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 2023–24 was 3.30 on a 4.00 scale. This figure has increased by just one-third 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.

2023-24 GRADUATING CLASS

10% graduated with a GPA of 3.86 or higher
25% graduated with a GPA of 3.69 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 2024

Median combined SAT: 1410
Median composite ACT: 30
Average high school GPA: 4.0

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Reed students and alumni have won:

- 32 Rhodes Scholarships (the second highest among private liberal arts colleges)
- 123 Fulbright Scholarships
- 73 Watson Fellowships
- 28 Goldwater Scholarships
- 201 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 fifth in the nation among all institutions of higher learning in the per capita production of future PhDs in all disciplines. It ranks second in social sciences, third in life sciences, fifth in physical sciences, and fifth in humanities and art.

(Source: National Science Foundation and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data, based on doctoral degrees awarded 2013–2022.)

For further information, please contact the Reed College Registrar's Office at 503-777-7793 or registrar@reed.edu. You can also visit our website at reed.edu/registrar.

REED COLLEGE