

# Undergraduate Studies, Latin Honors

## Latin Honors

To graduate with Latin honors, students must have attended UMSL for at least 56 graded hours and must meet the following qualifications: ~~cum laude 3.2 to 3.49 grade point average; magna cum laude 3.5 to 3.79 grade point average; summa cum laude 3.8 to 4.0 grade point average.~~ summa cum laude 3.9 to 4.0 grade point average; magna cum laude 3.75 to 3.89 grade point average. Students whose GPAs are in the top 20% of their graduating class in their college who did not earn the distinction of summa or magna cum laude would be eligible for the distinction of cum laude. If a student has the necessary GPA at UMSL to qualify for Latin honors but has fewer than 56 graded hours at UMSL, all credit hours and the associated grades earned within the UM System will be included when the total credit hours earned in the UM System are at least 80 graded hours. In determining one's eligibility for Latin honors, all UM System graded hours will be considered, including the original grade in each ~~graded~~ grade-modified course. No Latin honor higher than that which is consistent with the UMSL grade point average will be awarded. All honors must be recommended by the student's major department. ~~Students who have been found to have committed an act or acts of academic dishonesty as verified by Academic Affairs are not eligible for a Latin Honor.~~

Each College may add additional qualifications on the awarding of Latin Honors such as community service, capstone course completion (including approved relevant thesis), original research or scholarship, etc. Each College will submit their plans for the qualifications for Latin Honors to the appropriate shared governance body for approval before their plan becomes active.

~~(Effective April 2000.)~~

The previous standards were viewed by many faculty as too low for Latin Honors. The new standards are more rigorous and similar to other universities' standards.

#### Rationale

The C&I Committee did a bit of research and showed that even with the higher GPA requirements for Latin honors in our original proposal, that certain colleges would still be graduating 50% of their students with Latin honors. Their suggestion was for a percentage system. We gave it due consideration and looked at how other UM campuses, in particular UMKC awarded Latin honors. Our major concern with a percentage system is that students will never have any idea of what grades or GPA they need to earn to be awarded Latin honors. We opted for a combination of GPA and percentages. Every student will know exactly what GPA they must achieve to earn Magna or Summa Cum Laude (3.75 and 3.9 respectively). However, students would be eligible for Cum Laude only if they graduate within the top 20% of their college and did not earn Magna or Summa. For example, if the College of Education awarded Magna and Summa to 25% of its graduating class, no one would be eligible for cum laude. However if the College of Education awarded Magna and Summa to only 15% of the graduating class, the next 5% would be awarded Cum Laude.

Effective Date: Students graduating Fall 2015.