



**WAYNE STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
Office of the Registrar

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Deans Virginia Kleist, Denise Taliaferro Baszile, Ali Abolmaali, Hasan Elahi, Stephanie Hartwell, Ramona Benkert, Brian Cummings, Sheryl Kubiak

**CC:** Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
R. Darin Ellis, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Assessment & Accreditation

**From:** Kurt A. Kruschinska, University Registrar

**Date:** July 30, 2024

**Re:** August 2024 – July 2025 Cutoffs for Graduation with Distinction

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: <https://bog.wayne.edu/code/2-43-61>

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 56 or more hours in residence at Wayne State University.

This statute includes guidelines for August, December, and May graduation classes. Please distribute the statute and implementation information to graduation officers, degree certification officers, advisors, 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.
- 2.43.61.050 The criteria for Graduation with Distinction include:
- (a) A minimum of 56 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); (04 December 2015)

### Compiler Notes

- (1) The purpose of the statute is to recognize the top 20% of students in each school and college who have earned the highest honor point average. The designations to be used are Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude. The specific minimum honor point average will be determined each year as outlined in the statute, but cannot be less than 3.0. (Official Proceedings 30:4130, 13 June 1986)
- (2) The amendment to 2.43.61.050 provides for waivers, under exceptional circumstances, of the residency provision.
- (3) Section 2.43.61.050 was amended to reflect the change in the number of credits from 60 to 56 needed for graduation with distinction.

**Baccalaureate Degrees**  
 Grade Point Average Distinction Requirements by College  
 for August 2024, December 2024, and May 2025 Graduation Classes

School/College	Summa Cum Laude (Top 5%)	Magna Cum Laude (Next 5%)	Cum Laude (Next 10%)
Mike Ilitch School of Business	3.94	3.88	3.76
Education	3.96	3.93	3.83
Engineering	3.89	3.81	3.65
Fine, Performing & Communication Arts	3.97	3.91	3.79
Liberal Arts & Sciences	3.98	3.94	3.84
Nursing	3.99	3.94	3.85
Pharmacy & Health Sciences	3.91	3.74	3.54
Social Work	3.59	3.34	3.14