

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**U N I V E R S I T Y**

December 7, 2006

To: Douglas Estry, Acting Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Fr: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services  
Re: Graduation Honors – Request for Clarification of Implementation of  
Current Policy.

The Office of the Registrar sent the attached request, which I forward to you to request its consideration by the University Committee on Academic Policy.

Dugald McMillan, Acting University Registrar, and/or his designee is (are) willing to be available to answer any questions committee members may have.



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**PROVOST**

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Attachment

C: McMillan, McKenna

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**U N I V E R S I T Y**

December 5, 2006

To: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services

Fr: Scott McMillan, Acting University Registrar

Re: **Percentage of Students Receiving Graduation Honors**

In order to clarify the implementation of current academic policy as it relates to graduation honors for undergraduate students, this memo recommends a slight change to current practice. Academic Programs specifies that 20 percent of each undergraduate class should receive honors, with 6 percent receiving the "With High Honor" designation, and the following 14 percent receiving the "With Honor" designation.

Academic Programs also currently specifies the minimum grade-point averages in order to achieve the desired percentage of honored graduates. However, Academic Programs indicates that "the grade-point distributions of each year's graduates are used as a base for establishing new grade-point average standards."

In order to alleviate confusion, the specific grade-point average thresholds will be removed from Academic Programs, replaced with the following statement:

The current minimum grade-point averages to receive graduation honors can be found on the Office of the Registrar website.



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REGISTRAR**

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In practice, the Office of the Provost will determine the minimum grade-point averages required for receiving graduation honors following final grade submission of the graduating class each Spring semester. These minimum grade-point averages will be published on the Office of the Registrar website, and will apply for the following Spring, Summer, and Fall graduating classes.

Doing this will align practice with the currently approved academic policy of awarding graduation honors to approximately 20 percent of each graduating class. Students will not be disadvantaged because they will always know a full year in advance what the minimum grade-point averages are for achieving an honors designation.

The Office of the Provost will determine the new minimum grade-point averages based on the Spring 2007 term graduating class, to be applied to the Spring 2008,

Summer 2008, and Fall 2008 graduating classes. The cycle repeats in Spring 2008 and continues into the future.

*Current Academic Programs:*

**Graduation Honors**

Honors College students and students who graduate with honor or high honor are recognized in the commencement program.

The policy for granting graduation with honor as established by the University Academic Council provides for honoring at each graduation approximately 20 percent of the students who have earned the highest grade-point averages. Approximately six percent receive the degree With High Honor and about 14 percent receive the degree With Honor.

The current minimum grade-point averages to ~~achieve the target percentages are:~~

~~With High Honor 3.80~~

~~With Honor 3.50~~

~~However,~~ the specific minimum grade-point averages required are determined by the Office of the Provost following a review of the standards by the University Committee on Academic Policy. The grade-point distributions of each year's graduates are used as a base for establishing new grade-point average standards to ~~maintain the percentage of students to be honored at 18 to 20 percent.~~

*Proposed Changes to Academic Programs:*

**Graduation Honors**

Honors College students and students who graduate with honor or high honor are recognized in the commencement program.

The policy for granting graduation with honor as established by the University Academic Council provides for honoring at each graduation approximately 20 percent of the students who have earned the highest grade-point averages. Approximately six percent receive the degree With High Honor and about 14 percent receive the degree With Honor.

The current minimum grade-point averages to *receive graduation honors can be found on the Office of the Registrar website.*

The specific minimum grade-point averages required *for honors* are determined by the Office of the Provost following a review of the standards by the University Committee on Academic Policy. The grade-point distributions of each year's *Spring* graduates are used for establishing new grade-point average standards *for the following consecutive Spring, Summer, and Fall graduating classes.*