



GPA Evaluation and P/NP Policy

How are my GPAs calculated?

OptomCAS will categorize all of your coursework and calculate your various GPAs. They are the final arbiter of all coursework classifications. For more information on which categories coursework falls into, please visit OptomCAS' Frequently Asked Questions at www.optomcas.org.

The following results are not counted in the GPA calculated by OptomCAS:

- Withdrawn courses
- Pass/fail courses
- Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate courses

Graduate level coursework grades are factored into the GPAs at the same weight as all other grades. All grades granted at the college or university level are factored into the GPA equally.

Pluses and minuses are calculated into GPAs with the following grade points:

- is worth 3.7 grade points
- B+ is worth 3.3 grade points
- is worth 2.7 grade points
- C+ is worth 2.3 grades points
- is worth 1.7 grade points

For repeated courses, OptomCAS will take the most recent grade received in a repeated course whether it is higher or lower than the first time it was taken.

How does SCCO evaluate my GPAs?

SCCO uses the GPAs from OptomCAS to evaluate your GPA in two ways:

- Overall GPA: is made up of all grades for courses given at the college or university level. Any grades received at either the college or university level are compiled to compute the overall GPA.
- BCP GPA: is made up of all grades for courses taken in the areas of biology, chemistry and physics.

The admissions cycle begins on July 1st of each year. At the outset of the season, the Admissions Policy Committee **establishes minimums** for the overall GPA, and BCP GPA that would be required in order for an applicant to clear the academic round and advance to the interview round.

For more information about the two qualifying “rounds” of the admissions process, visit our Blog at www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs and download the FAQs entitled “The Academics—The First Qualifying Round” and “The Interview—The Second Qualifying Round.”

It is expected that the initial minimum academic criteria established will act as a fixed threshold for the entire season.

Computing Your GPA from Transcripts:

GPA is calculated by taking the number of quality points (grade points) earned divided by the total number of credits taken. All pluses and minuses are already factored into this calculation. Customarily, a transcript will tabulate the GPA for a student’s term. When combining quarter grades with semester grades, it is first necessary to convert the quarter grades to semester units and for accuracy, and must be done course by course. Use this table for conversion:

Quarter Units =	Semester Units
1	1
2-3	2
4-5	3
6	4

Computing Your GPA from your OptomCAS Application:

Go to the section of your OptomCAS application that shows the calculations of the various GPAs. If you are using a printed version of the application, it is on Page 4.

Using the “GPA by Course Type” section:

- BCP is calculated by OptomCAS
- Overall GPA is calculated by OptomCAS
- Pre-requisite GPA:
 - You will be computing a GPA based on all math, English, psychology and science grades. To do this, you will be subtracting out the values under “Other General” to get the net “QP” and the net “Graded Hrs.”
 - To get the net “Graded Hrs” value, subtract the “Other General” from the “Total” in the “Graded Hrs Column.”
 - To get the net “QP” value, subtract the “Other General” from the “Total” in the “QP” column.
 - Pre-requisite GPA = net QP/net Graded Hrs

Can I take courses on a pass/no pass basis?

It is acceptable to take a pre-requisite course on a pass/no pass grading criteria; however, since it is required that any pre-requisite course be completed with a grade of C- or better, you will need a letter from your professor stating that you passed the course with a grade of C- or better. This must be a hardcopy, on institutional letterhead and be signed by the professor. Have the letter mailed to:

Marshall B. Ketchum University
Attn: Office of Admissions
2575 Yorba Linda Blvd
Fullerton, CA 92831

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