

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

R. DARIN ELLIS
ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
UNDERGRADUATE AFFAIRS

TO: Deans: Douglas Whitman, Robert Forsythe, Farshad Fotouhi, Matthew Seeger,
Serrine Lau, Wayne Raskind, Cheryl Waites, Laurie Lauzon Clabo

CC: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

FROM: R. Darin Ellis, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for
Undergraduate Affairs

RE: Implementation of Graduation with Distinction Statute

DATE: 06/08/2016

On June 13, 1986, the Board of Governors adopted the statute on Graduation with Distinction for students completing the baccalaureate degree. This statute can be found online at:
http://bog.wayne.edu/code/2_43_61.php.

Under the statute, the University recognizes at each graduation the top 20 percent (20%) of undergraduate students in each college who have earned the highest grade point average (GPA). To be eligible for consideration, students must have accumulated 60 or more hours in residence at Wayne State University.

This revised version of the statute now includes guidelines for August graduation classes in addition to December and May graduation classes. Please distribute the statute and implementation information to graduation officers, degree certification officers, and others within your units who should be aware of the grade point average cut-offs.

2.43.61 Graduation with Distinction

2.43.61.010 Effective Fall Term 1986, Wayne State University will bestow upon students completing the baccalaureate degree three separate designations for scholastic excellence reflected in the cumulative honor point average: Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude. Graduation with Distinction will be indicated on the student's diploma and on the transcript.

2.43.61.020 Graduation with Distinction will recognize at each graduation the top 20 percent of students in each college who have earned the highest honor point average in their colleges with the following approximate distribution:

Top 5%	Next 5%	Next 10%
Summa Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude

2.43.61.030 The specific minimum honor point average will be determined each year in the following manner, except that it shall not be less than 3.0:

2.43.61.040 Based on the honor point average distributions of the previous year's senior class, the honor point average cut-offs for each college will be established to provide for recognition of the top 18% to 20% of the graduating students.

2.43.61.50 The criteria for Graduation with Distinction include:

- (a) A minimum of 60 credits in residence at Wayne State University. Under exceptional circumstances, the President or his/her designee may grant an exception to the residency provision.
- (b) Minimum honor point average (as established above) on all work at Wayne State University completed by the end of the term of graduation. (For notation in the Commencement Program, the honor point average on all work completed prior to the term of graduation will be used.)

Legislative History

Adopted (1) 6-0; Official Proceedings 30:4130 (13 June 1986) Amended (2) 7-0; Official Proceedings 36:4789 (1 May 1992)

Baccalaureate Degrees
Grade Point Average Distinction Requirements by College
For August 2016, December 2016, and May 2017 Graduation Classes

College	Summa Cum Laude (Top 5%)	Magna Cum Laude (Next 5%)	Cum Laude (Next 10%)
Business Administration	3.796823529	3.593076923	3.391375
Education	3.872087912	3.79975	3.625673077
Engineering	3.8545	3.734557823	3.553684211
Fine, Performing & Communication Arts	3.880666667	3.757424242	3.611666667
Liberal Arts & Sciences	3.900136986	3.775902778	3.578571429
Nursing	3.95	3.9325	3.830227273
Pharmacy & Health Sciences	3.947037037	3.893203883	3.78
Social Work	3.898387097	3.729428571	3.566071429