

Understanding Your Cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A)

What is it?: The cumulative G.P.A. is the combination of each individual semester's G.P.A. For example, to find your cumulative G.P.A. at the end of freshman year you would add your first semester G.P.A. to your second semester G.P.A. and divide it by 2. That would give you your cumulative G.P.A.

How is it used?: The cumulative G.P.A. is one of the things that colleges will look at when considering a student for admission into their schools. They use it as a guide to know how you did in general during high school. For example, to be eligible for admissions to college, they want to know that in general you earned mostly Bs and above. That means that you would have a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. or above.

It is important for you to know is that as you go through high school each semester's G.P.A. factors into the cumulative G.P.A. and has a smaller impact on it. This can be good news if you have one rough semester in your sophomore or junior year, because it won't affect your cumulative G.P.A. as strongly. On the other hand, if you had a rough semester or two during your freshman year it can be really frustrating to try and make up the difference down the road.

Remember though: nothing can cure earning low grades every semester.

Here is a chart to show you what impact each semester's individual G.P.A. has on your cumulative GPA over the course of high school.

Grade	Semester 1	Semester 2
9 th	100% impact to cumulative GPA	50% impact to cumulative GPA
10 th	33% impact to cumulative GPA	25% impact to cumulative GPA
11 th	20% impact to cumulative GPA	16% impact to cumulative GPA
12 th	14% impact to cumulative GPA	12.5% impact to cumulative GPA

So, now is the time to be prepared and work hard! Learn to find resources and support from teachers or your counselor so that your cumulative GPA shows what a great student you are.