

Assessment Overview:
How to Calculate Your G.P.A.
Xavier University Premedical Students (updated 7/26/11)

Premedical students at Xavier University of Louisiana are encouraged to assess their academic progress towards gaining entry into medical, dental, etc. school at the end of every semester by completing the G.P.A. Worksheet (http://www.xula.edu/premed/WordFiles/GPA_Worksheet.pdf). By evaluating overall and science (i.e. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math or BCPM) grades, students are able to evaluate their transcripts in the same manner as admissions committees from health professions schools.

NOTE: For assessment purposes, ONLY COURSES that appear under “Institution Credit” on your Banner Web transcript should be included on the GPA Worksheet (i.e. courses taken at other colleges or universities should NOT be included on the GPA Worksheet that is used for meetings with XU’s Premed Advisers).

1. Using your Banner Web transcript, fill in the tables on the GPA Worksheet to determine your BCPM and overall GPA. (You can print off as many worksheets as you need to accommodate your grades.)
2. List Credit Hours, Grades, and Quality Points directly from your Banner Web transcript to your GPA worksheet. NOTE: Each semester or summer session should be listed SEPARATELY and in CHRONOLOGICAL order.
3. If you repeated a course, be sure to list EACH TIME the course was taken AND the grade received; indicate “Yes” on the worksheet as indicated for repeated courses. (Why? Because unlike Xavier, professional schools will include ALL grades received in a repeated course as opposed to taking only the higher of the grades).
4. DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING COURSES ON YOUR WORKSHEET: Drills, Bypassed Courses, Transfer Credits, Withdrawn Courses, Pass/Fail courses, and Comprehensive Exams. WHY? Because you cannot calculate a GPA for courses in which you do NOT earn credit hours OR actual grades!!!
5. After calculating your BCPM and overall G.P.A. for individual semesters, you should calculate your CUMULATIVE BCPM and overall G.P.A. by summing the quality points earned and credit hours for successive semesters and applying the following formula:

$$\text{G.P.A.} = \frac{\text{Total Quality Points}}{\text{Total Credit Hours}}$$

FYI, XU does NOT round G.P.A., so you shouldn’t either!!!

Factors in a semester which would tend to improve your overall evaluation/chance of gaining entry:

- Both overall and BCPM GPA ≥ 3.5
- 3 terms both overall and BCPM GPA $> 3.0^{**}$

Factors in a semester which would tend to lower your overall evaluation/chance of gaining entry:

- Fewer than 8 hours BCPM (Fall or Spring only; okay if you are “ahead”)
- Fewer than 14 hours total (Fall or Spring only; okay if you are “ahead”)
- Either overall or BCPM GPA < 3.0 ***
- A “C”, “D”, “F”, or “W” in any course
- Repeating any course in which you made a “C” or better

** Will only help if this occurs in the last three terms and prior GPA’s were < 3.0

***Especially bad if this occurs in the last term evaluated

Refer to the “Assessing Chances” document that is ONLY available in the PM Office for more information on assessing your chances of getting into professional schools.