



Canadian Semester Units and GPA Calculation:

Can you explain semester and quarter units for the Canadian student?

College courses are assigned a value in what are called “credits” or “units.” The number of units assigned to a course corresponds to the number of hours that a student will attend class for that course. For example, a course that consists of three class sessions per week, and where each class session lasts 1 hour, will be assigned a value of three units.

Colleges/universities follow either a quarter-based calendar system or a semester-based calendar system. In a quarter system, the academic year is divided into four terms called quarters. Each quarter lasts approximately 12 weeks. The summer term an additional quarter in, where typically registration is optional. In a semester system, the academic year is divided into two terms called semesters. Each semester lasts 16 weeks.

In summary, and especially familiar to the Canadian student, a semester is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ year. If it meets 3 hours/week, it will be considered a semester course worth 3 semester units. If a student gets an “A” in the course (A’s are worth 4 grade points, then they will earn “12 units of A” (3 semester units x 4 grade points for the A).

How does the Canadian percentage grading system relate to the U.S. system of letter grading system?

Article to read about this topic: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_grading_in_North_America

- **Level 4** = A or excellent (exceeds provincial standard, 80–100%)
- **Level 3** = B or good (meets provincial standard, 70–79%)
- **Level 2** = C or average (approaches provincial standard, 60–69%)
- **Level 1** = D or passing (well below provincial standard, 50–59%)
- **Level R** = F or failing (remedial action necessary, 0–49%)

Since I am not a U.S. citizen, is there anything I need to know with regards to obtaining my degree in the U.S.?

Foreign students do not qualify for U.S. federal financial aid programs. As a condition for matriculation, the student must show proof of earmarked educational funds sufficient to cover the costs of a four year professional graduate school education. Proof of these funds can be in the form of a line of credit or bank records.

Because Canadian students have many additional requirements pertaining to all issues of becoming a student in the U.S., there is an entire section of MBKU’s website with information specific to Canadian applicants here:

<https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry/admissions/requirements/canadian-applicants>