University Honors Requirements

The College shall require Honors-designated course work totaling a minimum of twenty-eight credits for the baccalaureate program the student is pursuing. Students in this College MUST SATISFY THE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, but the approved General Education courses may differ for the Honors College after review by the Honors Council and the General Education Implementation Committee and approval by the President or his/her designee. The Honors College General Education core curriculum will define a common body of knowledge beginning with the freshman Honors first-year sequence, and including a specified complement of Honors courses chosen from existing General Education options as determined by individual departments in consultation with the College.

Graduation: For graduation with University Honors, students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3, and must complete a minimum of twenty-eight credits in honors-designated course work (including HON 1000, the Honors section of PS 1010, a service learning course with HON 3000, at least one HON 4200-level Honors seminar and a minimum of three credits in an independent research project, essay, or thesis). Graduates of the University Honors College will be so recognized on the transcript and diploma.

College or Department Honors Requirements

Undergraduate departments in Colleges and Schools have developed programs leading to honors degrees. Details of these programs are included in the College and Department sections of this Bulletin.

College or Department Honors Curricula require a minimum of twelve credits in honors-designated course work of which at least three credits may be in an independent research project, essay, or thesis in the student’s College/Department and at least one HON 4200-level Honors seminar. Students also must meet the requirements of their major fields. The honors requirements for the major may include approved modifications of normal major requirements.

Graduation: For graduation with department honors, students must meet the requirements approved by their department/college/school, including a minimum 3.30 grade point average, an Honors thesis and at least one Honors seminar.

Graduation with Distinction

Wayne State University bestows upon students completing the baccalaureate degree three separate designations for scholastic excellence reflected in the cumulative grade 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.

Graduation with Distinction will recognize at each graduation the top twenty per cent of students in each College who have earned the highest grade point average in their Colleges, with the following approximate distribution:

- **Summa Cum Laude**: Top five percent
- **Magna Cum Laude**: Next five percent
- **Cum Laude**: Next ten percent

The specific minimum grade point averages will be determined each year in the following manner, but graduation with distinction will not be awarded in cases of any g.p.a. less than 3.0.
Based on the grade point average distributions of the previous year’s senior class, the grade point average cut-offs for each College will be established to provide for recognition of the top eighteen to twenty percent of the graduating students.

The criteria for Graduation with Distinction include:

1. A minimum of sixty credits in residence at Wayne State University.
2. A qualifying minimum grade point average (calculated as explained above) on all course work at Wayne State University must be completed by the end of the semester of graduation. (For notation in the commencement program, the grade point average on all course work completed prior to the semester of graduation will be used.)