

Frequently Asked Questions

Calculation of GPA for Major, Minor, Certificate

This document refers to changes made to the [Grade Point Average \(GPA\) policy](#) in the 2019 University Catalog.

1. What has changed with the major GPA calculation for majors?

Previously, all grades earned in a Kent State course that either completed or potentially could have completed a requirement in a major was used to calculate major GPA, with the exception of grades removed through the course repeat or academic forgiveness policy. For example, if a major requirement is one course from a list of five courses, and a student takes three courses from the list, all three grades were calculated in the student's major GPA.

The revised policy for major GPA will calculate only the highest grade of the course that completes the requirement. For example, if a major requirement is one course from a list of five courses, and a student takes three courses from the list, only the highest grade from the three courses will be calculated in the student's major GPA.

2. What has changed with the GPA calculation for minors?

Previously, all grades earned in a Kent State course that completed a requirement in a minor, as well as any failed grades in a course that potentially could have completed a requirement, was used to calculate minor GPA, with the exception of grades removed through the course repeat or academic forgiveness policy. For example, if a minor requirement is one course from a list of five courses, and a student takes three courses from the list and earns a B, C and F grade, the B and F grades were calculated in the student's minor GPA.

The revised policy for minor GPA will calculate only the highest grade of the course that completes the requirement. For example, if a minor requirement is one course from a list of five courses, and a student takes three courses from the list and earns a B, C and F grade, only the B is calculated in the student's minor GPA.

3. What has changed with the GPA calculation for certificates?

Previous calculation of the certificate GPA followed the same practice as for the minor GPA. The revised policy will calculate the certificate, minor and major GPA the same way.

4. When does this GPA change go into effect?

The GPA policy change goes into effect for fall semester 2019. By the first day of December 2019, degree audits for all undergraduate students will have a major, minor or certificate GPA that reflects the revised policy.

5. Why is the GPA change happening so late in the fall semester/so close to graduation?

Due to other university processes required at the end of the summer term, any update to student records in the degree audit could not happen until after the start of the fall semester. The update to the GPA in the degree audit is a manual process, not automatic, and necessitated many hours of testing and then weeks of recoding the thousands of program blocks in the audit.

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6. Will the GPA change affect current students?

Yes, the calculation of major, minor and certificate GPA will not be different per student's catalog year. All active, enrolled students, current and new, will be under the same policy starting in fall 2019.

7. Does this GPA change affect students in associate degree programs?

Yes, this GPA policy change affects all active, eligible to register students declared in an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, an undergraduate minor or an undergraduate certificate program, no matter the student's catalog year.

8. Does this GPA change affect students in an older catalog or students who returned in fall 2019 with older coursework in their degree audit?

Yes, the GPA policy change affects all undergraduate students who are active and eligible to register, no matter their catalog year or the year they completed their courses.

9. Does this GPA change affect students in graduate (master's, doctoral) degree or graduate certificate programs?

No, only undergraduate programs require a minimum major, minor or certificate GPA for graduation.

10. Does this GPA change affect students in non-degree programs, such as a guest student or a student in a teacher endorsement or English as a second language program?

No, this policy change affects only the GPA for undergraduate degree majors, minors and certificates.

11. Will this change affect student's overall GPA?

No, there is no change to the calculation of overall GPA. The overall GPA comprises all grades the student earned from all Kent State courses, excluding grades removed through the course repeat or academic forgiveness policy.

12. Does this change affect the GPA to earn Latin honors (e.g., *cum laude*)?

No, there is no change to how the GPA is calculated for students to earn Latin honors for a bachelor's degree and distinction for an associate degree. However, the policy for both awards has changed, effective for the December 2019 graduation. Please refer to the [Honors at Graduation](#) policy in University Catalog.

13. Will the GPA change override any program requirements to graduate?

No, the change in calculating major, minor and certificate GPA will not change or override a course, grade or GPA that faculty require for students to graduate with the program.

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14. Shouldn't every course in the major count toward the major GPA whether or not it is in the requirements?

The rationale behind the GPA change is to align the GPA with the curriculum that faculty have determined should comprise a major, minor or certificate. What this policy does is to make additional courses—exceeding what is required to graduate with that program—GPA neutral. The overall GPA will reflect all courses taken, even those that do not complete any requirement to graduate.

15. How does this change affect the GPA on the diploma and student transcript?

There is no change to the diploma or student transcript. The GPA for major, minor and certificate is displayed only in the student's degree audit. No GPA is displayed on a diploma. The GPA displayed on the student transcript is the student's overall GPA, which is not changing.

16. Can students choose which courses to apply to the major GPA rather than going with the requirements in the catalog or degree audit?

No, the GPA change does not alter a program's curriculum as determined by faculty and displayed in the University Catalog. The degree audit reflects the approved curriculum in the University Catalog. The student's degree audit is the official record used by Kent State to validate the student has completed all the requirements, including GPA, for graduation.

17. How will this GPA change work for students who need to take additional courses to boost their major GPA?

With the revised [course repeat policy](#), effective for fall 2019, only the highest grade of any undergraduate repeated course will count in the GPA. Therefore, students most likely will see a greater increase in their GPA by repeating a major course, rather than taking additional courses. It is important that students consult with their advisor before repeating a course or taking more courses than needed in their program.

18. What is counted in the GPA if a student takes more courses than needed for a requirement and earns the same grade in the courses?

If two or more courses have the potential to complete a requirement and they have the same grade, then the course with more credit hours will complete the requirement and count in the GPA. If they have the same grade and same credit hours, then the course taken first will count in the GPA. If they have the same grade, credit hours and term taken, then the course with the highest course number will count in the GPA.

Do you have a question that is not answered here?

Please send your question to the [Office of Curriculum Services](#), and someone will respond directly to you.