# Revised UM Policy: Graduation with Honors, 3/16/17

Graduates may be awarded honors with their certificates, associate, and bachelor degrees based on their cumulative University of Montana-Missoula (UM) Grade point average (GPA).

Consistent with Board of Regents policy, the UM GPA shall be computed by dividing the sum of grade points earned by the total credits carried, except that neither the credits nor the grade points shall be counted for a. non-credit, remedial, developmental, or other sub college-level courses; b. courses taken on a credit/no credit basis (pass/fail, etc.); or, c. transferred coursework. To be eligible for graduation with honors, at least 50% of the credits required for the certificate or degree must be credits eligible to count towards the student’s UM GPA.

**Graduation cum laude (*with honors*), magna cum laude (*high honors*) or summa cum laude (*highest honors*)**

Each semester the registrar shall distribute a list of graduation candidates with a UM GPA that meets or exceeds 3.40. Faculty Senate shall award honors as:

1. Cum laude (*Honors*): All undergraduate students shall graduate *cum laude* (*with honors*) when their cumulative UM GPA meets or exceeds 3.40.

2. Magna cum laude (*High Honors*): Departments and programs may stipulate additional requirements and then recommend students for graduation magna cum laude (*high honors*) when the cumulative UM GPA meets or exceeds 3.70.

3. Summa cum laude (*Highest Honors*): Departments and programs may stipulate additional requirements and then recommend students for graduation summa cum laude (*with highest honors*) when their UM GPA meets or exceeds 3.90.

**Notes:**

The UM policy needed to be changed because transfer credits can’t be used to calculate GPA in accordance to OCHE definition.

OCHE definition of GPA from academic standing policies

II. Definition:

A. For the purpose of this section, *cumulative GPA* means the grade-point average which is computed by dividing the summation of grade points earned by the summation of credits carried, except that neither the credits nor the grade points shall be counted for the following:

1. non-credit, remedial, developmental, or other sub college-level courses;

2. courses passed on a grade-basis of pass/fail; and/or,

3. transferred coursework.

**Current UM Policy: Graduation with Honors or High Honors**

Students will be awarded their certificates, associate of applied science, and bachelor degrees with honors if they receive the recommendation of their major department or school and the faculty of the University of Montana-Missoula. At the time of graduation they must have a 3.40 or higher grade average in the following four areas:

1. All work attempted at the University of Montana- Missoula.
2. The combination of all work attempted at the University of Montana-Missoula and all other work, including failing grades, transferred to this University.
3. All work attempted in the major field at the University of Montana-Missoula.
4. The combination of all work attempted in the major field at the University of Montana-Missoula and all other work in the major field, including failing grades, transferred to this University.

Students will be awarded their certificates, associate of applied science, and bachelor degrees with high honors if they have the recommendations mentioned above and, at the time of graduation, have a 3.70 or higher grade average in the four areas listed.

In the School of Law, the grade average for honors is computed on law credits only.

**MSU policy: Graduation with Honors**

Graduation with honors or highest honors applies only to undergraduate degrees.

To receive honors, a student must earn a cumulative grade-point average between 3.25 and 3.69. To receive highest honors, a student must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.70. Cumulative grade point averages are computed at the end of the semester of graduation.

All MSU credits attempted and grades received will be used in computing graduation with honors or highest honors.

Transfer students receiving their first baccalaureate degree must meet the cumulative grade-point average requirements stated above and complete a minimum of sixty semester credits at MSU. The credits earned at MSU must compute to minimum grade point averages of 3.25 or 3.70 for graduating with honors or highest honors respectively.

For second degree or subsequent baccalaureate candidates, the grade point average of the first or subsequent degrees will be included in the determination of honors or highest honors.