

## Latin Honors – academic policy proposal update

### Prompts for the Proposed Change

1. Currently, the target moves year to year for students and it is not completely transparent, based on the rolling 5-year average of graduating students cumulative gpa.

#### Current Criteria

Summa Cum Laude top 2%

Magna Cum Laude top 5%

Cum Laude top 10%

2. Using the current (percentage-based) criteria, students had to achieve a grade point average above 4.0 for Summa Cum Laude.

Percentages shows as gpa ranges, 2014-2015 through 2024-2025, starting with 2014-2015

Calculated Latin Honors Levels <sup>1</sup>		
Cum	Magna	Summa
3.70 to 3.89	3.90 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
3.70 to 3.79	3.80 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
3.70 to 3.79	3.80 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
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3.70 to 3.89	3.90 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
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3.80 to 3.89	3.90 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
3.80 to 3.89	3.90 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
3.80 to 3.89	3.90 to 3.99	4.00 or higher
3.80 to 3.99	4.00 to 4.09	4.10 or higher

### The Proposed Change

- **Determine Latin Honors based on established gpa bands, rather than on percentages**

Council members supported using gpa bands, rather than percentages.

Council members suggested that the gpa bands could be reviewed at some interval (perhaps every 3 years)

- **Establish the following set grade point average (gpa) bands for Latin Honors.**

- Summa Cum Laude = 3.95 and above
- Magna Cum Laude = 3.85 – 3.94
- Cum Laude = 3.75 – 3.84

### **Criteria at Other Big 10 Institutions**

University of Iowa A+ grade = 4.33; A grade = 4.00

Effective fall 2024, criteria to graduate with distinction consistent among undergraduate colleges and based on static gpa.

Highest Distinction = 3.95 or above

High Distinction = 3.85 – 3.94

Distinction = 3.75 – 3.84

USC No A+ grade

Summa Cum Laude = 3.90 and above

Magna Cum Laude = 3.70 – 3.89

Cum Laude = 3.50 – 3.69

Ohio State University No A+ grade

Summa Cum Laude = 3.9000 and above

Magna Cum Laude = 3.700 – 3.899

Cum Laude = 3.500 – 3.699

Rutgers University No A+ grade

Summa Cum Laude = 3.850 or higher

Magna Cum Laude = 3.700 – 3.849  
Cum Laude = 3.500 – 3.699

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University of Nebraska A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0  
Determined based on “all aspects of a student’s record . . .”

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### **Based on percentages**

University of Michigan A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0

Based on cumulative gpas of graduating cohorts.

Highest Distinction = Top 3%

High Distinction = Top 10%

Distinction = Top 25%

Northwestern University No A+ grade

Top 25% in each school receive Latin Honors.

Summa Cum Laude = Top 5%

Magna Cum Laude = Top 8%

Cum Laude = Top 12%

University of Wisconsin, Madison No A+ grade

Graduating with Distinction (one category) awarded to undergraduate students who gpa falls in the top 20% of their graduating class.

### **Not determined at the university level**

University of Maryland A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0

Determined per college and based on percentages

Generally awarded to the top 10% of graduating students

Generally awarded to all students with at least a 3.9 gpa

Summa Cum Laude = Top 2%

Magna Cum Laude = Next 3%

Cum Laude = Next 5%

University of Illinois A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0

Summa Cum Laude = may be 3.99, based on top 3% of last year’s graduates

Magna Cum Laude = may be 3.97, based on top 7% of last year's graduates  
Cum Laude = may be 3.94, based on top 12% of last year's graduates  
For College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Purdue University A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0

Based on college or school

Highest Distinction = 3/10<sup>th</sup> of Population Graduating

Distinction = Top 10% of Population Graduating

University of Washington No A+ grade

Latin Honors determined annually for each school or college at each campus. Typically 10% of the students are awarded Latin honors.

UCLA A+ grade and A grade; both = 4.0

Latin honors determined annually for each school or college.

Indiana University A+ = 4.0 and A = 4.0

Highest Distinction; High Distinction; and Distinction determined by each academic unit.

To qualify for any level of distinction, student must be in highest 10% of the unit's graduating class.