

Module F: Lesson Plan 18: Career and Education Planning

Topic: Calculating Your GPA

Standard(s): Students will:

- 7.0 Develop a career and education plan that includes short and long-term goals, high school program of study, and postsecondary/career goals.

Length: One class period

Objective: Students will understand how to calculate grade point average (GPA).

Materials:

- Handout: *Calculating Your GPA*

Description of Activity:

1. Explain to students what the acronym “GPA” stands for.
2. Explain how GPAs are averaged each semester or grading period.
3. Give each student a copy of the handout, *Calculating Your GPA*.
4. Ask students to experiment with grades by doing the following:
 - a. Review the sample to see how GPA is calculated.
 - b. Enter all “A’s” and then one “F” for one semester on the chart provided. What impact does that one “F” have on that semester?
5. Next ask students to add their courses and grades in the last table and calculate their GPA for the last grading period.

Wrap Up:

- Stress that a high GPA is helpful for both admissions to colleges and for getting scholarships.
- Emphasize that GPAs constantly change as grades improve or slide.
- Remind students that colleges will look at their GPA for each semester of high school, 9th – 12th grades.
- Some postsecondary programs will require higher GPAs for admission than others due to demand and other factors. Suggest students research admissions requirements for several colleges relating to their career goals to get an idea where their GPA may need to be when it’s time for them to apply.

Evaluation:

- Students will be able to demonstrate how to calculate a GPA.

Calculating Your GPA

1. Review this **SAMPLE** to see how the GPA was calculated.

GPA Calculator				
Course Name	Grade Earned	Credits Earned	Grade Points	
English I	A	1	4	A=4.0
Spanish I	B	1	3	B=3.0
Algebra I	C	1	2	C=2.0
US History	A	1	4	D=1.0
Biology I	A	1	4	3.4 GPA

The sum of grades X points = GPA

1. First, add the credits earned (5).
2. Next, add all the grade points (17).
3. Divide the total number of grade points by credits earned ($17 \div 5 = 3 \frac{2}{5}$ or 3.4) The GPA is 3.4.

2. Enter all “A’s” and then one “F” for one semester on the table below. What impact does that one “F” have on that semester?

GPA Calculator				
Course Name	Grade Earned	Credits Earned	Grade Points	
English I				A=4.0
Spanish I				B=3.0
Algebra I				C=2.0
US History				D=1.0
Biology I				_____ GPA

3. Write in your courses and grades from the last grading period. Calculate your GPA in the table below.

GPA Calculator				
Course Name	Grade Earned	Credits Earned	Grade Points	
				A=4.0
				B=3.0
				C=2.0
				D=1.0
				_____ GPA