

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

S17-13, University Policy, Undergraduate Student Honors at SJSU

Legislative History:

In 1996, F96-5 codified several previous Senate policies on honors, replaced previous University Policies S65-24, F86-5, S93-6, S66-7, F85-9, S86-7, and used forgotten information from supposedly superseded policies F65-12 and F67-10.

On May 15, 2017, the Academic Senate approved AS 1650 (sent to the President for signature as University Policy S17-13) presented by Senator Kaufman for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. This policy recommendation was returned unsigned by President Papazian with a request to revisit the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude.

At its meeting of September 18, 2017, the Academic Senate approved an amendment to AS 1650, presented by Senator Sullivan-Green for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. This amendment restored the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude to 3.85.

On October 4, 2017, President Mary A. Papazian approved and signed University Policy S17-13.

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UNIVERSITY POLICY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HONORS AT SJSU

- Whereas, San Jose State University's current policy codifying student honors, F96-5, is more than 20 years old; and
- Whereas, Several conditions of F96-5 have not been consistent in their implementation; and
- Whereas, Awarding Honors at Entrance for freshmen based on GPA, ELM, and EPT scores is difficult to implement because they are not awarded until after the student matriculates; and
- Whereas, Determining President's and Dean's Scholars based on a two-semester "block of work" excludes the possibility of entering students earning honors their first semester, causes confusion for students and advisors, and complicates the computing process; and
- Whereas, Students and faculty have requested a means by which honors-level work could be recognized in interdisciplinary course sequences; therefore be it
- Resolved, The attached document rescinds previous policy F96-5 and implements "Undergraduate Student Honors at San Jose State University."
- Rationale: This final reading addresses the issue raised by the President and returns the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude to 3.85. All other components of this policy recommendation were previously (spring 2017) approved by the Senate.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HONORS AT SJSU

1.0

grades earned in the department.

3.2.2.1 This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in the major

3.2.2.2 This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in a specified group of major courses

3.2.3 There must be a component of academic work that is unique to the Honors in the major (e.g., honors thesis, an honors colloquium, etc.)

3.2.4 There may be other components as recommended by the department and approved by the relevant committees.

3.2.5 Programs must be constructed so as to provide the opportunity for transfer students to participate.

3.2.6 All indications of Honors in the major prior to successful completion of all requirements must be noted as tentative and dependent upon maintenance of honors standards in the student's final semester.

3.3 Recognition and Privileges

3.3.1 Honors in the major status will be shown on the transcript, together with a notation explaining what the designation means.

3.3.2 Honors in the major status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

4.0 Honors in a Special Course Sequence

4.1 Qualifications: Honors in a Special Course Sequence (SCS) are awarded to students who successfully complete an approved SCS honors program.

4.1.1 SCSs are unique course sequences outside of a major program, which provide students with an interdisciplinary perspective on topics of broad interest. By their nature, SCSs require curricular oversight and subject expertise across departments and/or colleges.

SCSs are subject to the same unit minima as minors.

4.1.2 Honors requirements for a SCS must be approved by the same on-campus mechanisms used to approve other academic programs. This includes review by the appropriate college curriculum committee(s) and the relevant curriculum committees of the Academic Senate.

4.1.3 Approved SCS honors programs are then filed with the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP), which then notifies the appropriate campus agencies to begin implementation.

4.2

4.3.2 SCS honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

5.0 Latin Honors at Graduation

5.1 Qualifications

5.1.1 The Latin honors designations depend upon the achievement of a high grade point average at graduation in each of two categories:

5.1.1.1 An “All College” GPA, which reflects all graded, accredited baccalaureate work and assures that the honor is bestowed for outstanding achievement in the earning of the entire degree; and

5.1.1.2 The “SJSU cumulative” GPA, which reflects all graded collegiate work at this university and assures that the honor (also) reflects outstanding achievement in work completed at SJSU.

5.1.1.3 Each average will include work completed during the semester immediately preceding graduation. Graduation programs will note that indications of honor awards are tentative and depend on maintenance of honors standards in the student's final semester.

5.1.2 Any undergraduate student who has earned a 3.85 or higher GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative), shall graduate Summa Cum Laude.

5.1.3 Any undergraduate student who has earned a 3.70 or higher, but less than 3.85, GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative), shall graduate Magna Cum Laude.

5.1.4 Any undergraduate student who has earned a 3.50 or higher, but less than 3.70, GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative), shall graduate Cum Laude.

5.2 Recognition and Privileges

5.2.1 All those earning Latin honors shall be authorized to wear a symbol on their academic regalia, which shall be chosen by an appropriate Academic Senate committee.

5.2.2 Latin honors status will be indicated on the transcript, together with a key explaining what the designation means.

5.2.3 Latin honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

I&SA vote on original policy:

Approved: April 3, 2017
Vote: 11-0-0
Present: Kaufman (Chair), Walters, Yao, Simpson, Miller, Wilson, Nash, Perea, Mendoza, Spica, Sen, Bruck (non-voting)
Financial impact: None
Workload impact: The result of this policy would be a decrease in the number of students receiving honors (elimination of Honors at Entrance) and potentially smaller numbers of Latin honors designations due to higher GPA requirements. Semester honors designations will be determined on a shorter time scale, but by eliminating the use of the past 3 semesters work, fewer total honors designations are likely.

I&SA vote on amendment:

Approved: September 11, 2017
Vote: 14-0-1
Present: Bullen, Busick, Gill, Hill, Khan, Nash, Ng, Sen, Simpson, Sofish, Sullivan-Green, Trousdale, Walters, Wilson, Yao
Absent: Grindstaff, Hospidales, Kinn