predicted GPA is a 2.38, which is enough to keep her from going on disqualifying status, but is it enough to get her off probation?

To find out, she used her Degree Audit on Vandal Web. There is a tab on the Degree Audit that says "GPA Calc" which she clicked on. Once there she clicked on the tab "Term Calculator." That function had all the classes she signed up for listed and options for her to select her predicted grades. She hit "Calculate" and the Degree Audit showed her what her Cumulative grade would be after that predicted semester. She discovered her institution GPA would be 1.92, which still keeps her on probation. She'll have to go back and re-schedule her classes.

This tool is useful because it shows how one semester can impact an overall GPA. If you are looking to get completely off probation, you'll want to be realistic about what it will take and the Degree Audit can help you with that. There is also a "Graduation Calculator" that uses the number of remaining credits you have to graduate (available on your degree audit) compared to how many credits are required (128 credits required to graduate) to show you how many A's and B's you'll need to graduate with a desired GPA. This is important because everyone needs a 2.0 to graduate from University of Idaho, but some individual departments require a higher GPA. You should look up the GPA required for you to graduate and calculate what you have ahead of you.

Due to Your Advisor

Your current overall GPA _____

Your predicted semester GPA _____

Your predicted new overall GPA _____

Results from Graduation Calculator
