



Upper School Academic Revisions

1. Grade Scale. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the grade scale for students in 7-12 will be as follows:

	Grade Scale	Weighted	Honors	AP
A+	98-100	4.67	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
A	93-97	4.33	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
A-	90-92	4.00	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
B+	87-89	3.67	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
B	83-86	3.33	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
B-	80-82	3.00	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
C+	77-79	2.67	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
C	73-76	2.33	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
C-	70-72	2.00	+ .5 / sem.	+1 / sem.
D	65-69	1.00	0	0
F	64 & below	0	0	0

2. Honors classes: Honors English 9, Honors English 10, Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry, Honors Precalculus, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics, Honors Art 2-D, Honors Art 3-D, Honors Studio Art Concepts, Honors Humanities, Honors Spanish III, Honors Journalism III and IV, Honors Sociology, Honors Religion and Ethics, Honors Band (9-12)*, Honors Chorus (9-12)*
3. AP classes: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, AP Chemistry, AP U.S. History, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Spanish
4. Calculation of semester averages: Each quarter grade counts 40%, and the semester examination counts 20%. **
5. Transcripts and Cumulative GPA
 - Grades shown on report cards and on permanent transcripts are the percentage grades received in the class. No weighting or extra quality points affect the grades shown in PowerSchool, on report cards, or on transcripts.
 - When a student earns C- or better for the semester, honors classes (listed above) carry an additional ½ point each semester, and AP classes carry an additional point each semester. These extra points go into the weighted cumulative GPA. The actual grade earned in the class appears on report cards and transcripts, however.
 - Only honors classes taken in grades 9-12 earn the extra ½ point each.
 - When a student transfers into Harding and his transcript shows honors classes, the additional ½ point will be added to those classes only if the classes are offered at Harding. AP classes that are transferred will earn the extra point, even if they are not offered at Harding.
 - For students in the classes of 2014, 2015, and 2016 who took classes newly-designated as honors classes in previous years (grades 9 or higher), we will go back and add the extra points retroactively.

- We will not, however, go back into previous records and change letter grades based on the new grade scale. The new grade scale takes effect in the fall of 2013.

6. Diploma Requirements for the Class of 2014

LIBERAL ARTS DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS	COURSES	SCIENTIFIC DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS
4.....	Bible	4
4.....	English	4
3.....	Mathematics	3 or 4
2.....	Science	3 or 4
2.....	Social Studies	3
2.....	Spanish	2
1.....	Physical Fitness	1
1.....	Fine Arts	1
1.....	Pathophysiology	0
1.....	Humanities	0
3.....	Electives	2

7. Graduation Requirements Clarifications for the Class of 2014

- For the Scientific Diploma, seven credits of mathematics and science are required. Algebra II and geometry are required along with biology and chemistry. A student who takes Algebra I in the eighth grade will be required to take precalculus. A student who takes honors physical science in the eighth grade and/or biology in the ninth grade will be required to take physics.
- Social studies must include world history, American history (or AP U.S. History), and U.S. government. A student must have twenty credits, plus Bible for each year he has attended Harding Academy, in order to graduate.
- Every student is required to take both the ACT and SAT in order to graduate.
- Students may not graduate early.
- Students must apply to a 4-year college or university in order to graduate from Harding.

8. Diploma Requirements for the Classes of 2015 and beyond

SUBJECT	CREDITS	NOTES
English	4	
Bible	4	
Mathematics	4.....	Must include Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry
Science	4	Must include physical science, biology, chemistry
Social Studies	3.....	Must include world history, American history, government/economics
Language	2	Two credits of a single language
Physical Education	1.....	May substitute varsity athletics or band
Fine Art	1	Visual or performing art
Electives	1	

9. Diplomas for the Classes of 2015 and 2016

- College Preparatory
- College Preparatory With Honors (*minimum of 6 credits must come from honors or AP courses taken in grades 9-12, plus a 7-semester GPA of 3.5 or higher*)
- College Preparatory With Highest Honors (*minimum of 6 credits must come from honors or AP courses taken in grades 9-12, plus a 7-semester GPA of 4.17 or higher*)

10. Graduation Requirements Clarification for the Classes of 2015 and 2016

- Students are expected to take seven credit-earning courses each year with the exception of REACH students who take six courses a year.
- A student must earn 24 credits for graduation (20 + Bible for each year enrolled in Harding).
- A student who successfully completes Algebra I in the eighth grade will be required to take precalculus. He must take an additional mathematics course in the senior year.
- A student who successfully completes honors physical science in the eighth grade will be required to take physics. He must take an additional science course in the senior year.
- Every student must take a science course and a mathematics course in the senior year.
- Every student is required to take both the ACT and SAT in order to graduate.
- Students may not graduate early.
- Students must apply to a 4-year college or university in order to graduate from Harding.

11. Diplomas beginning with the Class of 2017

- College Preparatory
- College Preparatory with Honors (minimum of 8 credits from honors or AP courses taken in grades 9-12, plus a 7-semester weighted GPA of 4.00)
- College Preparatory with Highest Honors (minimum of 10 credits from honors or AP courses taken in grades 9-12, plus a 7-semester weighted GPA of 4.33 or higher)

12. Graduation Requirements Clarification starting with the Class of 2017

- Students are expected to take seven credit-earning courses each year with the exception of REACH students who take six courses a year.
- Students must earn 28 credits for graduation
 - Bible is required only in those years the student is enrolled in Harding.
 - The number of credits required for graduation may vary for transfer students or REACH students, but otherwise would be 28 credits.
- A student who successfully completes Algebra I in eighth grade will be required to take precalculus. He must take an additional mathematics course in the senior year.
- A student who successfully completes honors physical science in eighth grade will be required to take physics. He must take an additional science course in the senior year.
- Every student must take a science course and a mathematics course in each of the four years.
- Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, Acappella chorus and ninth grade chorus will count in the GPA.
- Every student is required to take both the ACT and SAT in order to graduate.
- Every student is required to apply to a four-year college or university in order to graduate.
- Students may not graduate early.

* Honors Band and Honors Chorus will be based on the student's selection to and performance in All West.

** Additional information about calculation of semester averages—

Examples of calculation (2 ways to calculate the same thing)

1Q 89% (B+)	1Q 89% (B+) x 40% = 35.6
1Q 89% (B+)	2Q 92% (A-) x 40% = 36.8
2Q 92% (A-)	EX 60% (F) x 20% = 12
2Q 92% (A-)	
EX 60% (F)	$\frac{35.6 + 36.8 + 12}{5} = 84.4$ (B)
$\frac{422}{5} = 84.4\%$ (B)	

Important note:

In the past, we have recorded only letter grades for the quarters and examination. Whether a student made a 69% or a 15%, he got an F on his report card. Also in the past, a student who made a C for one of the quarters could not mathematically fail for the semester, regardless of his grades for the other quarter or the examination.

While it may be easier to determine semester averages now that we will be recording numbers (percentages) and using those to arrive at a semester average, students and parents need to be aware of the danger of “blowing off” an exam. What kind of F a student makes (69% v. 40%) will have tremendous implications. A student who has a C- average going into the exam can actually fail for the semester if he makes lower than 45% on the exam. A student who has an A or B average going into the exam can end up with a C for the semester if he makes a low F on his exam.