

# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Memorandum

TO: Paula Wood, College of Education; Barbara Redman, College of Nursing;  
Sandra Yee, University Library System; Hilary Ratner, Graduate School;  
Beverly Schmoll, Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Phyllis Vroom, School of  
Social Work; Frank Wu, Law School; Ralph Kummner, College of Engineering;  
Richard M. Gabrys, School of Business Administration; Robert Thomas, College  
of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Robert M. Mentzer Jr., School of Medicine; Sharon  
Vasquez, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

FROM: Howard Shapiro, Associate Vice President

RE: **Implementation of Graduation with Distinction Statute**

DATE: May 11, 2007

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The Board of Governors adopted, on June 13, 1986, the enclosed statute on Graduation with Distinction for students completing the baccalaureate degree.

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 (G.P.A.) in their college. 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.

Attachments:

WSUCA 2.46.01  
G.P.A. Distinction Requirements for August 2007/December 2007/May 2008  
Graduation Classes

c: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost  
Linda Falkiewicz, Registrar

7/03 Honors Distinction Statute/MDD  
Rev. 5/05 Honors Distinction Statute, JK Office  
Rev. 9/28/05, 5/30/06 H. Shapiro  
Rev. 5/07 Grad Distinction Memo, HS

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2.46.01 GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

2.46.01.010 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.

2.46.01.020 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.

<u>Top 5%</u>	<u>Next 5%</u>	<u>Next 10%</u>
Summa Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude

2.46.01.030 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:

2.46.01.040 Based on the Honor Point Average distribution of the previous year's senior class, the Honor Point Average cut-offs for each college will be established to provide the recognition of the top 18% to 20% of the graduating students.

2.46.01.050 The criteria for Graduation with Distinction include:

- (1) 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 policy.
- (2) 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

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Adopted (1) 6-0; Official Proceedings 30:4130-31 (13 June 1986)

Amended (2) 7-0: Official Proceedings 36:4689 (1 May 1992)

### *Cross References*

### *Compiler's Notes*

<sup>1</sup>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. (Derived from Official Proceedings 30:4130, 13 June 1986)

<sup>2</sup>The amendment to 2.43.61.050 provides for waivers, under exceptional circumstances, of the residency provision.



**Graduation with Distinction Statute  
Baccalaureate Degrees**

Grade Point Average Distinction Requirements by College  
For August 2007, December 2007 and May 2008 Graduation Classes\*

<b><u>College/School</u></b>	<b><u>Summa Cum Laude (Top 5%)</u></b>	<b><u>Magna Cum Laude (Next 5%)</u></b>	<b><u>Cum Laude (Next 10%)</u></b>
Business Administration	3.83	3.67	3.37
Education	3.89	3.77	3.63
Engineering	3.80	3.63	3.43
Fine, Performing & Communication Arts	3.83	3.72	3.58
Liberal Arts and Science	3.88	3.75	3.57
Nursing	3.94	3.86	3.73
Pharmacy & Health Sciences	3.94	3.91	3.74
Social Work	3.82	3.76	3.46

\* Based on enrolled seniors' cumulative G.P.A., as of Fall Term 2006. See Graduation with Distinction Statute (WSUCA 2.46.01) for further information.

7/03 Honors Distinction Statute/MDD  
Rev. 10/04 Honors Distinction Statute, JK Office  
Rev. 5/05 Grad Distinction Memo, JK  
Rev. 9/05, 5/06 Grad Distinction Memo, HS  
Rev. 5/07 Grad Distinction Memo, HS

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