

Dear Admissions Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Sanil Dulal, and I am writing to provide additional context to a component of my application that may appear unusual—the grade point average (GPA) reflected in my academic records. I believe that a clear understanding of the circumstances surrounding this will provide insight into my academic abilities and readiness for the challenges of a college-level curriculum.

From a young age, academic excellence has been a source of pride for me, and I have consistently maintained an honors status by enrolling in challenging advanced courses. My dedication to my studies is exemplified by my achievement of a 3.50 GPA on a 4.00 scale during my secondary high school final examination, placing me among the top students in my class. However, I wish to draw attention to the challenges I faced during my grade 11 final examination and the subsequent impact on my GPA during grade 12. In grade 11, I encountered health issues during the final examination, particularly a very bad fever and a headache (though it was nothing serious). Since I couldn't defer the exams, I had to go and sit for them despite my condition. Although I refrain from using this as an excuse, I want to make it clear that I won't use it as an excuse for not performing better. However, it is important for me to emphasize that despite these difficulties, I continued to push myself academically. Furthermore, the global COVID-19 pandemic had a profound effect on the education system, leading to adjustments in examination protocols. We took our board examination when COVID was still spreading, so the National Examination Board decided to conduct the examination with just 40 marks instead of the usual 100. Our final examination for grade 12 was held with only 40% of the total marks. Forty percent were allocated based on the grade 11 board exam results, and the remaining 20% came from internal evaluation. Unfortunately, my college chose to give more weight to the grade 11 results, with 60% of the grade 12 final examination marks being determined by the grade 11 board examination results. This decision has adversely affected my overall GPA, especially since my GPA was already low in grade 11.

While I don't seek to justify or make excuses, I must admit that I take no pride in the grades I earned. Nevertheless, those lower grades served as invaluable teachers, imparting lessons that have shaped me into the person I am today. Though I don't have the power to go back and change my grades but I do have the power to change my future and I am doing that learning and growing from the mistakes I made. Three years have passed since I graduated from high school, and during this time, my personal growth has been significant. I've delved into a multitude of diverse subjects, becoming a self-taught programmer and nurturing a passion for cybersecurity. With confidence, I affirm that I possess the capability to navigate and excel in rigorous course curriculum.

I sincerely hope that my GPA from three years ago will not overshadow the progress I have made and the person I have become. I believe in the transformative power of education and the potential for growth that lies within every individual. Every human being deserves an opportunity for growth and redemption. I humbly request your consideration, understanding that the person I am today is far more prepared, motivated, and capable than the student reflected in my GPA from the past.

If you focus just only on my GPA, you might miss the point of who I really am. I appreciate your time and consideration and remain hopeful for the chance to contribute positively to your academic community.

Sincerely
Sanil Dulal