

Average College GPA

October 24, 2017

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The average college GPA is shockingly high compared to the last few decades. At 3.15, college students have a nice “B” average going in— read the report to learn more about college grade expectations.

Understanding the College GPA

1. **What is average college GPA?**

The average college GPA is 3.15, or a “B” average. That’s a huge increase from an average GPA of 2.52 in the 1950s. Did you know: GPAs now are 0.63 higher than sixty years ago.

2. **What is considered a “good” GPA in college?**

A **3.0 GPA** is a “B” average. This is often the lowest GPA allowed to continue in certain majors. Colleges allowing a lower GPA will often require at least a “B” average in major classes. A **3.5 GPA** is equal to a 90% average. Many employers and graduate programs use a 3.5 GPA as the benchmark. However, outside of the top 10 graduate schools, the average GPA for law, medical, and business graduate school are as much as 0.74 below 3.5. On an unweighted GPA scale, a **3.7 GPA** means you obtained mostly A’s. The weight this puts on your future depends on your course load. Students taking mostly high-level classes will fare well with a 3.7 GPA. Students with an average course load still look good, but it’s more expected with the less intense classes.

3. **What is an average community college GPA?**

Community college students seem to fall into two categories:

- ✓ Students with a GPA less than 2.5
- ✓ Students with a GPA above 3.5
- ✓ Of those with a GPA less than 2.5, almost half of the students didn’t pursue a 2 or 4-year degree.
- ✓ Of the community college students with a GPA over 3.5, 69% went on to graduate with either a 2 or 4-year degree.

4. **What is the average college transfer GPA?**

As a general benchmark, 4-year institutions require at least a 2.0 GPA from transfer students. This varies from school to school, though. However, most of colleges accepting students with a 2.0 GPA did not allow their credits to transfer. 67% of transfer students with a 2.0 GPA transferred with zero credits. 39% of students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.9 did not have any credits transferred at all. 31% of students with a 3.0 or higher also didn’t have transferred credits.

5. **Will Fs and Ds earned at HCC transfer to another campus?**

Many colleges will not accept credits for courses when a student has earned a “D” or an “F”. The problem is that a “D” is a minimal passing grade, and students will have to repeat the course, especially if it is a requirement for their major. Also, nearly all courses that have prerequisites require that the student get at least a C in the course for it to count as having fulfilled the prerequisite.

6. **Which major has the lowest average GPA in college?**

Chemistry majors have the lowest GPA in college. Science tends to be more of a “right or wrong” type subject. This can be part of the reason for the lower average GPA of 2.78.

7. **Which major has the highest average GPA in college?**

Education has the highest average GPA of 3.36. Some believe this is because education is more of an “interpretive” course, with fewer right or wrong answers.

8. **What are the top factors colleges consider for admission?**

An overwhelming 79% of colleges look foremost at grades in college prep courses. Next in line is

the difficulty of the coursework and overall grades. Finally, colleges also put emphasis on the entrance exam scores.

College Grades

1. **How do you calculate a GPA in college?**

A college GPA takes into consideration the grade points as well as the credit hours. First, total up the credit hours for each class. Next, figure out the value of each letter grade you earned:

- ✓ A = 4
- ✓ B = 3
- ✓ C = 2
- ✓ D = 1
- ✓ F = 1

After adding up the total grade points, divide the total grade points by the total credit hours to arrive at the GPA.

2. **How many students receive a full ride scholarships to college?**

Mark Kantrowitz reports that less than 20,000 college students receive a full ride scholarship. There are 16 million college students in the US, so that's just 1/800th of the students.

Average GPA by Major

1. **What is the average business major GPA?**

Business students have an average GPA of 3.11, which is just .04 less than the average overall GPA for undergraduates.

2. **What is the average English major GPA?**

The average English major has a GPA that is 0.18 points higher than the nation's average, with a GPA of 3.33.

3. **What is the average psychology major GPA?**

The average psychology major is slightly below the average GPA. With an average of 2.98, they are about 0.17 points behind the average.

4. **What is the average Master's Program GPA?**

On average, Master's Programs require a GPA of at least 3.3 to enter graduate school. This does vary by school and isn't the only focus, though. If you have a lower GPA, but have an impressive course load, you may still be eligible.

5. **What is the average Doctoral Program GPA?**

The average GPA for a Doctoral Program is 3.5 or higher. Again, less emphasis is put on the GPA than the actual coursework. Doctoral programs also put emphasis on the research completed during the Master's program.

College Acceptance Rates

1. **Which college has the lowest acceptance rate?**

Stanford has the lowest acceptance rate among "non-specialized colleges". They accepted just 4.6% of the 44,073 candidates. They enrolled only 2,050 students last year. Texas has several universities with a low acceptance rate: Rice University 16% (18,063 applicants), The University of Texas at Austin 36% (51, 033 applicants), and Trinity University 38% (7,663 applicants).

2. **What is the hardest college to get into?**

With an acceptance rate of 5% and distinguished admission requirements, Harvard tops the list as the hardest college to enter, (only accepting about 2,000 students out of 40,000 applicants). Academically, it has exceptionally high requirements for admission test scores, generally admitting students who score in the top 2 percent. Harvard University typically accepts and attracts "A"

average high school student who score between 1500-1590 on the SAT Exam. Students with less than a 1455 SAT Score have less than a 2% chance of acceptance.

3. **Which college has the highest acceptance rate?**

Bismarck State College has a 100% acceptance rate and is the third largest university in North Dakota. Texas has several universities with a high acceptance rate: Wayland Baptist University 99% (645 applicants), Texas Woman’s University 86% (5,502 applicants), Lamar University 82% (5,445 applicants), and University of Houston-Downtown 84% (3,931 applicants).

GPA in High School

1. **What is the average GPA for high school students?**

The average high school GPA has remained unchanged over the last decade, sitting at a solid 3.0 (4.0 scale— “B” average).

2. **What is the average high school GPA of students accepted into Harvard?**

The average weighted GPA of high school students accepted into Harvard is 4.10. This is second only to Yale, which has an average entrance GPA of 4.19.

3. **What is the difference between weighted and unweighted GPAs?**

- **Unweighted GPA**—Traditionally, GPA is calculated on an unweighted scale. Unweighted GPA is measured on a scale of 0 to 4.0. It doesn’t take the difficulty of a student’s coursework into account. An unweighted GPA represents an A as a 4.0 whether it was earned in an honors class, AP class, or lower-level class.
- **Weighted GPA**—Weighted GPA is often used by high schools to better represent students’ academic accomplishments. Weighted GPA considers course difficulty rather than providing the same letter grade to GPA conversion for every student. Usually, weighted GPA is measured on a scale of 0 to 5.0, although some scales go higher. An A in an AP class may translate into a 5.0 weighted GPA, while an A in a regular-level class will give you a 4.0 weighted GPA. Many schools also have mid-level classes (such as honors classes) where the highest weighted GPA you can earn is a 4.5.

4. **Converting GPA: Use the link**— to convert your weighted GPA for high school (*in Naviance*) into a 4.0 scale. You may access your HCC GPA and grades in

<https://myeagle.hccs.edu/app/profile/login> - select “My Grades” **OR** <https://hccsaweb.hccs.edu:8080/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>

Letter Grade	Percentile	Standard GPA
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	65-66	1.0
F	Below 65	0.0

GPA	Percentile	Letter Grade
4.0	95-100	A
3.9	94	A
3.8	93	A
3.7	92	A
3.6	91	A
3.5	90	A
3.4	89	B
3.3	88	B
3.2	87	B
3.1	86	B
3.0	85	B
2.9	84	B
2.8	83	B
2.7	82	B
2.6	81	B
2.5	80	B
2.4	79	C
2.3	78	C
2.2	77	C
2.1	76	C
2.0	75	C
1.9	74	C
1.8	73	C
1.7	72	C
1.6	71	C
1.5	70	C
1.4	69	D
1.3	68	D
1.2	67	D
1.1	66	D
1.0	65	D