

## Your Grade Point Average and Financial Aid

### What is a Grade Point?

Grade points serve as a means of objectively stating a given level of scholarship or mastery of tasks. A point value is assigned for each letter grade. The table below lists the grade points assigned to letter grades at Yakima Valley College.

Grade	Description	Grade Points Per Credit	Grade	Description	Grade Points Per Credit
A	Excellent	4.0	C+		2.3
A-		3.7	C	Average	2.0
B+		3.3	C-		1.7
B	Above Average	3.0	D	Below Average	1.0
B-		2.7	F	Failure	0.0

### What is a GPA?

Grade point average (GPA) is a measure of the quality of your academic performance. There are several types of GPAs

- Cumulative GPA is the measurement of the quality of your academic performance for all graded classes taken at YVC.
- Quarterly GPA is the measurement of the quality of your academic performance for all graded classes in a single quarter.
- College level GPA is the measurement of the quality of your academic on performance on graded college-level coursework at YVC.

### How do I calculate my GPA?

The grade point average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of graded (A-F) credit hours. The grade points for a particular course are determined by multiplying the grade point value of the letter grade times the number of credits. For example, a three-credit course with a grade of B has nine grade points. I, N, S, V, W, CR/NC, and \* grades are not included in the calculation of the grade point average.

**Example.** Calculate the grade point average for this quarter taking English 101, Math 146 and Art 111 and earned the grades listed in the table below.

1. Add the number of graded credits for the quarter.
2. Calculate the grade points earned for each class by multiplying the number of credits by the grade points assigned to each grade.
3. Add the total number of grade points earned.
4. Divide the number of total grade points earned by the total number of graded credits.

	Credits	Grade	Grade points per class
English 101	5	B -	5 cr. X 2.7 = 13.5 grade points
Math 146	5	C +	5 cr. X 2.3 = 11.5 grade points
Art 111	2	A -	2 cr. X 3.7 = 7.4 grade points
Interim calculations	12 total		13.5+11.5+7.4 = 32.4 total grade points
GPA calculation			32.4 grade points / 12 credits = 2.675 GPA

### **What happens if I repeat a class?**

All courses taken and all grades earned in compliance with the guidelines of this policy will appear on the student's transcript. The higher grade forgives the lower grade and replaces it in GPA computations. The lower grade will remain on the transcript but will not be used to compute the YVC cumulative GPA. Grades.

### **How does my GPA affect my financial aid eligibility?**

As part of the satisfactory progress requirements to receive financial aid, a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA. This is measured at the end of each quarter.

### **How do I raise my GPA?**

You improve your GPA when you earn more grade points above a C average than below a C average.

### **I have been placed on an Academic Plan by financial aid. What is an Academic Plan?**

An academic plan is the opportunity to receive financial aid while regaining satisfactory progress status. You must meet the terms of the plan each quarter to receive aid the following quarter until you regain full standing by meeting all the requirements of the Satisfactory Progress Policy -- GPA, pace of progression and maximum time frame.

### **In my academic plan, I am required to earn a specific number of grade points higher than a 2.0 average for the quarter. What should I do?**

You are required to raise your GPA within an academic plan to meet the financial aid requirements. Review your strengths and weaknesses and your past grades. What other demands do you need to consider – work, family, health and service commitments – in determining your course load? What are the classes you need to take? Are you more motivated and successful when you concentrate on just one class, or do you need a variety of classes to keep you engaged and productive? In addition to carefully selecting your classes, will you be more successful if you reduce the number of credits you take? After you select your potential classes, ask your advisor if you are fully prepared or are you weak in an area that should be addressed first?

By giving you the number of grade points over a 2.0 you need to earn, rather than specifying your enrollment level and GPA, the financial aid allows you to determine the appropriate course load. For example, if you need to earn 4 grade points over a 2.0, will this be easier to accomplish by earning a A in a 2 credit class; a B in a 5 credit class, or a B- in 6 credits? For example, if you need to earn 5 grade points higher than a 2.0 GPA:

1. You could earn a B in a 5 credit class (5 GPs over C) taken alone or make sure the rest of your grades are at least a C.
2. You could earn an A in 1 credit (2 GP over a C) and a B in three credits (3 GP higher than a C); then if you take more credits, earn at least a C.
3. You could earn an A in 5 credits and a D in five credits without out other classes or with the rest of your grades at least at the C level.
4. Or one of many other combinations.

You do not have to be a full-time student to receive financial aid. If you want to know how your aid will be impacted by taking fewer than 12 credits, contact the financial aid office.

For questions on the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, please refer to the full published policy available at the Financial Aid Office or downloadable from the Financial Aid Forms page at: <https://www.yvcc.edu/financial-aid/forms/>