

This Month's Topic: Value of Birthstone on Grade Point Average Upon Graduation

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning (OIERP) [conducted a study](#) of the value of a birthstone on the grade point average (GPA) of a student graduating from Crafton Hills College using a methodology designed by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in collaboration with the fine folks at the Jewelry Exchange in Tustin. Birthstones were identified through the American Gem Society, and gem values were collected using datasets available from Gemval and GemSelect.

The amethyst was statistically significantly ($p=0.04$) more likely to result in a higher GPA upon graduation (3.16) than the average birthstone (3.12). Simultaneously the amethyst had the most affordable value per grade point (VGP) of \$7.91 in comparison to the average birthstone (\$144.84).

		Population (N)	Grade Point Average (GPA)	Value per Grade Point (VGP)
		12,668	3.12	\$144.84
Amethyst  N: 940 GPA: 3.16 VGP: \$7.91 ES: 0.07 P: 0.040	Aquamarine  N: 1,063 GPA: 3.10 VGP: \$64.53 ES: -0.04 P: 0.214	Diamond  N: 964 GPA: 3.12 VGP: \$689.12 ES: 0.00 P: 0.943	Emerald  N: 1,100 GPA: 3.11 VGP: \$321.15 ES: -0.01 P: 0.678	
Garnet  N: 1,030 GPA: 3.12 VGP: \$40.02 ES: 0.00 P: 0.890	Pearl  N: 1,093 GPA: 3.11 VGP: \$56.20 ES: -0.01 P: 0.655	Peridot  N: 1,102 GPA: 3.11 VGP: \$16.06 ES: -0.01 P: 0.645	Ruby  N: 1,113 GPA: 3.14 VGP: \$382.10 ES: 0.03 P: 0.276	
Sapphire  N: 1,189 GPA: 3.10 VGP: \$56.48 ES: -0.04 P: 0.201	Tanzanite  N: 1,004 GPA: 3.15 VGP: \$23.79 ES: 0.06 P: 0.089	Topaz  N: 1,007 GPA: 3.11 VGP: \$24.10 ES: -0.02 P: 0.587	Tourmaline  N: 1,063 GPA: 3.12 VGP: \$56.14 ES: -0.01 P: 0.826	

Note: "ES" denotes the effect size where a value >0.20 is considered a practically substantial difference. "P" denotes statistical significance where a value <0.05 is considered a statistically significant difference.

When asked about the potential impact the value of their birthstone had on their GPA upon graduation, one person with an amethyst birthstone stated, "Yeah, I'm not surprised." Another person with a sapphire birthstone exclaimed, "Wait, what?!" A person with a peridot birthstone stated, "I didn't even know I had a rock."

Potential Implications:

- CHC can consider offering community courses for expecting parents on choosing the most beneficial birthstone for their child.
- CHC students should consider how the value of their birthstone will impact their GPA upon graduation and plan accordingly.

A copy of the study and full methodologies can be found on the OIERP website at <http://www.craftonhills.edu/research>