



## Why GPA?

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a special and truly distinctive institution. But while UWI continues to maintain its distinctiveness, the University also wants its students and graduates to be able to link easily with programmes in other institutions around the world. Many students participate in study abroad programmes and UWI alumni pursue graduate studies in North America, where GPA systems are firmly established.

The use of the GPA system as a mechanism for calculating honours in our current honours system ensures that the performance of UWI students is transparent to British and Commonwealth Universities that use a similar honours system.

GPA also ensures that a student's performance is easily understood by the many other institutions around the world that rely on GPA in the assessment of the performance of students prior to, and during their course of studies.

## The Advantages of GPA

**Tracks Your Performance:** GPA allows you to keep track of your performance throughout your degree programme. This will enable your Faculty to identify your academic needs and provide advice and guidance. As soon as your final semester grades are submitted by your Faculty, your GPA is calculated by the Student Administrative System on your Campus and is recorded by the Student Records Office. You can then go online to get your GPA for the semester.

**Achieves Equity:** GPA, like our previous system, allows for you to be treated fairly and equitably and gives transparency to the process of determining the class of the degree you will receive.

**Rewards Multi-Skills:** All good grading systems recognise and reward multi-skilled students. Under GPA, your performance in a given set of courses is the variable that is used to summarise your overall performance. GPA rewards you for maintaining high average levels of performance across a range of courses.



## The Grade Point Average System

GPA is a four-point system whereby four (4) passing grades, namely A, B, C and D are awarded quality points as follows:

A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1

The failing grade of F is always awarded zero (0) quality points.

In the determination of GPA, the defined grades with corresponding quality points are as follows:

A+	=	4.3	C+	=	2.3
A	=	4.0	C	=	2.0
A-	=	3.7	C-	=	1.7
B+	=	3.3	D+	=	1.3
B	=	3.0	D	=	1.0
B-	=	2.7	F	=	0.0

## Degree Classification

First degrees awarded by the University with the exception of the B.Sc (Engineering), LL.B (Law), MB BS, (Medicine) DDS (Dental Surgery), and DVM (Veterinary Medicine) are classified as follows:

First Class Honours	GPA 3.60 and Above
Upper Second Class Honours	GPA 3.00 – 3.59
Lower Second Class Honours	GPA 2.00 – 2.99
Pass	GPA 1.00 – 1.99

First Degrees awarded by the University for the Bachelor of Science (Engineering) are classified as follows:

First Class Honours	GPA 3.60 and Above
Upper Second Class Honours	GPA 3.00 – 3.59
Lower Second Class Honours	GPA 2.00 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	GPA 1.50 – 1.99
Pass	GPA 1.00 – 1.49

First Degrees awarded by the University for the Bachelor of Law (LL.B) are classified as follows:

First Class Honours
Second Class Honours (Upper & Lower Division)
Pass

The Degrees of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (MB BS, DDS, DVM) are classified as follows:

(1) Honours with Distinction	(2) Honours	(3) Pass
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*The Faculties of Medical Sciences and Law will use GPA to classify degrees at a later date.*





## Know what these terms mean

### Credit Hours:

The numerical credit value assigned to a course. The credit values for courses as well as for projects, laboratory sessions, foreign language classes or other contact hours are determined by the Faculty Boards and are approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies.

### Credit Hours Earned:

The credits for each course that counts toward the degree requirement and for which a passing grade is obtained.

### Quality Hours:

The credits for each course that is included in the GPA calculation. Quality hours are assigned even when a grade of F is obtained in a course. Failed courses that are used in the determination of the GPA are assigned zero quality hours.

### Quality Points:

The numerical value assigned to the relevant letter grade earned.

### Grade Points:

Grade points are determined by multiplying the quality hours by the quality points for a course.

### Grade Point Average:

GPA is the average obtained by dividing the total quality points earned by the total quality hours for courses for which you registered for any stated period of time, excluding courses taken on a pass/fail basis, audited courses, courses taken for preliminary credit and courses for which the designation I (Incomplete) or IP (In Progress) is awarded.

### Weighted GPA:

Weighted GPA average is determined by applying appropriate weights for Levels I, II, and III courses to the grade points and the quality hours used in determining grade point average. (Consult your Faculty Regulations).

## ● R E M E M B E R ●

1. There are some courses (e.g. Foundation Courses) for which you must register that count towards your degree but are not used in the calculation of your GPA.
2. You must become familiar with your Faculty Regulations and be very clear about the credit requirements for your majors, minors and specializations.
3. There are several designations that may be assigned to courses. For example, the designation E (Exemption) may be assigned to course, but these designations are not used in the calculation of GPA.
4. You should be very familiar with both Faculty Regulations and GPA.
5. Where there is a conflict between Faculty Regulations and GPA Regulations, GPA Regulations shall apply.

If you have any questions, contact your Faculty Office, Student Records, or the Examinations Section.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
The Board for Undergraduate Studies



# A guide to the Grade Point Average System

# GPA

GPA takes effect in the academic year 2003/2004 and the regulations apply to those students entering that year and in subsequent years.



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