

ICAP LESSON: What's on Your Transcript?

Grade: 11

Materials: Report Cards
Transcripts
College Name Cards
Calculators

GPA Calculation

- Remind students what GPA means and how it is calculated.
 - GPA = Grade point Average
 - Step 1 - Convert letter grades to points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
 - Step 2 - Add the total points
 - Step 3 - Divide by the number of classes with grades. (Classes that are CR/NC do not count toward GPA calculation.)
 - FYI – Future ACADEMIC college classes have a weighted scale (A=5, B=4, C=3, D or F =0)
- Hand out grade reports and have each student calculate their own *term* GPA based upon their grades at quarter.
 - Remind them that if they are not happy with their GPA, they still have a full quarter to get their grades up.
 - Also note that a student's *cumulative* GPA is the weighted average of all their semesters thus far.

GPA Shuffle

- Hand out a college name card to each student in the class. Extras can be set aside.
- Have the guess the order from highest to lowest average incoming freshmen GPA and line themselves up accordingly.
- Go over the actual GPA for each school as listed below. Have the students realign themselves according to the actual statistics. Use the College info handout to help provide some more general information about some of the schools.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1- USAFA = 3.88 | 10- UNC = 3.20 |
| 2- CSM = 3.80 | 11- Johnson & Wales = 3.16 |
| 3- DU = 3.74 | 12- Western / Ft Lewis = 3.15 |
| 4- CU-Boulder = 3.60 | 13- CSU Pueblo = 3.10 |
| 5- CSU-Ft. Collins = 3.59 | 14- Mesa / Adams State = 3.0 |
| 6- Regis = 3.45 | 15- Metro = 2.8 |
| 7- CCU = 3.50 | 16- NJC / MCC / Aims = Open admissions |
| 8- UCCS = 3.36 | |
| 9- UCD = 3.30 | |

Transcripts

- Hand out transcripts and go over all the parts. All students are getting “Unofficial” copies, so please point out the differences. Note that Official Transcripts must come from the counseling office, be signed by Mrs. Zufall or Mrs. Turner, and be in a signed/sealed envelope.
 - Student Information
 - Cumulative GPA – weighted vs. unweighted
 - Class Rank – only on Official
 - Course / Mark / Weight / Credit
 - Term Summary
 - Test Scores – ACT– once taken
 - Credit Summary – only on Unofficial

- Discuss what colleges are looking for on a transcript.
 - Cumulative GPA
 - ACT Score
 - Class Rank
 - Higher Education Academic Requirements (HEAR Requirements)
 - 4 years English
 - 4 years Math
 - 3 years Science
 - 3 years Social Studies
 - 1 year Foreign Language
 - 2 additional years of academic courses (science, social studies, English, math, foreign language)
 - Upward Trend
 - Even if grades were not spectacular freshman year, showing improvement each year counts for a lot. Colleges shy away from students with a downward trend.
 - Rigor
 - Have you taken the minimum or have you taken the hardest classes offered.

Credit Checks

- Hand out the credit check sheets. Students should use their transcript to determine how close they are to obtaining the necessary credits for graduation.
 - Directions: Write in the name of each class you have taken in the appropriate row. Cross out / shade in all classes you have already completed. Each box represents 1 semester class. Any “extra” core classes fall under electives.