

Marshall University

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Recommendations

Faculty Senate

Fall 10-31-2023

SR 23-24-07 BAPC

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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BUDGET AND ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION

SR-23-24-07 BAPC

Recommends adjusting the language in the Marshall University Undergraduate Catalog to clarify the exact credit hours needed to calculate honors graduation eligibility. The proposed catalog language is attached.

RATIONALE:

The proposed edits to the Marshall University Undergraduate Catalog will clarify and streamline the process to award honors upon graduation. Currently, the process contains several stipulations for transfer students, which are somewhat difficult to interpret and implement. The proposed changes simplify the process by enforcing the same requirements for transfer credits and residency as we would do for determination of honors eligibility. In addition, policy regarding students in the RBA program, determining honors recognition at commencement ceremonies, and policy for students receiving academic forgiveness is clarified. These changes ensure that students clearly understand the requirements for honors and is intended to improve continuity across colleges for honors graduation credit hour reviews.

To summarize, honors eligibility will be calculated based on the overall GPA for all students, regardless of whether the student is a transfer student. Students may also have program-specific residency requirements to be considered for honors.

Note: Policy change was requested by Associate Deans Council.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE

FACULTY SENATE:



DATE: 10/27/2023

DISAPPROVED BY THE

FACULTY SENATE:

DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:



DATE: 10/31/2023

DISAPPROVED:

DATE: _____

COMMENTS:

Current Catalog Language

Honors Graduation

Baccalaureate Degree

Baccalaureate degree candidates who have achieved special distinction in academic work are recognized at Commencement Exercises. Their honor status is printed on their diplomas and transcripts. Honor status is determined by this scale for the final cumulative Grade Point Average:

- Summa cum laude (3.85 and above)
- Magna cum laude (3.60 to 3.84)
- Cum laude (3.30 to 3.59)

Note: Honor calculations are not rounded.

For May graduates, honors recognition at Commencement is based on academic standing prior to the Spring term. For December graduates, honors recognition at Commencement is based on academic standing prior to the Fall term. The diploma and transcript will reflect honors standing after calculation of final grades.

Honors eligibility for transfer students (baccalaureate degree):

Transfers from in-state public institutions: Honors are calculated on the overall GPA.

From a two-year college in WV state system: must have earned at least 56 hours of work at Marshall University.

From a four-year institution in WV state system: must have earned a minimum of 36 hours of work at Marshall University.

Transfers from non-West Virginia public institutions: Honors are calculated on the overall and Marshall GPA

All other transfer students: must have earned at least 64 hours of work at Marshall, at least 50% of which must be upper division work (300/400).

Proposed Catalog Language

Honors Graduation

Baccalaureate Degree

Baccalaureate degree candidates who have achieved special distinction in academic work are recognized at Commencement Exercises. Their honor status is printed on their diplomas and transcripts. Honor status is determined by this scale for the final cumulative Grade Point Average:

1. Summa cum laude (3.85 and above)
2. Magna cum laude (3.60 to 3.84)
3. Cum laude (3.30 to 3.59)

Note: Honor calculations are not rounded.

The grade point average calculated for honors eligibility is based on all baccalaureate-level course work attempted at Marshall University and any attempted transfer course work completed at another institution of higher education prior to receipt of baccalaureate degree. Grades of CR or NC are not included as part of the GPA calculation. Students must meet all graduation requirements including the number of residency hours required for their specific program of study. Students in the Regent's Bachelor of Arts Program must complete 24 hours of credit at Marshall University to be eligible for Honors recognition.

Honors recognition at Commencement ceremonies is based on the student's overall GPA and completion of hours at the start of the term in which the ceremony is held.

The diploma and transcript will reflect honors standing after calculation of final grades.

Students who received academic forgiveness are not eligible to graduate with honors.