

**Statement on
Grade Point Average
College Curriculum Council
March 2004**

With the inception of its New Curriculum in 1969, Brown University eliminated the calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPA) for its students. Students and others may sometimes make their own calculations from transcript records, but such calculations in no way reflect an official university statistic.

Instead, Brown University promotes the use of criteria for assessment and evaluation that go beyond grades and GPA. These include portfolios of a student's work, Course Performance Reports, and letters of recommendation.

Given Brown's unique grading system, it is difficult to compare a GPA calculated from a Brown transcript with ones from other schools. Brown allows students to take an unlimited number of courses S/NC (Satisfactory/No Credit) and only records full-letter grades of A, B or C (without plusses and minuses). There is no grade of D, and failing grades are not recorded.

Employers as well as graduate and professional schools seek Brown graduates for their analytical ability, independence, creativity, communication, and leadership skills, qualities not necessarily reflected in a GPA. All students and alumni who choose not to compute a GPA for resumes, applications, or wherever else it may be requested are acting consistently with Brown's educational policies.