

Grading Policy and Testing Information

We use the following grade-level equivalency chart:

GPA Conversion Chart (unweighted)		
Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA
A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	87-89%	3.3
B	83-86%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	77-79%	2.3
C	73-76%	2.0
C-	70-72%	1.7

Our students are not able to achieve below a 70%. If a student is achieving below a 70%, we remove them from the class and remediate their skills until they can meet the minimum expectations of a 70%.

Most of our classes allow for **alternatives to testing**, including portfolio making, projects, oral presentations, and other creative ways to show proficiency. To check competency, teachers use pop quizzes (not for grades, but to check understanding), informal observation, conversations, and more. We do have a few instances in which we require rote memorization. This would be certain math skills, government, and certain science concepts. We teach the student memorization concepts in order to assist them in being successful with this.

Meeting the minimum requirements of an assignment will result in the grade of “B.” Students are unable to earn an A unless they “go above and beyond.” For example, if the teacher assigns a 1.5 page essay, double spaced, 12 pt font on a specific topic, a student could earn an A by connecting that information to previous knowledge, looking at it in a new way, including additional sources above the requirements, or writing a longer essay as long as the examples and explanations add to the essay, and it is not just comprised of “filler” words. Our students take pride in the grade of “A” and use it to show that they have not only met the requirements set forth by the teacher, but that they utilized that knowledge to the best of their ability. It is difficult to receive a grade of “A” in our school. Please refer to the grading rubric for your student's class to determine how an A can be reached. Math scores are comprised of percentage scores based on quizzes or tests given by the teacher.

Testing

Students on the Step Up FTC scholarship must take the IOWA basic skills test at the end of every year, regardless if they had to take another college-entrance exam. Students also need to take one of the following tests listed below with passing grades:

College Prep Degree:

ACT Minimum composite 22*: English 18, Reading 19, Math 19 (minimum scores by subject area)

SAT Minimum Reading: 460, Math: 460, Composite 1100* (minimum scores by subject area)

PERT Minimums: Reading 104, Math 123, Writing 99 (no composite score)

GPA 2.5 on the 4.0 unweighted GPA scale*

(*The college of your choice may require a higher score)

General Degree:

ACT Minimum composite 19*: English 18, Reading 19, Math 19 (minimum scores by subject area)

SAT Minimum Reading: 460, Math: 460, Composite 1000* (minimum scores by subject area)

PERT Minimums: Reading 104, Math 123, Writing 99 (no composite score)

GPA 2.0 on the 4.0 unweighted GPA scale*

(*The college of your choice may require a higher score)

Career Degree:

ACT Minimum composite 16: English 16, Reading 16, Math 16 (minimum scores by subject area)

SAT Minimum Reading: 460, Math: 460, Composite 980* (minimum scores by subject area)

TABE test Lang: 560, Math: 557, Read: 567

GPA 2.0 on the 4.0 unweighted GPA scale

Please note that meeting these minimum testing requirements may not get your student into the college of their choice. We recommend having your student research their top five colleges before taking the test to see what they require, and setting a goal for the testing. Students who do not test well may need to attend community college before transferring to the school of their choice.