

GPA System Introduction at Osaka University

Q&A

Osaka University

September, 2013

Q1. What is a grade point average (GPA) system?

The GPA system is a common method used in European and American universities to evaluate academic grades. Students receive grade evaluations after course completion and it is converted into Grade Points (GP) with the student’s overall average computed as a single value.

Q2. What is a Grade Point (GP)?

Each GP is assigned the corresponding grade evaluation.

Grade Evaluation	S (90% and above)	A (80% ~ 89%)	B (70% ~ 79%)	C (60% ~ 69%)	F (Below 60%)
GP	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0

Q3. What is the purpose of introducing the GPA system?

Conversion of the student’s academic performance and achievements into a GPA value can be conducive to increasing students’ motivation to learn, contribute to appropriate learning guidance and help further the internationalization of education.

Q4. How will the GPA system be used?

The GPA can be utilized by course instructors to provide scholastic guidance as well as students themselves to help create their course plan. The GPA will not be used to screen scholarship or study abroad candidates.

Q5. To whom does this apply? When will it come into effect?

This system will apply to first-year undergraduate students (excluding credited and special auditors) matriculated from the 2014 academic year and thereafter. The system will also apply to second-year transfer students from 2015 and third-year transfer students from 2016. This system will apply to the entire university.

Q6. What courses apply to the GPA calculation?

Within general education subjects, major subjects, communication design subjects, and global collaboration subjects, courses evaluated by examination performance based on the Osaka University Undergraduate Regulations Article 10 Chapter 7 Section 2 and which are required for graduation as determined by each school, faculty and/or department. However, courses corresponding to any of the following conditions will be excluded:

- (1) Courses taken at other universities (including junior colleges) or in universities abroad (including junior colleges), while enrolled as a student at Osaka

University.

- (2) Courses taken at other universities (including junior colleges) or in universities abroad (including junior colleges) prior to enrollment at Osaka University (including courses taken as a credited auditor).
- (3) Studies undertaken at non-university educational facilities (non-degree courses at junior or technical colleges, or any other studies recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) that count towards credit and are considered registered courses at Osaka University.
- (4) According to the Osaka University Undergraduate Regulations, Articles 14-15 concerning transfer students, courses that are recognized as having equivalent or greater scholastic value to courses offered at Osaka University.
- (5) In addition to those listed above, any courses recognized by undergraduate departments or programs. (Appendix)

Q7. What kinds of GPA are there, and how are they calculated?

‘Semester GPA’ is calculated for the current semester and ‘Cumulative GPA’ is calculated for the entire duration of enrollment in the University. Both Semester GPA and Cumulative GPA are calculated as follows: (The GPA will be rounded off to two decimal places.)

Semester GPA calculation formula

$$\text{Semester GPA} = \frac{\text{Sum of (For each course: grade points earned} \times \text{credits earned) per semester}}{\text{Total credits earned per semester}}$$

Cumulative GPA calculation formula

$$\text{Cumulative GPA} = \frac{\text{Sum of (For each course: grade points earned} \times \text{credits earned) for enrollment duration}}{\text{Total credits earned for enrollment duration}}$$

Q8. What is a ‘withdrawal’?

Under the GPA system, if you find that the content of a course differs from what you expected or your knowledge is insufficient to complete the course, you will be allowed to withdraw from the course.

Even after withdrawal from a course, you may re-register for the same course in the following semester if desired.

Courses from which you withdraw will be marked with a “W” in the student affairs information system (KOAN), and will not be counted towards your GPA.

Q9. Can I withdraw from compulsory subjects?

Yes, you are permitted to withdraw from compulsory subjects.

Q10. How do I apply for a withdrawal?

You can apply for course withdrawal through the student affairs information system (KOAN). Applications for withdrawal will be accepted at the end of May for the spring semester, and at the beginning of November for the fall semester.

The withdrawal application period will be one week in each semester. In general, withdrawal applications outside the application period will not be accepted. However, if you are unable to apply for course withdrawal within the specified application period due to unexpected circumstances such as sickness, your application may be accepted. In such circumstances, decisions will be based on a review pursuant to application.

Q11. What happens when a temporary leave of absence is taken after registration?

If a student applies for a temporary leave of absence from school after the registration period has ended, all classes for that semester will be treated as withdrawals.

Q12. How will non-attendance of registered classes be handled?

Without officially withdrawing from a registered course, lack of attendance and non-participation in exams for registered courses will result in a grade F (GP = 0.0) which will be counted towards your GPA.

Q13. How will grade invalidation due to academic misconduct be handled?

Grade invalidation due to academic misconduct will be replaced with a grade F (GP = 0.0), and will be counted towards the GPA.

If grades are found to be invalid after Semester GPA calculations have been conducted, both the Semester GPA and Cumulative GPA will be recalculated and amended to reflect such changes.

Q14. When is the GPA calculated?

GPA will be calculated based on the official grades submitted immediately prior to the public posting of grades by each respective school/faculty.

Q15. How will grades for intensive courses conducted near the end of the semester be handled?

Due to grade submission deadlines, some grades may not be counted in the Semester GPA calculations. These grades, however, will be reflected in the subsequent Cumulative GPA.

Q16. What happens to a grade F if the course is repeated and passed?

Even if a course is repeated and passed, the previous F grade will still be counted toward the GPA.

Q17. How can I check my GPA?

Your Semester GPA and Cumulative GPA can be verified in the student affairs information system (KOAN), within the “Grades” section under “Check Credit Record”.

Q18. Will the GPA be recorded on my transcript?

Your GPA will not be recorded on your transcript.