



GPA Calculation Rules and Policies

In order to be eligible as a Carson Scholarship recipient or to receive Carson Scholar Recognition, students must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 or above on a 4.0 scale in the combined academic subjects: English/Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Languages.

Applicants must submit an official report card for the **current school year**. It is likely that only a 1st or 2nd quarter report card is available by our deadline – that is completely acceptable. Do not submit a report card from a previous school year. Do not submit a transcript. Report cards should clearly state the student and school name.

Due to the fact that schools calculate and report grades differently, the Carson Scholars Fund has created the following conversion chart for you to use in calculating the student's GPA.

1	2	3
A = 4.0	E (Excellent) = 4.0	90 - 100 = 4.0
B = 3.0	G (Good) = 3.0	80 - 89 = 3.0
C = 2.0	S (Satisfactory) = 2.0	70 - 79 = 2.0
D = 1.0	P (Poor) = 1.0	60 - 69 = 1.0
F = 0	U (Unsatisfactory) = 0	Below 60 = 0

Individual grades should be converted first, and then the GPA is calculated based on the converted grades. (Do *not* find an average and then convert.) Here is a sample GPA calculation:

English: 95

Math: 89

Biology: 93

History: 90

Music: 99

English = 95 = 4.0

Math = 89 = 3.0

Biology = 93 = 4.0

History = 90 = 4.0

Music = non-academic subject = do not use in calculation

4.0

3.0

4.0

+4.0

=15

15 / 4 = 3.75

Policy for Weighting Courses – High School Students:

High school grades in courses listed on the report card as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) are weighted by one point. High school grades in courses listed as Gifted and Talented or Honors are weighted by a half point in the GPA calculation. If a high school student is participating in a dual enrollment course at a local college or university, those college courses are weighted by one point. These weighted grades are meant to help us accurately calculate GPAs, taking into account the difficulty of the curriculum.

To determine the correct conversion for a weighted class, please refer to the Weight Conversion Table below.

High School Weight Conversion Table

AP, IB or Dual Enrollment	High School Honors, Pre-IB or Gifted and Talented
4.0 = 5.0	4.0 = 4.5
3.0 = 4.0	3.0 = 3.5
2.0 = 3.0	2.0 = 2.5
1.0 = 2.0	1.0 = 1.5
0 = 1.0	0 = .5

Report cards must clearly reflect that a course is AP, IB, AICE, Honors, or Gifted and Talented in order to be given the weight. In order to be given weight for dual enrollment, the report card must clearly indicate the college or university where the student is enrolled. Here is a sample high school GPA calculation with weighted courses:

AP English: 83

Math: 89

Honors Biology: 93

Pre-AP History: 90

Pre-IB Foreign Language: 92

AP English = $83 = 3.0 + 1.0 = 4.0$

Math = $89 = 3.0$

Honors Biology = $93 = 4.0 + .5 = 4.5$

Pre-AP** History = $90 = 4.0$

Pre-IB* Foreign Language = $92 = 4.0 + .5 = 4.5$

4.0

3.0

4.5

4.0

+4.5

= 20

20/ 5 = 4.0

** "Pre-AP" is not a term that we recognize as being weighted

* "Pre-IB" is weighted as High School Honors

Policy for Weighting Courses – Elementary and Middle School Students:

Elementary and Middle School applicants that have taken a course designated by the school as Honors, Advanced, or Gifted and Talented receive a weighted grade in order to accurately determine the overall GPA. The individual course grade for an Honors, Advanced, or Gifted and Talented course will be given the weight of 0.5 bonus point to reflect the challenging curriculum.

Report cards must clearly reflect that a course is Advanced, Honors, or Gifted and Talented in order to be given the weight.

To determine the correct conversion for a weighted class, please refer to the Weight Conversion Table below.

Elementary/Middle School Weight Conversion Table

Elementary/Middle Advanced, Honors, or Gifted and Talented
4.0 = 4.5
3.0 = 3.5
2.0 = 2.5
1.0 = 1.5
0 = .5

Report cards must clearly reflect that a course is Advanced, Honors, or Gifted and Talented in order to be given the weight. Here is a sample elementary/middle school GPA calculation with weighted courses:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Advanced English: } 83 \\ \text{Math: } 89 \\ \text{Honors Biology: } 93 \\ \text{Gifted and Talented History: } 90 \\ \\ \text{Advanced English} = 83 = 3.0 + .5 = 3.5 \\ \text{Math} = 89 = 3.0 \\ \text{Honors Biology} = 93 = 4.0 + .5 = 4.5 \\ \text{Gifted and Talented History} = 90 = 4.0 + .5 = 4.5 \\ \\ \begin{array}{r} 3.5 \\ 3.0 \\ 4.5 \\ +4.5 \\ \hline = 15.5 \end{array} \\ \\ 15.5 / 4 = 3.875 \end{array}$$

Elementary School English/Reading/Language Arts Policy

Many elementary schools give multiple grades for English/Reading/Language Arts. In order to accurately and fairly calculate GPAs, the Carson Scholars Fund will average multiple English/Reading/Language arts grades and use that one averaged grade when calculating the GPA.

Elementary School Standards Based Reporting Policy

Many elementary schools are using standards based reporting. If a student is “proficient” or “meeting the standards” in more than half of the academic standards on their report card, they would be eligible for our scholarship program. Academic standards would include those within the subjects of English/Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Languages.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I only have grades for the first quarter of this school year. What report card should I submit?

You should submit your first quarter grades. We calculate GPAs based on what is available at the time of our application deadline. Since this varies from school to school, please submit the most recent grades you have. Do NOT submit a prior year report card or a transcript.

2. I do not have any grades yet for this school year. What should I do?

If you do not yet have any grades for this school year, a school official (teacher, counselor, or administrator) must estimate your grades based on your performance this school year up to the time of our application deadline. This estimate should be submitted with the rest of the application packet, written on school letterhead, and signed by the school official. You cannot submit a report card after our deadline.

3. My school uses an alternative grading system (one that is not covered by the GPA conversion chart), or does not calculate GPAs.

Our scholarship program is based on students meeting a minimum GPA requirement. For this reason, to be eligible, you must at least have an estimated GPA. If your school uses an alternative grading system, or does not normally calculate GPAs, a school official (teacher, counselor, or administrator) must estimate your GPA on a 4.0 scale based on your performance this school year up to the time of our application deadline. This estimate should be submitted with the rest of the application packet, written on school letterhead, and signed by the school official.

Standards-Based Grading to 4.0 Scale (General Guide)

SBG Level	Description	Traditional Grade	4.0 Scale Equivalent
4 – Exceeds Standard	Demonstrates advanced understanding	A+	4.0
3 – Meets Standard	Proficient understanding	A / B	3.0 – 3.7
2 – Approaching	Partial understanding	C	2.0 – 2.7
1 – Below Standard	Minimal understanding	D / F	0.0 – 1.0
0 – No Evidence	No demonstration of understanding	F	0.0

4. *My school categorizes course levels in a way that is not covered by your Weight Conversion Chart. Is my GPA still weighted?*

No. In order to be fair to our applicants from across the country, we need to abide by standardized language in determining which courses can be weighted. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we cannot accept alternative classifications of course levels; the time required to research these classifications is beyond our capacity.

5. *How do I know which of my elective courses count toward my GPA?*

In general, assume that your elective courses do not count. Exceptions are made when elective courses in a subject area take the place of a more traditional course in a student's schedule, i.e. when a student is taking a "British Literature" course and does not have a standard "English" course. Elective courses that *never* count include religion, art, music, and physical education. If you are unsure if your elective course will count, and this will make a difference in whether or not you meet the 3.75 minimum GPA, please send an email to richards@carsonscholars.org. In addition to explaining the course in question, the email should include a list of all of your course names as they appear on your report card.

6. *I still have a question.*

If you still have a question, please contact Lacey Richards, Scholarship Director, at 410.828.1005 or richards@carsonscholars.org.