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 based on the college in which a student's major is housed: ~~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.~~ a GPA in the top 3% for summa cum laude; a GPA in the next top 5% for magna cum laude; a GPA in the next top 12% for cum laude. Qualifying GPAs are determined each academic year based on a five-year rolling average of all GPAs for graduates of the college in which the student's major is housed. Specific Latin honors GPA cutoffs for each college are posted under "General Information" in the Bulletin listing for that college. 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 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.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

| Rationale | The previous policy that was passed a year ago has been found to be largely unworkable and never went in to effect. The problem was that it is too difficult to project individual GPAs and percentile rankings for a single year, especially when grades for that year have not yet been submitted or processed. Although the revised policy still relies on percentile rankings, it should be workable because percentile rankings for the last 5 years will be used to establish GPA targets that are in the top 3, 8 and 20th percentiles. GPA ranking on a 5-year rolling basis provides a reliable and workable means of projecting GPA targets for each College for Latin honors. Unlike the previous version that was not implemented, the above proposal will provide students an actual GPA target to achieve for each of the 3 Latin honors. Finally, many feel that it is unfair for different Colleges to bestow Latin honors on vastly different fractions of their students. This policy would equalize the fraction of students awarded Latin honors to 20% in each College. |