

# GEMSAS Grade Point Average calculations

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The following guidelines have been developed for calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPAs) for the purposes of selection of graduate-entry applicants into Australian medical schools belonging to the GAMSAT Consortium.

The Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) will use these guidelines in the calculation of GPAs. Typically, the information needed to calculate GPAs will be retrieved from the Automated Results Transfer System (ARTS). Where it is not possible to retrieve results via ARTS, GPAs will be calculated based on official academic transcripts provided by applicants.

All GEMSAS GPAs are calculated using a 7-point grade scale.

## Key degree

Applicants' GPAs will be calculated using the most recent eligible tertiary qualification completed within the time frame required by the medical schools. This is referred to as the 'key degree'. If the applicant has completed multiple qualifications within this time frame, the most recently completed eligible qualification will be used.

### ***Eligible Qualifications:***

Only recognised qualifications can be used as a key degree.

These include:

- Degrees awarded by Australian universities;
- Degrees awarded by Australian Higher Education Providers listed on the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#) register; and
- Degrees awarded by recognised foreign universities<sup>1</sup>.

All medical schools will accept Bachelor level degrees of three or more years in duration and completed standalone Honours year qualifications for GPA calculation purposes. Some schools will also accept in-progress standalone Honours years, as well as postgraduate coursework and research qualifications. Applicants must typically have completed an initial three full time year equivalent Bachelor degree qualification or be enrolled in the final year at time of application to meet minimum entrance requirements.

It is the responsibility of applicants to check whether the medical schools to which they are applying will consider their qualifications for GPA calculations. Please refer to the individual school entries and FAQ sections in the Admissions Guide for full details of the types of qualifications that can be used to calculate a GPA for each of the medical schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Overseas university/institutions must be listed on the Australian Government's International Education Online database (formerly the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR)) or on the UK-ENIC website (formerly UK-NARIC).

### ***Accelerated degrees***

An accelerated degree (a three-year degree completed over two years) can be used to calculate a GPA. However, some schools require that it be complete at time of application, while others will use it if it will be completed within the calendar year of application.

### ***Two-year degrees***

A Bachelor of less than two years' duration degree may not be accepted as a key degree by all medical schools. Please note that this refers to degrees where the duration of the program is only two years. Usually these programs are graduate entry or conversion degrees that require students have a specific prior qualification or professional background. It does not refer to three-year Bachelor degrees where applicants have exemptions from prior study.

### ***Incomplete recent study***

If additional study has been undertaken since the completion of the key degree, but the program will not be completed in the year of application, it will not be included in the GPA calculation, unless the medical school will consider incomplete qualifications (see the UWA entry in the Admissions Guide).

### ***Degrees with credit from Associate degree / TAFE study***

Where Bachelor degrees have received credit from a lower AQF level qualification (such as an Associate Degree or Diploma), the amount of credit received may affect whether medical schools will accept it as a key degree. Where a Bachelor degree with credit from a lower level qualification can be used as a key degree, the results from the earlier qualification typically will not be used to calculate the GPA, even where grades are available.

## **Calculation of the GPA**

The GPA is calculated from the last three 'GPA years' of the key degree, where a 'GPA year' is the equivalent of one year of full-time study. This may not necessarily be the same as a calendar year or all the units at one level of study. For example, if a full-time study load at a university is 8 subjects, with each subject worth 6 credit points, a 'GPA year' will be 48 credit points worth of subjects. Even if the 48 credits are completed over two or more calendar years, it is still equivalent to one year of full-time study.

The three full-time equivalent years of study used to calculate the GPA are referred to as Final Year, Final Minus-1 Year, and Final Minus-2 Year, where the Final Year is the most recent. The most recently completed subjects will be allocated to Final Year until Final Year is equivalent to a year of full-time study. Subjects will then be allocated to Final-1 Year and then to Final-2 Year. Should there be a choice between two or more subjects of equivalent credit points which were studied concurrently, the subjects will be distributed to best advantage applicants applying to medical schools that use a weighted GPA.

GPA's are usually calculated for each 'GPA year' of the key degree using the percentage marks for each subject assigned to that 'GPA year'. Where percentage marks are not available, grades will be converted; the tables in Appendix 1 provide conversions from university grades and percentage marks to GPA scores.

Where a key degree contains less than 3 years of study, the shortfall will be made up using results from the next most recent eligible qualification. For example, if the key degree is a one-year Honours year, the remaining 2 years will be taken from the preceding Bachelor degree. Where a key degree contains more than 3 years of study, only the most recent 3 years will be used towards the GPA.

### ***Current study***

For applicants completing the final year of their key degree at the time of application, results up to and including Semester 1 of the current year will be used to calculate a provisional GPA, provided that an applicant has sufficient results available. If the available results are under the threshold required by the medical school, the Final Year GPA will be left blank and the applicant's provisional overall GPA will be derived only from Final -1 and Final -2 years. For more details regarding minimum full-time equivalent load for current study please refer to the Admissions Guide.

Where a provisional GPA is calculated based only on Semester 1 results, any offers of a place will be provisional upon the applicant's final results for Semester 2 reaching the standard required by the offering school.

### ***2020 study***

The GEMSAS medical schools have considered options for changing GPA methodology, recognising the impact of COVID-19 on 2020 study. As a result a number of schools have made changes, deciding whether or not to include 2020 results in GPA calculations. Please refer to the Admissions Guide and see the school entry section for changes/updates.

## **Weighted Grade Point Average**

Some medical schools will calculate a weighted GPA that puts greater emphasis on more recent study. Where schools use a weighted GPA, GPA years are typically weighted as follows:

Final Year results will be weighted by a factor of 3

Final-1 Year results will be weighted by a factor of 2

Final-2 Year results will be weighted by a factor of 1

Some medical schools may also use different weightings, and some may use different weightings where less than 3 years of study are used, or where certain postgraduate qualifications are used to calculate a GPA. See the Admissions guide for more information.

## **Bonus points for additional study**

Bonus points for additional study (such as a PhD) will not be included in the base GPA. However, they will be added by GEMSAS as appropriate when applicants apply to medical schools that include bonuses in their selection processes. For more details please refer to individual school entries in the Admissions Guide.

## **Credits (advanced standing) and exchange subjects**

Many applicants receive credit from prior study or from overseas exchange subjects in their key degree. GPA calculations may include these subjects if results are available, provided they are awarded by a recognised institution and at the same qualification level. The following methods will apply:

### ***Specified credit from prior study:***

If results for specified credit are shown, they will be included in GPA calculations. However, specified credit, as per the definition, requires the key degree record to show the subject codes, names, weightings and results. **Most results retrieved through ARTS do not show this information.** If prior credit does not meet this definition, it is treated as unspecified credit (see below). Please note that we do not use hard copy

transcripts where results are available via ARTS, and we will not accept transcripts provided as clarification regarding specified credit not shown in ARTS.

### ***Unspecified credit from prior study***

Where unspecified credit is received, results are usually not provided, **Instead**, the most recent prior study up to the full time equivalent credited will be used towards the GPA calculation. A standalone Honours or higher qualification cannot be credited to a Bachelor degree. We would use your older Bachelor degree to make up the credit.

### ***Unspecified credit from TAFE qualifications / ineligible prior study***

In some cases, unspecified credit may be received, but the prior study cannot be used to calculate a GPA. This may happen when the study is not at the same AQF study level (e.g. where Diploma study is credited towards a Bachelor degree), or where the study was not completed at a recognised institution.

- If there is no prior study suitable to use and unspecified credits are equal to or less than 37.5% of credit points in any one year, only the other subjects will count towards the GPA. For example, if there are eight 12.5-credit point subjects making one year of study (100 points) and 37.5 credit points are unspecified credit for which there is no suitable prior study, a GPA will be calculated using the remaining 62.5 credit points for which results are provided.
- If unspecified credit for which there is no suitable prior study comprises more than 37.5% of credit points in any one year, a GPA will be calculated, and the application will be referred to each of the schools the applicant has listed as a preference for calculation of the GPA.

### ***Exchange subjects***

If overseas exchange subjects are graded the results will be included in GPA calculations (except for UWA - please refer to their section in the Admissions Guide for further details). If an overseas grading system is used, the grades will be converted, taking the minimum and maximum marks into consideration. Where overseas exchange results are graded on a pass/fail basis, they will be incorporated into the GPA as ungraded subjects. If ungraded passes for exchange subjects comprise more than 37.5% of credit points in any one year, a GPA will be calculated, and the application will be referred to each of the schools the applicant has listed as a preference for a calculation of the GPA.

### **Combined degrees**

If a combined degree has been completed, the last three years of the combined degree will be used to calculate the GPA. Please note that there are some institution-specific rules for combined undergraduate/postgraduate degrees.

If the applicant has transferred from a combined degree to a single degree, the GPA will be calculated on the single degree provided the academic results **clearly show** which subjects are deemed to make up the single degree. Where this information is missing or not specified, all subjects in the final three years will be included towards the GPA calculation.

Please refer to the individual school entries and FAQ sections in the Admissions Guide as exceptions may apply.

## Undeclared study

Applicants are required to declare **all** their prior study when they make their application to GEMSAS, regardless if it will be used for GPA purposes. Results not declared by an applicant but identified through ARTS will be used for the calculation of the GPA (where applicable) for the year in which they were studied.

**For the purpose of university admission, the withholding of information and the submission of incorrect or misleading information are deemed fraudulent. Action taken in such cases may include cancellation of an application for admission, withdrawal of an offer of admission, or cancellation of an enrolment.**

## Overseas study

Where an applicant has completed their key degree outside of Australia, and results are available, they will be used to calculate a GPA. The method of calculation is the same as described above (i.e. working backwards from the most recent results, grades will be allocated to Final, Final -1, and Final -2 GPA years); however, overseas results will first be converted to the Australian 7-point GPA scale. For more details regarding GPA calculations using overseas study please refer to the GEMSAS Overseas Qualification Assessments process on the GEMSAS website.

## Failed subjects

Results for failed subjects will be included for calculation of the GPA for the year in which they were studied. Failed subjects will only be included in a GPA calculation if they were undertaken within the key degree. Failed subjects from prior study that was then credited to the key degree could not have contributed credit, and therefore will not be included in the GPA (except for UQ - please refer to their section in the Admissions Guide for further details.).

## Repeated subjects

If a subject in the key degree has been failed and repeated, both sets of results will be included in the GPA calculation (provided they fall within the final three years of study). If the same subject (i.e. identical subject code) has been taken and passed multiple times within the three GPA years, the first attempt will be used towards the GPA calculation and all subsequent attempts disregarded.

## Conceded passes

Where a conceded pass has been granted, a score of 49% (grade of 3.5) will be attributed to that subject for the purpose of calculating a GPA.

## Ungraded subjects

A key degree may contain subjects that are assessed on a pass/fail basis, rather than being awarded grades. This may also apply to 2020 subjects that have disregarded grades because of COVID-19 disruptions. Typically, where these subjects have been passed, they will be included in the GPA year (i.e. their credits will count towards the year of study), but they will not affect the overall GPA. However, where these subjects comprise more than 37.5% of the GPA year, the GPA will be referred to the medical school for them to calculate a GPA.

Where an ungraded subject receives a fail grade, it will be treated as a fail in a GPA calculation.

If a degree is made up of entirely ungraded passes, the GPA will be referred to each individual medical school for them to consider.

## Appendix 1: Grading System Conversion Table

A	Subject GPA	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
100	7							
99	7							
98	7							
97	7							
96	7							
95	7							
94	7	HD/7	HD	HD	HD/>=7/A	H1	>=8	A+/A-
93	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
92	7							
91	7							
90	7							
89	7							
88	7							
87	7							
86	7							
85	7							
84	7							
83	7							
82	7							
81	7							
80	7	D/6	D	D				
79	6.5	6.75	6.75	6.75				
78	6.5							
77	6.5					H2A		B+
76	6.5					6.5		6.5
75	6.5				D/DI/6/B/DN		7	
74	6				6.25		6.25	
73	6							
72	6					H2B		B
71	6					6		6
70	6							
69	5.5	CR/5	CR	C				
68	5.5	5.75	5.75	5.5				
67	5.5					H3		B-
66	5.5					5.5		5.5
65	5.5				CR/5/C		6	
64	5				5.25		5.25	
63	5							
62	5							C+
61	5							5
60	5							
59	4.5	P/4	Pass Div 1			P		
58	4.5	4.5	4.75			4.5		
57	4.5			P	P/PA/4/D		5	C
56	4.5			4.25	4.25		4.25	4.5
55	4.5							
54	4							
53	4							
52	4		Pass Div II					C-
51	4		4					4
50	4							
49	0							
48	0							
47	0	UP/CQ/PC/3		PC	CP/NC/PC/C*/NI		PC	D*
46	0	3.5		3.5	3.5		3.5	3.5
45	0							
<44	0	F/N/<3	F/N	F	F/2/1/N/N2/3	F/N	F	E
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Conceded pass, faculty pass, etc. – GPA grade of 3.5. Otherwise, GPA of zero

# If you have a percentage mark where the minimum for an unrestricted pass grade is 50 per cent, use column A to read off the corresponding GPA grade.

All supplementary passes will be awarded a GPA value of 4.

### Conversion Table Code (only where no subject results are available)

Column	
A	Use Column A if you have an official record of your mark (percentage)
B	ACU, Adelaide, Bond, Canberra, Central Queensland, Charles Sturt, Flinders, Griffith, James Cook, Macquarie, Newcastle, New England, NSW, Queensland, QUT, Southern Cross, Southern Queensland, Sunshine Coast, Swinburne Pre-2014, Sydney, UTS, Western Sydney, Wollongong, Charles Darwin 2013 onwards
C	South Australia
D	Charles Darwin Pre 2013
E	ANU, Federation Uni, Deakin, Edith Cowan, La Trobe, Monash, Murdoch, Notre Dame, RMIT, Swinburne 2014 onwards, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia
F	Melbourne
G	Curtin
H	New Zealand universities and Polytechnics

### Honours degree award

#### Honours degree

Award	GPA Grade
First	7.0
2A	6.0
2B	5.0
Third	4.0