

Students at Cornell University School of Law are able to take courses at any of the academic units of the university, not just at the Law School. Two documents list the courses taken at Cornell University, the official university transcript issued by the university, and the unofficial grade report issued by the Law School. All courses taken are listed on both documents, but GPA is calculated differently on them. This letter explains the difference between these two documents, and also highlights an administrative quirk for students in the joint JD/MBA program.

Official Transcript

All courses taken at the university are listed on the official transcript, along with the number of credits earned for each course. When students take courses outside of the Law School, a GPA is listed for each term, as is a cumulative GPA of the *non-law courses*. Law courses are excluded from the cumulative GPA.

Unofficial Grade Report

All courses taken at the university are listed on the unofficial grade report, but only courses applicable to the law degree, according to ABA requirements, are listed with credits; those that are not law-applicable are listed with 0 credits, regardless of how many credits actually were awarded by the university. GPA is calculated similarly to what is described in the above paragraph, except that courses that are not law-applicable are excluded from calculations; these calculations are listed as MPR (Merit Point Ratio). An MPR is listed for each term, as is a cumulative MPR.

Important Note

In Fall, 1983, the Law School began using a [grading scale](#) that is different from the rest of the university for letter grades with a + or -. For example, a grade of A- at the Law School now earns 3.67 quality points, but a grade of A- at another academic unit of Cornell earns 3.7 quality points.

This can be quite confusing, especially for students in a joint JD/MBA program. Although they may take courses from multiple schools during the same semester, students have a host school each term. When the Johnson School is the host school during a term, the university grading scale applies to all courses taken during that term, regardless of which school offered the course. When the Law School is the host during a term, the Law School grading scale applies, regardless of which school offered the course. This means that a grade of A- earned by a joint JD/MBA student would earn either 3.7 or 3.67 quality points, depending on which is the student's host school during the term the student earns the grade.

Additionally, it is important to understand that the cumulative GPA includes only courses taken while the student was hosted by the Johnson School.