

Descriptor Term: CLASS RANKINGS/GRADE POINT AVERAGES	Descriptor: IKC	Issued: DRAFT
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Recognizing that clear and timely communication to parents and students about the calculation of grade point averages is important, the following process will be implemented as the means for calculating the grade point averages for students in grades 9-12 and to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian of each graduating class.

Timeline for Calculations

The first official class rank and grade point average of a Tupelo High School student will be calculated upon conclusion of the sixth semester for a student who has successfully completed eleventh grade classification requirements or early graduation requirements. An additional class rank and grade point average will be calculated upon conclusion of the seventh semester for a student who has successfully completed twelfth grade classification requirements. In order to qualify for academic honors, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student (see Policy Exhibits IKA-E or IKE-E) at Tupelo High School for four consecutive semesters immediately prior to graduation.

The final class rank and grade point calculation for a student will be computed upon conclusion of the eighth semester for a student who has successfully completed all requirements for graduation. This final grade point average calculation will determine the valedictorian and salutatorian of Tupelo High School.

A student who successfully completes approved courses prior to entering the ninth grade may receive Carnegie unit credit as allowed by the Mississippi Department of Education. However, the numerical average will not be included in determining rank in class. Rank in class will be determined by credits earned in grades 9-12 and the resulting grade point average. Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of 1997-98, a student's GPA will be calculated by using the final average in each course for all courses taken in grades 9-12.

Calculation of Yearly Averages

The final average of each course for all courses taken in grades 9-12 will be used to calculate the grade point average. For courses in which one Carnegie unit is awarded for successful completion, the final average will be used to calculate the grade point average. For courses in which one-half Carnegie unit is awarded for successful completion, the final semester average will be used to calculate the grade point average. For courses in which two or more Carnegie units are awarded for successful completion, the final average will be used once to calculate the grade point average. The final average of each course for all courses taken in grades 9-12 will be averaged and carried to four decimal points. There will be no rounding of the final grade point average. No final average in excess of 100 will be recorded on a student's transcript or cumulative record. Upon application of the weighted grading policy, averages that exceed 100 will be used to calculate the official class rank.

Students with a final grade point average between 95 and 100 will graduate from Tupelo High School with special distinction. Students with a final grade point average between 89 and 94 will graduate from Tupelo High School with distinction.

Failed or Repeated Courses and Calculation of Grade Point Averages

If a student fails a course and the identical course is repeated during a second enrollment, the final average of the second enrollment will be included to calculate the grade point average if the student successfully completes the course after the second enrollment. However, the final average of the failed course as earned during the initial enrollment will also be included to calculate the student's grade point average.

If a student fails a course and the course is not retaken by the student, the final average of the course will be used to calculate the grade point average.

When a student repeats a course in which a Carnegie unit has been previously awarded for successful completion, the final average earned during the second enrollment in that course will also be included to calculate the grade point average of the student. The final average of the initial and second enrollments will be used to calculate the grade point average. A second enrollment will require prior approval.

Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian of Tupelo High School will complete the graduation requirements of the Mississippi Department of Education, the Tupelo Public School District, and the required courses for admission to the public universities in Mississippi.

In the case of a tie for either valedictorian or salutatorian, the highest numerical average for all courses taken during the current school year will determine the valedictorian. The student with the second highest numerical average for all courses taken during the current school year will be the salutatorian. The numerical averages will be carried to four decimal points as previously described in this policy. In the event a tie still exists, the student who has taken the most courses from the following list will be valedictorian:

AP Art, General Portfolio	AP European History
AP Art, History of	AP Psychology
AP Biology	AP Physics
AP Calculus	AP Statistics
AP Chemistry	AP US Government
AP English Language and Composition	AP US History
AP English Literature and Composition	AP World History
AP French	

The final method for breaking a tie for either valedictorian or salutatorian will be the total number of Carnegie units earned for all courses taken during grades 9-12.