

Grades at Reed

Since its founding, Reed College has adhered to a distinctive educational philosophy, a critical component of which is the evaluation and grading of student academic work.

ACADEMIC RIGOR

The average GPA for all undergraduate students in 2022–23 was 3.27 on a 4.00 scale. This figure has increased by just over a quarter of a grade point in the past 40 years. During that period, only 13 students have graduated from Reed with perfect 4.00 grade averages.

2022–23 GRADUATING CLASS

10% graduated with a GPA of 3.84 or higher

25% graduated with a GPA of 3.68 or higher

Average GPA: 3.36

The comparatively slow rate of grade inflation at Reed reflects the rigor of the academic program and the high standards set by the faculty rather than any deficiency in the quality of the student body.

GRADING POLICY

Students are encouraged to focus on learning, not on grades. Papers and exams are generally returned to students with lengthy comments but without grades affixed. There is no dean's list or honor roll, and Reed does not award Latin honors at graduation.

THE ENTERING CLASS OF 2023

Average combined SAT: 1395

Median composite ACT: 30

Average high school GPA: 4.0

SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Reed students and alumni have won:

32 Rhodes Scholarships (the second highest among private liberal arts college)

123 Fulbright Scholarships

73 Watson Fellowships

27 Goldwater Scholarships

199 National Science Foundation Fellowships

At least 28 Reed alumni have been elected to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. About nine percent of Reed alumni are CEOs, presidents, or owners of private companies.

RANKINGS OF GRADUATES

Reed ranks fourth in the nation among all institutions of higher learning in the per capita production of future PhDs in all disciplines. It ranks fifth in science and mathematics, second in social sciences, and third in humanities and art. Among more specific fields, it ranks seventh in humanities, second in life sciences, fourth in physical sciences, first in psychology, and fourth in social sciences (not including psychology, education, and communications). (Source: National Science Foundation and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data, based on doctoral degrees awarded 2009–2018.)

For further information, please call the Reed College registrar's office at 503-777-7793 or visit our website: reed.edu/registrar. You can also reach us by email at registrar@reed.edu.

