

PRESENTING YOUR GPA

emphasize the positive

Most employers prefer to see a GPA on your resume. While your GPA may not be as strong as you want it to be -- you must find a way to present it. It is your decision as to whether you note it on your resume -- but you'll likely have to answer the question during an interview.

Whether you plan to include your GPA on your resume or not, here are a few examples of how you can present your GPA in the best light.

- **2.9/4.0 major GPA, 2.4/4.0 overall GPA**
Place greater emphasis on your major GPA.
- **GPA: 3.1/4.0 since fall 2010, 2.6/4.0 overall**
Show that you are improving your grades and doing so in higher level classes.
- **2.86/4.00 GPA**
List GPAs below 3.0 (2.7-3.0) in highly competitive majors.
- **3.2/4.0 projects/labs, 2.5/4.0 overall**
Emphasize success in hands-on application of coursework in your major.
- **2.6/4.0 GPA overall, worked 20 hrs/week while in school**
Let the employer know about additional demands on your schedule.
- **Financially responsible for 100% of college expenses.**
Let the employer know you have been working your way through school.

When you explain your GPA honestly and with confidence, the employer is likely to share your confidence in you as a candidate. Prepare ahead and make this easy for yourself. Place your GPA in the most positive context possible.

Keep in mind that each employer places different emphasis and weight on GPA. For some employers, a minimum GPA requirement is firm and non-negotiable. For others, it is preferred and may be more flexible. When you come close to meeting a GPA requirement or you have other strengths of interest to the employer, apply for the opportunity!

Your career counselor can help you present and talk about your GPA in the best light.