



University Policy Statement

UPS 300.050

RECOGNITION OF SUPERIOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The university recognizes superior student performance in a variety of ways, as described in this document.

I. Undergraduate Student Superior Performance Recognition Descriptions and Criteria

A. Superior Prior Performance

“Admission with distinction” is awarded to a freshman or transfer student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in past academic work, as measured by a grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a four-point scale. For first-time freshmen, the GPA is computed for all coursework considered for admission to the university. For transfer students with 56 or more transferable semester units of college work, the GPA is computed for all transferable college work completed. Transfer students with fewer than 56 transferable semester units must meet the grade point average criteria for first-time freshmen and also have earned a 3.50 grade point average or higher on all transferable college work attempted.

B. Superior Overall Performance

“Cum laude” (with honors) designations are awarded to baccalaureate students whose overall cumulative grade point averages, rounded to the nearest 0.01, meet the following standards. The designation is entered on the student’s academic record and appears on the student’s diploma.

- “cum laude” G.P.A. from 3.50 to 3.74
“magna cum laude” G.P.A. from 3.75 to 3.89
“summa cum laude” G.P.A. from 3.90 to 4.00

C. Superior Semester Performance

Each semester (fall and spring), undergraduate students who achieve grade point averages of 3.50 or higher for 12 or more units of graded course work are recognized by being placed on the Dean’s List for that semester. Undergraduate students are notified in writing by the college dean, and a notation is placed on each student’s academic record for each semester that such recognition is received.

D. Honors Performance

A student who enrolls in and completes the University Honors Program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher is designated as graduating with "University Honors." A student who enrolls in and completes an approved honors program in his or her college major and/or concentration with the appropriate grade point average is designated as graduating with "Honors" in that major and/or concentration. Such designations shall be entered on the student’s academic record and appear on the diploma.

II. Graduate Student Superior Performance Recognition Descriptions and Criteria

A. Academic Honors

“Academic Honors” designation is awarded to graduate students whose overall cumulative grade point averages, rounded to the nearest 0.1, are at least 3.9. The designation is entered on the student’s academic record and appears on the student’s diploma.

B. With Distinction

“With Distinction” designation is awarded to graduate students whose culminating thesis, comps, or project is completed with distinction as defined by the academic unit. The designation shall be entered on the student’s academic record.

C. Academic Honors, With Distinction

Both designations, “Academic Honors” and “With Distinction” are awarded to graduate students who meet the standards articulated in Section A and B above.

Source: Graduate Education Committee

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