

Grading Analysis

JANUARY 2019

NMSU Institutional Analysis

The logo for New Mexico State University, featuring the letters 'NM' in a large, bold, serif font above the words 'STATE' and 'UNIVERSITY' in a smaller, sans-serif font, all contained within a white square with a maroon border.

NM
STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

The grading analysis study compares three grading methodologies:

- Whole Grade Method (traditional method)
- 4.0 Fractional Grade Method (currently in use)
- 4.3 Fractional Grade Method (theoretical method)

Each grading method's effect on grade point average (GPA) calculation for the NMSU Las Cruces campus is demonstrated, given the grades assigned over a five-year period.

New Mexico State University (NMSU) began using the 4.0 Fractional Grade Method in Summer 2013. Prior to that, the Whole Grade Method for GPA calculation was used.

Notes:

- In the Whole Grade Method, +'s and -'s may appear on a transcript but do not have a positive or negative effect on GPA.
- The 4.3 Fractional GPA method is shown for comparison purpose only.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

Grade points assigned to each grade are presented in the following table.

Table 1: Grade Points by Method

Letter Grade	Grade Points per Unit of Credit		
	Whole Calculation	4.0 Fractional Calculation	4.3 Fractional Calculation
A+	4.0	4.0	4.3
A	4.0	4.0	4.0
A-	4.0	3.7	3.7
B+	3.0	3.3	3.3
B	3.0	3.0	3.0
B-	3.0	2.7	2.7
C+	2.0	2.3	2.3
C	2.0	2.0	2.0
C-	2.0	2.0	1.7
D+	1.0	1.0	1.3
D	1.0	1.0	1.0
D-	1.0	1.0	0.7
F	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Source: Banner Grade Code Maintenance Table*

Irrespective of the methodology used, the GPA calculation is as follows, $GPA =$

$$\frac{(A+Val)(A+Cr) + (AVal)(ACr) + (A-Val)(A-Cr) + (B+Val)(B+Cr) + (BVal)(BCr) + (B-Val)(B-Cr) + (C+Val)(C+Cr) + (CVal)(CCr) + (D+Val)(D+Cr) + (DVal)(DCr) + (D-Val)(D-Cr) + (FVal)(FCr)}{A+Cr + ACr + A-Cr + B+Cr + BCr + B-Cr + C+Cr + CCr + C-Cr + D+Cr + DCr + D-Cr + FCr}$$

where xxVal=GPA Point Value and xxCr=Credit Hours.

Thus, the calculation depends on both the point value assigned to each grade a student earns and the credit value of the class the student completed.

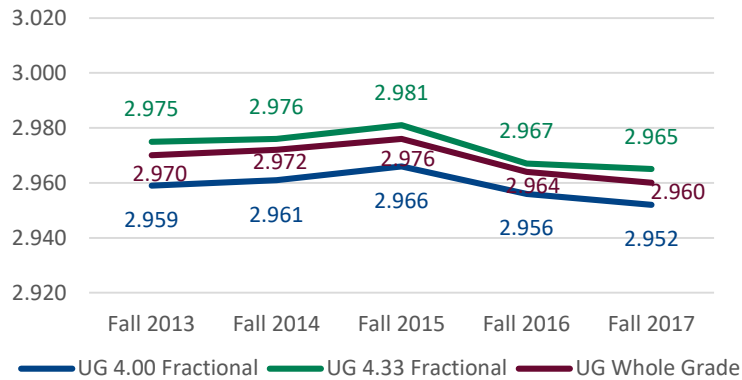
5 Year GPA Comparison



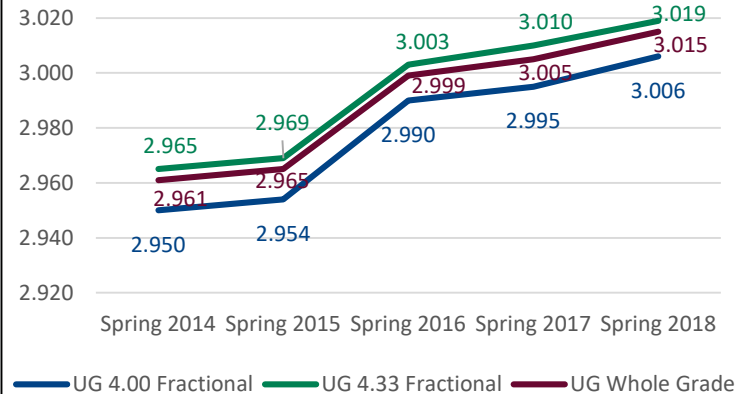
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Las Cruces Campus – Grading Methodology Comparison

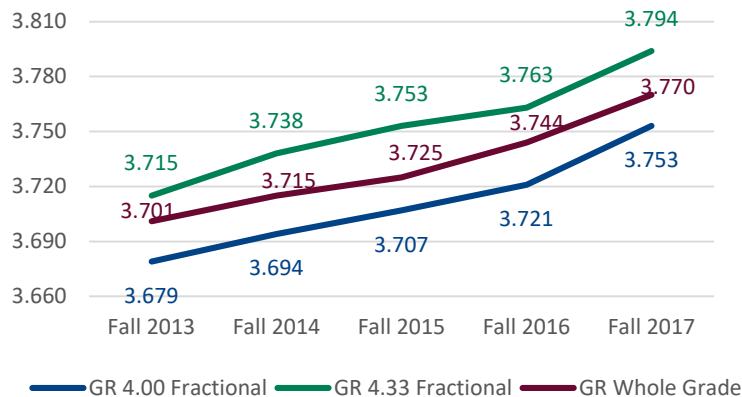
Undergraduate Fall Semester



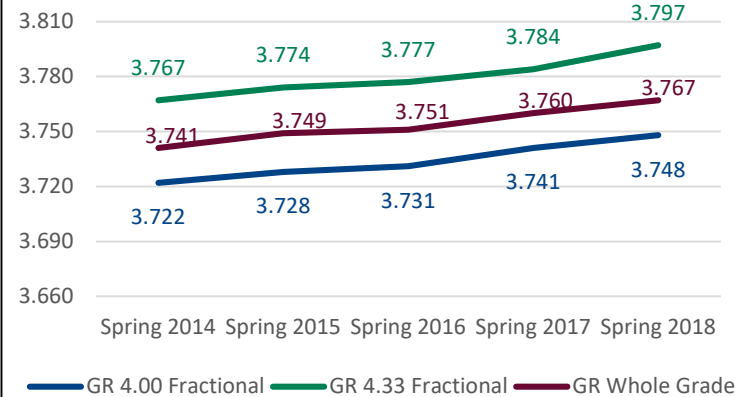
Undergraduate Spring Semester



Graduate Fall Semester



Graduate Spring Semester



Las Cruces Campus – Grading Methodology Comparison (Table Format)

		Whole Grade Calculation	4.0 Fractional Calculation	4.3 Fractional Calculation
Fall 2013	Undergraduate	2.970	2.959	2.975
	Graduate	3.701	3.679	3.715
Spring 2014	Undergraduate	2.961	2.950	2.965
	Graduate	3.741	3.722	3.767
Fall 2014	Undergraduate	2.972	2.961	2.976
	Graduate	3.715	3.694	3.738
Spring 2015	Undergraduate	2.965	2.954	2.969
	Graduate	3.749	3.728	3.774
Fall 2015	Undergraduate	2.976	2.966	2.981
	Graduate	3.725	3.707	3.753
Spring 2016	Undergraduate	2.999	2.990	3.003
	Graduate	3.751	3.731	3.777
Fall 2016	Undergraduate	2.964	2.956	2.967
	Graduate	3.744	3.721	3.763
Spring 2017	Undergraduate	3.005	2.995	3.010
	Graduate	3.760	3.741	3.784
Fall 2017	Undergraduate	2.960	2.952	2.965
	Graduate	3.770	3.753	3.794
Spring 2018	Undergraduate	3.015	3.006	3.019
	Graduate	3.767	3.748	3.797
Total / Average	Undergraduate	2.978	2.968	2.982
	Graduate	3.741	3.721	3.765

Supplementary Information



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Methodology Change

Effect on Individual Students

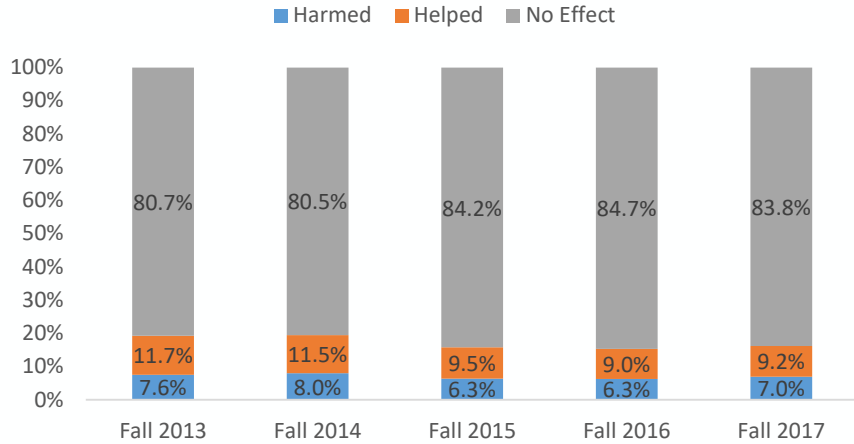


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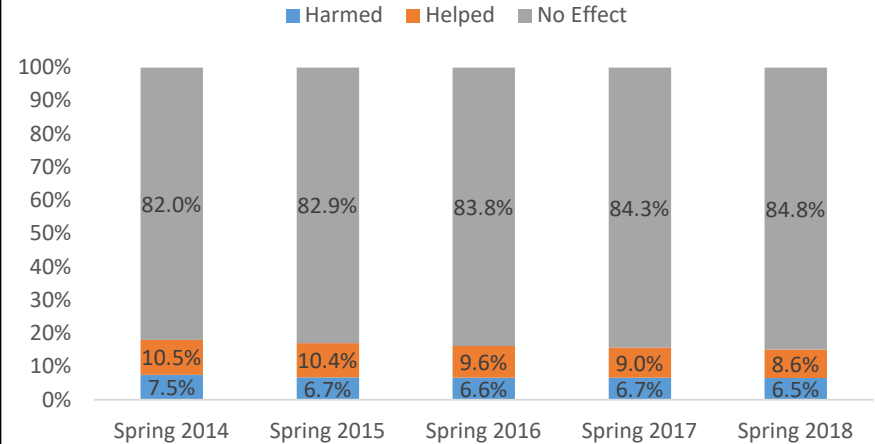
Student Semester GPA Calculation

(If Whole Grade Method had been used instead of Fractional Method)

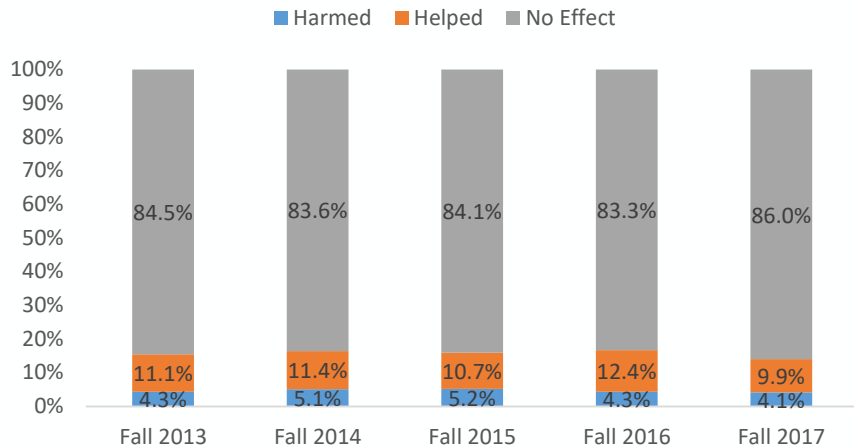
Undergraduate (Fall)



Undergraduate (Spring)



Graduate (Fall)



Graduate (Spring)

