



## Woodrow Wilson College Info for Freshmen

Welcome to Woodrow Wilson! As a freshman, you might not know that this year will ultimately be related to college. Talk about GPA and credit hours are often mentioned, but in case you don't know exactly what these are, here's a brief cheat sheet.

A **Grade Point Average**, or GPA, is the sum of the work a student completes in their high school courses. The student will take courses, and their letter grade in the course will be assigned a number. Typically, As=4.0, Bs=3.0, Cs=2.0, Ds=1.0, and Fs receive 0 points. All these numbers will be averaged out to obtain the student's GPA. For example...

Course	Grade Received	Points Attained	# of Credits Course is worth	Points Attained
English I	A	4.0	1	4.0x1=4.0
Math	B	3.0	1	3.0x1=3.0
Social Studies	A	4.0	1	4.0x1=4.0
Physical Education/Elective	A	4.0	1	4.0x1=4.0
Science	B	3.0	1	3.0x1=3.0

Total Points=18

Then take the 18 total points attained, and divide it by the number of credit hours (in this example, 5). So  $18/5=3.6$ . The student will have earned a cumulative 3.6 for that semester. It's important to remember that the student's GPA will be averaged out with the following semester's GPA. So a student might make a 4.0 the first two semesters of high school, then make a cumulative 2.0 the third semester. If all credit hours are equal all three semesters, the student's GPA will drop to a 3.33. ***It is so easy for a student's GPA to drop, but so hard to raise it back up!*** Since colleges look at GPAs as part of their admission criteria, and high schools use GPA to rank their students, it's important to keep this in mind while taking classes. Harder classes (such as AP/IB) assign more points to their courses, so if a student took all AP courses one semester and made all As, they would make more than a 4.0 GPA that semester.

College might seem far away, but time flies! Most people apply to college fall of their senior year, so they use the GPA from the end of their junior year. You have 3 years to obtain the GPA of your dreams!



If you're already thinking about college, here are some tips to think about your freshman year:

- Start thinking about/actually taking more challenging courses if you feel able. Since they're worth more credit points, they're more heavily favored by college admission standards.
- Start thinking about your dream career, and collect information/articles about it. Keep a file that you update. If you know someone in that career, talk to them about the pros and cons.
- Consider taking dual credit courses if you're eligible. It's a great way to earn college credit while in high school, which will save you money in the future. If you walk away from high school with 15 credit hours, that's a whole college semester you got for free!
- Get active in extracurricular activities. They look great on a resume (which you should create if you haven't already!), are a great way to meet people, and best of all, you get involved in your community.
- Talk to your high school counselor, college advisor, and parents about making a college admissions and financial aid plan. It's best to start early, so things don't pile up.

If you have any questions, come by the college room.