


MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2018

TO: Julie Harlin
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Anne Reber 
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Change to Rule 15 Graduation with (Latin) Honors



PROPOSAL

Please see attached rule for extensive changes

JUSTIFICATION

This change will help clarify the distinction between Latin Honors and other Honors transcript distinctions earned at the university, college, or departmental level.

PROPOSED BY:

Name: Jonathan Kotinek
Phone: 979-784-5195
E-Mail Address: jkotinek@tamu.edu
Department: LAUNCH
Department Mail Stop: 4233
Date: May 2, 2018

15. Graduation with **Latin** Honors

(Revised: ~~2013~~ **2018**)

Effective for December 2005 degree candidates. To be eligible for graduation with **Latin** honors, a student seeking a baccalaureate degree must enroll in and complete a minimum of 60 semester hours at Texas A&M University preceding graduation and have a grade point ratio at this institution equal to or greater than that required for the appropriate category of honors. Course credit received by examination, and courses reserved for graduate credit only, are excluded from the calculation of the number of hours and the grade point ratio for graduation with **Latin** honors.

No Upper Division student found responsible for **academic misconduct may receive Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude honors at graduation. Upper Division status is defined as having earned 60 or more credit hours (including transfer hours and advanced placement credits) on the date of the violation. This sanction is automatic upon a finding of academic misconduct, and is imposed without regard to the severity of other sanctions imposed by either the instructor or the Honor Council.**

Categories for **Latin** honors shall be designated as follows:

- **Summa Cum Laude:** A student may be graduated “Summa Cum Laude” with a grade point ratio of 3.90 or above.
- **Magna Cum Laude:** A student may be graduated “Magna Cum Laude” with a grade point ratio range of 3.70 through 3.899.
- **Cum Laude:** A student may be graduated “Cum Laude” with a grade point ratio range of 3.50 through 3.699.

Grade point averages used to determine Latin honors designations are calculated during the final degree audit the day before the graduation ceremonies and include hours and final grades in courses taken during the graduation semester. Latin honors designations will not be changed after the final graduation clearance deadline.

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Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Change to Rule 16 University Honors Programs

PROPOSAL

Please see attached rule for extensive changes

JUSTIFICATION

These changes are needed to reflect program changes approved by the Faculty Senate and put into place as of fall 2012, as well as changes to the SAT scoring system. The change to continuing student participation requirements in fall 2017 reflects a decision approved by the Honors and Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee in December 2016.

PROPOSED BY:

Name: Jonathan Kotinek
Phone: 979-784-5195
E-Mail Address: jkotinek@tamu.edu
Department: LAUNCH
Department Mail Stop: 4233
Date: May 2, 2018

16. University Honors Programs

(Revised: 2004 **2018**)

The university confers graduation honors upon a candidate for a baccalaureate degree who has completed a substantial body of course work through the [University Honors Program](#) or **any one of the several college or departmental Honors programs; see listing at <http://honorsprograms.tamu.edu>**. Categories for such honors are designated as follows:

16.1 Honors Eligibility. ~~Incoming freshman are eligible to participate in the University Honors Program if they graduated in the top 10% of their high school class and earned a composite score of at least 1250 on the SAT or 28 on the ACT; or were named a National Merit Finalist, National Achievement Finalist, or National Hispanic Scholar.~~ **Students are Honors-eligible as entering Freshmen if they are accepted to the University Honors Program through a competitive application, or to another college or departmental Honors program.**

16.1.1 Incoming freshmen who are not in an Honors program will be considered Honors-eligible if they graduated in the top 10% of their high school class and have a minimum SAT composite score of 1360 (minimum score of 620 for Math and 660 for Reading/Writing) or a minimum composite 28 on the ACT (minimum score of 27 each on verbal and math).

16.2.2 Second semester freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors (**collectively, “Continuing Students”**) may enroll in honors courses if they earned a cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) at Texas A&M of 3.50 or above. First semester transfer students are considered for participation on an individual basis. ~~To continue in the University Honors Program~~ **maintain eligibility to register for Honors sections** each semester, a student must maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPR. ~~Students with less than a 3.50 cumulative GPR will be dropped from honors courses.~~

~~16.2 University Honors.~~ ~~Students who have successfully completed:~~

- ~~• 36 hours of honors classroom credit or;~~
- ~~• 30 hours plus three hours of honors independent study or;~~
- ~~• 27 hours plus six hours in the University Undergraduate Fellows Program~~

~~may qualify for graduation with University Honors.~~

~~Additionally, each qualifying student must earn at least six hours of honors credit distributed among the humanities, visual and performing arts, and social and behavioral sciences; six hours in natural science or mathematics, and 12 hours at the 300/400 course level. A minimum overall GPR of 3.50 and a GPR of 3.25 in all honors courses completed is required of candidates for University Honors.~~

~~16.3 Foundation Honors. Completion of a 48-hour University Core Curriculum is required of all students seeking an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University. Students who choose to fulfill 19 hours of Core Curriculum course work through honors classes may qualify for graduation with Foundation Honors. The 19 honors hours must include 4 hours in natural sciences with laboratory; 6 hours distributed among 2 of the following three areas: humanities, visual and performing arts, and social and behavioral sciences; and 3 hours from either U.S. history or political science. A minimum overall GPR of 3.50 and a GPR of 3.25 in all honors courses completed is required of candidates for Foundation Honors.~~

16.2.2 Honors Fellows. The distinction for the University Honors Program is called “Honors Fellows.” To earn Honors Fellows, a student must remain in good standing with program requirements, listed below.

- **Maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPR***
- **Meet minimum co-curricular participation requirements.**
 - **First-year students meet requirements are met by participating in the Learning Community Seminar.**
 - **Continuing University Honors students need to attend two Honors Student Council events per semester, at least one of which must be designated as academic in nature.****
- **Demonstrate progress toward Honors Fellows distinction requirements by taking at least six Honors credits per year.**
- **Make an annual update to their Honors ePortfolio.**

***Freshmen who are not meeting co-curricular participation requirements will be subject to probation for GPR in the Spring semester. Freshmen who do not have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPR at the end of their first academic year will be placed on probation during the upcoming Fall semester.**

****Continuing students who will be away from campus for a semester of study abroad or internship should arrange an alternative with an Honors Advisor ahead of time.**

To complete distinction requirements and receive the Honors Fellows distinction at graduation, Honors Students must:

- **Earn a total of 30 honors points:**
 - **Each credit hour of Honors course work equals 1 point. At least 21 points must come from Honors course work distributed as follows**
 - **Breadth: 9 hours must meet Core Curriculum or graduation requirements as specified in the student’s catalog.**
 - **Depth: 12 hours must be in upper-division (300/400-level) courses or graduate courses taken for undergraduate credit.**

- **Practical Application: Complete an Honors Capstone experience. The Capstone will be worth 6 points, whether taken for credit or not.**
 - Up to 3 points may be earned through Honors Experiences either designated by the University Honors Program or contracted for points.
- **Maintain co-curricular requirements.**
- **Meet minimum 3.25 GPR in Honors course work.**

16.3 Probation. Honors Students who fail to meet requirements for their Honors program will be given a semester of probation to correct any deficiencies. While in probationary semester, a priority registration time will not be assigned. Honors Students who fail to meet requirements after a semester of probation will be dismissed from their program.