

1 San José State University
2 Academic Senate
3 Instructional and Student Affairs Committee
4 September 14, 2017
5 Final Reading
6

AS 1660

7 **Policy Recommendation**
8 **Amendment to AS 1650**
9 **Undergraduate Student Honors**
10 **at SJSU**

11
12 Whereas, " San José State University's current policy codifying student honors, F96-5,
13 is more than 20 years old; and
14

15 Whereas, " Several conditions of F96-5 have not been consistent in their
16 implementation; and
17

18 Whereas, " Awarding Honors at Entrance for freshmen based on GPA, ELM, and
19 EPT scores is difficult to implement because they are not awarded until
20 after the student matriculates; and
21

22 Whereas, " Determining President's and Dean's Scholars based on a two-semester
23 "block of work" excludes the possibility of entering students earning
24 honors their first semester, causes confusion for students and advisors,
25 and complicates the computing process; and
26

27 Whereas, " Students and faculty have requested a means by which honors-level work
28 could be recognized in interdisciplinary course sequences; therefore be it,
29

30 Whereas, " AS 1650 (Sent to the President for signature as University Policy S17-13)
31 was returned unsigned by President Papazian. An edit to S17-13 was made
32 to return the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude back to 3.85.
33

34 Resolved, The attached document rescinds previous policy F96-5 and implements
35 "Undergraduate Student Honors at San José State University."
36

37 Resolved, " That the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude revert to 3.85 and all notation
38 of that GPA be modified in AS 1650.
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46 Approved: " 9/11/17
47 Vote: " 14-0-1
48 Present: " Bullen, Bursick, Gill, Hill, Khan, Nash, Ng, Sen, Simpson, Sofish
49 Yao, Sullivan-Green, Trousdale, Walters, Wilson
50 Absent: " Grindstaff, Hospidales, Kinney, Manzo
51 Financial Impact: " None Expected
52 Workload Impact: " No change from current situation.

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92 **UNIVERSITY POLICY**
93 **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HONORS AT SJSU**
94

95 **1.0 Overview and General Procedures**
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97 **1.1** In order to encourage and reward outstanding academic achievement of
98 students, San José State University awards honorific designations in these
99 categories:

- 100
101 2.0 The Semester Honor Roll: President's and Dean's Scholars
102 3.0 Departmental Major Honors
103 4.0 Honors in a Special Course Sequence
104 5.0 Latin Honors at Graduation
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106 **1.2** All references to grade point average (GPA) in this document are
107 to a 4.0 letter grading system, as defined in the SJSU catalog.
108

109 **2.0 The Semester Honor Roll: President's and Dean's Scholars**
110

111 **2.1** Honor Roll designations will be determined twice a year, for the Fall
112 and Spring semesters. Summer and Winter term coursework does not play
113 any role in determining Fall and Spring Honors.
114

115 **2.2** Only SJSU courses are counted for honor roll calculations. A minimum of 12
116 letter-graded units (UG) is required to qualify for consideration. Credit ("CR")
117 grades are not counted either in the calculation of grade point average nor
118 towards the 12-unit minimum. Any grades below "C" (2.0) and/or any No Credit
119 ("NC") grades disqualify a student from consideration.
120

121 **2.3** The determination and transcript notation of honor roll designations shall be
122 done as soon as possible following the census date of the following Fall or Spring
123 semester.
124

125 **2.4** Semester honors may be awarded retroactively for students who
126 have Incomplete ("I") and/or Report Delayed ("RD") grades that are
127 cleared after honors status reporting per Section 2.2 and 2.3 of this
128 policy. Retroactive honors requests shall be submitted to the Office of
129 Graduate and Undergraduate Programs.
130

131 **2.5** Any undergraduate student who has earned an SJSU GPA of 4.00 for
132 the Fall or Spring semester shall be deemed to be a President's Scholar
133 for that semester.
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135 **2.6** Any undergraduate student who has earned an SJSU GPA of 3.65 or
136 higher GPA shall be deemed to be a Dean's Scholar for that semester.

137
138 **2.7** Recognition and Privileges

139
140 **2.7.1** All honor roll awards, whether earned for the previous Fall or for
141 the previous Spring, will be recognized at the yearly Honors
142 Convocation overseen by the Office of the Provost and held during
143 the Spring semester

144
145 **2.7.2** Honor roll status will be shown on the transcript beneath the
146 semester in which it is earned, together with a notation explaining
147 what the designation means.

148
149 **3.0** Departmental Major Honors

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151 **3.1** Qualifications: Departmental major honors are awarded to students who
152 successfully complete an approved program with their major.

153
154 **3.1.1** Each department that elects to have a major honors
155 program should customize the program to its individual
156 discipline.

157
158 **3.1.2** Departmental major honors programs must be approved by the
159 same on-campus mechanisms that are used to approve other
160 academic programs. This includes review by the appropriate college
161 curriculum committee and the relevant curriculum committees of the
162 Academic Senate.

163
164 **3.1.3** Approved departmental major honors programs are then
165 filed with the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate
166 Programs, which then notifies the appropriate campus
167 agencies to begin implementation.

168
169 **3.2** Criteria for departmental major honors programs: honors should be earned by
170 specific honors level work as contrasted to work only in regular classes and
171 should reflect the student's choice to attempt departmental major honors.

172
173 **3.2.1** Departmental major honors should be awarded strictly for academic
174 achievement (GPA and specified coursework).

175
176 **3.2.2** Departmental major honors will be given only to students who
177 distinguish themselves within their department with outstanding
178 academic achievement. Among the methods used to measure this
179 achievement, there must be a component that uses grades earned in
180 the department.

181
182 **3.2.2.1** This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in the major

183
184 **3.2.2.2** This may include use of a minimum GPA
185 requirement in a specified group of departmental major
186 courses

187
188 **3.2.3** There must be a component of academic work that is unique to
189 the departmental major honors program, (*e.g.*, honors thesis, an
190 honors colloquium, etc.)

191
192 **3.2.4** There may be other components as recommended by the
193 department and approved by the relevant committees.

194
195 **3.2.5** Programs must be constructed so as to provide the
196 opportunity for transfer students to participate.

197
198 **3.2.6** All indications of departmental major honors prior to
199 successful completion of all requirements must be noted as
200 tentative and dependent upon maintenance of honors standards
201 in the student's final semester.

202 203 **3.3** Recognition and Privileges

204
205 **3.3.1** Departmental major honors status will be shown on the
206 transcript, together with a notation explaining what the designation
207 means.

208
209 **3.3.2** Departmental major honors status will be indicated on the official
210 diploma of the student.

211 212 **4.0** Honors in a Special Course Sequence

213
214 **4.1** Qualifications: Honors in a Special Course Sequence (SCS) are awarded to
215 students who successfully complete an approved SCS honors program.

216
217 **4.1.1** SCSs are unique course sequences outside of a major
218 program, which provide students with an interdisciplinary
219 perspective on topics of broad interest. By their nature, SCSs
220 require curricular oversight and subject expertise across
221 departments and/or colleges.
222 SCSs are subject to the same unit minima as minors.

223
224 **4.1.2** Honors requirements for a SCS must be approved by the same
225 on-campus mechanisms used to approve other academic programs.
226 This includes review by the appropriate college curriculum

227 committee(s) and the relevant curriculum committees of the Academic
228 Senate.

229
230 **4.1.3** Approved SCS honors programs are then filed with the
231 Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP),
232 which then notifies the appropriate campus agencies to begin
233 implementation.

234
235 **4.2** Criteria for SCS honors: honors should be earned by specific honors level
236 work in the designated SCS.

237
238 **4.2.1** SCS honors should be awarded strictly for academic achievement (GPA
239 and specified coursework).

240
241 **4.2.2** SCS honors will be given only to students who distinguish
242 themselves within their SCS with outstanding academic achievement.
243 Among the methods used to measure this achievement, there must
244 be a component that uses grades earned in the SCS.

245
246 **4.2.2.1** This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in the SCS

247
248 **4.2.3** There may be other components as recommended by the
249 coordinating body and approved by the relevant committees.

250
251
252 **4.2.4** All indications of SCS honors prior to successful
253 completion of all requirements must be noted as tentative and
254 dependent upon maintenance of honors standards in the
255 student's final semester.

256
257 **4.3** Recognition and Privileges

258
259 **4.3.1** SCS honors status will be shown on the transcript, together
260 with a notation explaining what the designation means.

261
262 **4.3.2** SCS honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the
263 student.

264
265 **5.0** Latin Honors at Graduation

266 **5.1** Qualifications

267
268 **5.1.1** The Latin honors designations depend upon the achievement
269 of a high grade point average at graduation in each of two
270 categories:

271

272 **5.1.1.1** An “All College” GPA, which reflects all graded, accredited
273 baccalaureate work and assures that the honor is bestowed for
274 outstanding achievement in the earning of the entire degree; and
275

276 **5.1.1.2** The “SJSU cumulative” GPA, which reflects all graded
277 collegiate work at this university and assures that the honor
278 (also) reflects outstanding achievement in work completed at
279 SJSU.
280

281 **5.1.1.3** Each average will include work completed during the
282 semester immediately preceding graduation. Graduation programs
283 will note that indications of honor awards are tentative and depend
284 on maintenance of honors standards in the student's final semester.
285

286 **5.1.2** Any undergraduate student who has earned a **3.85** or higher
287 GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative), shall graduate Summa
288 Cum Laude.
289

290 **5.1.3** Any undergraduate student who has earned a 3.70 or higher,
291 but less than **3.85**, GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative),
292 shall graduate Magna Cum Laude.
293

294 **5.1.4** Any undergraduate student who has earned a 3.50 or higher,
295 but less than 3.70, GPA (both All College and SJSU Cumulative),
296 shall graduate Cum Laude.
297

298 **5.2** Recognition and Privileges 299

300 **5.2.1** All those earning Latin honors shall be authorized to wear a
301 symbol on their academic regalia, which shall be chosen by an
302 appropriate Academic Senate committee.
303

304 **5.2.2** Latin honors status will be indicated on the transcript, together
305 with a key explaining what the designation means.
306

307 **5.2.3** Latin honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the
308 student.
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310 Approved: " April 3, 2017

311 Vote: " 11-0-0

312 Present: " Kaufman (Chair), Walters, Yao, Simpson, Miller, Wilson, Nash,
313 Perea, Mendoza, Spica, Sen, Bruck (non-voting)

314 Financial impact: " None

315 Workload impact: " The result of this policy would be a decrease in the number of
316 students receiving honors (elimination of Honors at Entrance) and
317 potentially smaller numbers of Latin honors designations due to

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higher GPA requirements. Semester honors designations will be determined on a shorter time scale, but by eliminating the use of the past 3 semesters work, fewer total honors designations are likely.