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 [1]		
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
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3.70 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 3.89	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 seemed to support 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.**

    o Summa Cum Laude   = 4.0 and above
    o Magna Cum Laude   = 3.8 – 3.99
    o Cum Laude   = 3.7 – 3.79

Council members raised these questions:
    o What would be "just right" gpa ranges?
    o Is 4.0 for summa cum laude too high?
    o Should all the bands be more generous?
    o Are Latin Honors devalued if the bands are too generous?
    o How does the 4.3 value of the A+ grades at UO impact cumulative gpas?
    o Do Latin Honors matter?
    o Based on the current percentage-based criteria, how have the calculated gpa bands changed over time?
    o How do the proposed gpa bands compare to the gpa bands at other institutions?

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   = 3/10th 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.