

THAT'S NOT A 2:1

**GRADE POINT
AVERAGE (GPA)**



INTRODUCTION

UCL is part of a group of Universities who are working to pilot the introduction of a GPA system.



The University of
Nottingham



UCL



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

KING'S
College
LONDON

THE UNIVERSITY *of* **YORK**



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

WHAT IS A GPA?

A Grade Point Average (GPA) is a way of showing your overall level of achievement on your degree programme. The GPA is simply your average attainment over all the course modules you take.

- The **grade** is the measure of achievement on your course module.
- The **grade point** is the number attached to each grade.
- The **grade point average** is the mean average of your grade points.

WHY GPA?

It will be introduced alongside your honours degree classification and is a complementary overall summative judgment. There are no plans at present to lose the traditional honours degree classification.

It is thought that the GPA has greater international portability than the largely UK-centric honours degree classification.

It also allows for greater range and finer granularity, which differentiates from a high 2:1 (69%) from a 2:1 which is on the border line of a 2:2 (60%).

HOW IS THE GPA CALCULATED?

The GPA is a mean average with each course module counting equally according to its credit value, i.e. 1 credit carries equal weighting irrespective of year, subject, when taken etc. This means that, for example, in first, second or third year at level a single course module (15 credits) counts once in the calculation of the GPA, a double course module (30 credits) counts twice and so on.

The GPA is calculated to two decimal places and although a simple mean average, the maximum GPA is capped at 4.00 to ensure international comparability.

GPA GRADING SCHEME

Grade	Grade Point	Current descriptor	Boundaries
A+	4.25	Top 1 st	77 or higher
A	4.00	Good 1 st	74-76
A-	3.75	Low 1 st	70-73
B+	3.50	High 2:1	67-69
B	3.25	Mid 2:1	64-66
B-	3.00	Low 2:1	60-63
C+	2.75	High 2:2	57-59
C	2.50	Mid 2:2	54-56
C-	2.25	Low 2:2	50-53
D+	2.00	3 rd	41-49
D	1.50	Low 3 rd or Pass	40
D-	0.50	Marginal Fail	38-39
F	0.00	Fail	37 or lower

COMPARING GPA AND HONOURS DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

GPA:

- Everything counts
- Equal weighting
- Detailed final outcome
- International

Honours Degree Classification:

- Only some course modules count
- End of programme weighting
- General final outcome
- Mostly UK

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Differences in qualitative and quantitative subjects
- Extenuating circumstances
- Heavier student workload
- More contesting of grades
- Greater transparency in marking
- Employer engagement
- Student recruitment

QUESTIONS & OBSERVATIONS

LET'S DISCUSS

