

Resolution to award LATIN HONORS to UMKC graduates

Whereas Latin honors for top academic achievement upon graduation are more widely recognized than the current UMKC designation of “distinction”, and

Whereas Latin honor designations of *Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude* and *Summa Cum Laude* allow expanded distinctions in recognition relative to the present designation, and

Whereas Latin honors are used at all sister campuses of the University of Missouri system to honor outstanding graduates from the undergraduate and first professional degree programs, and

Whereas recognition of top academic achievement at UMKC is not reflected by absolute grade point averages because grading practices vary between units and programs of the UMKC campus, and

Whereas academic achievement in academic programs is reflected in a stable and predictable manner by the average cumulative grade point average, and

Whereas academic achievement is recognized at the time of graduation, and

Whereas honors are awarded officially and entered into a graduate’s academic records at the time of graduation, and

Whereas conferral of Latin honors at other recognized academic institutions is based on percentage class ranking with *Summa Cum Laude* given to the top five percent, *Magna Cum Laude* to the next highest five percent, and *Cum Laude* to the next highest ten percent, and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the faculty to decide whether and which Latin honors be awarded to graduates in their degree programs,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that effective June 1, 2004, for all semesters following this date, UMKC terminates the practice of conferring “distinction” honors; and

Be it resolved that effective June 1, 2004, for all semesters following this date, UMKC graduates will be awarded Latin honors using the following policy:

1. Latin honors for undergraduates will be awarded using students’ official UMKC cumulative grade point average during the semester of graduation.
2. The minimum grade point average for undergraduate students to receive Latin honors will be calculated for each rank of Latin honors for each academic unit once per year using the official cumulative grade point averages of students who graduated during the preceding six semesters. For the College of Arts and Sciences three separate minimum grade point averages will be calculated for each rank of Latin honors for students in Bachelor of Arts programs, for students in Bachelor of Science programs, and for students in all other bachelor degree programs.
3. The academic units will be informed by the Registrar’s Office by October 1 of the minimum grade point averages necessary to qualify for each rank of Latin honors during the Fall, Spring and Summer graduations of the academic year.
4. Undergraduate students who rank in the top five percent of graduates in their academic unit, based on the minimum grade point average established for the academic year, and who are approved by the faculty in their academic unit for this honor are eligible to be awarded their degree with *Summa Cum Laude* honors.

5. Undergraduate students who rank in the top ten percent of graduates in their academic unit, based on the minimum grade point average established for the academic year, who are approved by the faculty in their academic unit for this honor, and who do not receive Summa Cum Laude honors are eligible to be awarded their degree with *Magna Cum Laude* honors.
6. Undergraduate students who rank in the top twenty percent of graduates in their academic unit, based on the minimum grade point average established for the academic year, who are approved by the faculty in their academic unit for this honor, and who do not receive Summa or Magna Cum Laude honors are eligible to be awarded their degree with *Cum Laude* honors.
7. A list of candidates for graduation will be forwarded by the Registrar's Office to each academic unit approximately four weeks prior to final examinations. This list will include Latin honor recommendations based upon the minimum grade point averages established for the academic year and the candidates' cumulative grade point averages.
8. Graduates in First Professional degree programs (Dentistry DDS, Medicine MD, Law JD and Pharmacy Pharm-D) may be awarded degrees with Latin honors as determined by policies established by the academic unit responsible for the degree. No academic unit will establish policies that exceed the percentage ranges for the ranks of Latin honors established for undergraduate students.
9. Degrees will be awarded with Latin honors as recommended unless faculty action is taken to override the recommendations. Faculty within an academic unit may override the recommendation of Latin honors for individual students by having the Dean's Office of the academic unit notify the Registrar prior to the final examinations for the semester that the student(s) will receive a lower level of Latin honors or no Latin honors at all.
10. Latin honors will not be awarded to students in graduate degree programs.
11. The Registrar's Office will not process Latin honors that are inconsistent with these policies, and will submit all academic unit recommendations that are inconsistent with these policies to the Faculty Senate for review.
12. The full Faculty Senate must approve changes to this policy one calendar year in advance of implementation by majority vote in a secret ballot.
13. The full Faculty Senate must approve petitions for exception to this policy by majority vote. This vote may be taken by electronic means including the use of UMKC's email system.

This Resolution was drafted by the Academic Issues Committee of the UMKC Faculty Senate and submitted for action by the Faculty Senate on February 3, 2004.