

1 **SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**
2 **Academic Senate**
3 **Instruction and Student Affairs Committee**
4 **November 9, 2020**
5 **Final Reading**

AS 1785

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9 **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**
10 **Amendment B to University Policy S17-13**
11 **Undergraduate Student Honors at SJSU**
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13 **Whereas:** S17-13 was written in such a manner that students in certain majors in
14 multidisciplinary departments are unable to receive honors because there
15 is not sufficient commonality in the programs to justify honors at the
16 departmental level; and
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18 **Whereas:** All degree programs should have the opportunity to create an honors
19 track within their program; therefore be it
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21 **Resolved:** That S17-13 be amended to define honors by the major rather than by
22 department.
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25 **Policy Recommendation**
26 **Amendment B to University Policy S17-13**
27 **Undergraduate Student Honors at SJSU**

28 **1.0 Overview and General Procedures**

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30 **1.1** In order to encourage and reward outstanding academic
31 achievement of students, San José State University awards honorific
32 designations in these categories:

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34 2.0 The Semester Honor Roll: President's and Dean's
35 Scholars [3.0 Departmental Major Honors](#)
36 [3.0 Honors in the](#)
37 [Major](#)
38 4.0 Honors in a Special Course
39 Sequence 5.0 Latin Honors at
40 Graduation

41 **1.2** All references to grade point average (GPA) in this
42 document are to a 4.0 letter grading system, as defined in the
43 SJSU catalog.
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46 **~~3.0 Departmental Major Honors~~ Honors in the Major**

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48 **3.1** Qualifications: ~~Departmental major honors~~ **Honors in the major**
49 are awarded to students who successfully complete an approved
50 program with their major.
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52 **3.1.1** Each department that elects to have a major
53 honors program should customize the program to
54 its individual discipline.
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56 **3.1.2** ~~Departmental major honors~~ **Honors in the major** must be
57 approved by the same on-campus mechanisms that are used
58 to approve other academic programs. This includes review by
59 the appropriate college curriculum committee and the relevant
60 curriculum committees of the Academic Senate.
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62 **3.1.3** Approved ~~departmental major honors programs~~
63 **Honors in the Major** are then filed with the ~~Office of~~
64 ~~Graduate and Undergraduate Programs,~~ **Office of**
65 **Undergraduate Education** which then notifies the
66 appropriate campus agencies to begin implementation.
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68 **3.2** Criteria for honors in the major programs: honors should be earned by

69 specific honors level work as contrasted to work only in regular classes and
70 should reflect the student's choice to attempt departmental major honors.
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72 **3.2.1** ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major should be
73 awarded strictly for academic achievement (GPA and specified
74 coursework).

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76 **3.2.2** ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major will be
77 given only to students who distinguish themselves within their
78 department with outstanding academic achievement. Among
79 the methods used to measure this achievement, there must be
80 a component that uses grades earned in the department.

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82 **3.2.2.1** This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in the
83 major

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85 **3.2.2.2** This may include use of a minimum GPA
86 requirement in a specified group of ~~departmental~~
87 major courses

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89 **3.2.3** There must be a component of academic work that is
90 unique to the ~~departmental major honors program,~~ Honors in
91 the major (e.g., honors thesis, an honors colloquium, etc.)
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93 **3.2.4** There may be other components as recommended
94 by the department and approved by the relevant
95 committees.

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97 **3.2.5** Programs must be constructed so as to
98 provide the opportunity for transfer students to
99 participate.

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101 **3.2.6** All indications of ~~departmental major honors~~ Honors
102 in the major prior to successful completion of all
103 requirements must be noted as tentative and dependent
104 upon maintenance of honors standards in the student's
105 final semester.

106 **3.3** Recognition and Privileges

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109 **3.3.1** ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major status
110 will be shown on the transcript, together with a notation
111 explaining what the designation means.

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113 **3.3.2** ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major status will
114 be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

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Approved: October 19, 2020
Vote: 14-0-0
Present: Chuang, Delgadillo, French, Gomez Marcelino, Jackson
(non-voting), Khan, Leisenring (non-voting), Rao,
Rollerson, Sen, Sorkhabi, Sullivan-Green, Walker,
Wilson, Wolcott, Yao
Absent: Hill, Walters, Yang
Financial impact: None expected.
Workload impact: No change from current situation.

A copy of S17-13 as it currently reads is as follows on the next page.

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S17-13, University Policy, Undergraduate Student Honors at SJSU (with Amendment A)

Legislative History:

In 1996, F96-5 codified several previous Senate policies on honors, replaced previous University Policies S65-24, F86-5, S93-6, S66-7, F85-9, S86-7, and used forgotten information from supposedly superseded policies F65-12 and F67-10.

On May 15, 2017, the Academic Senate approved AS 1650 (sent to the President for signature as University Policy S17-13) presented by Senator Kaufman for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. This policy recommendation was returned unsigned by President Papazian with a request to revisit the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude.

At its meeting of September 18, 2017, the Academic Senate approved an amendment to AS 1650, presented by Senator Sullivan-Green for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. This amendment restored the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude to 3.85.

On October 4, 2017, President Mary A. Papazian approved University Policy S17-13.

On April 30, 2018, the Academic Senate approved Amendment A to University Policy S17-13 presented by Senator Khan for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee.

Amendment A to University Policy S17-13 was approved and signed by President Mary A. Papazian on May 9, 2018. Amendment A changed section 2.7.1 and added section 2.7.3. and is incorporated in the original policy below.

Rescinds and Replaces: F96-5

**UNIVERSITY POLICY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
HONORS AT SJSU**

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- Whereas, San Jose State University's current policy codifying student honors, F96-5, is more than 20 years old; and
- Whereas, Several conditions of F96-5 have not been consistent in their implementation; and
- Whereas, Awarding Honors at Entrance for freshmen based on GPA, ELM, and EPT scores is difficult to implement because they are not awarded until after the student matriculates; and
- Whereas, Determining President's and Dean's Scholars based on a two-semester "block of work" excludes the possibility of entering students earning honors their first semester, causes confusion for students and advisors, and complicates the computing process; and
- Whereas, Students and faculty have requested a means by which honors-level work could be recognized in interdisciplinary course sequences; therefore be it
- Resolved, The attached document rescinds previous policy F96-5 and implements "Undergraduate Student Honors at San Jose State University."
- Rationale: This final reading addresses the issue raised by the President and returns the GPA level for Summa Cum Laude to 3.85. All other components of this policy recommendation were previously (spring 2017) approved by the Senate.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HONORS AT SJSU

1.0 Overview and General Procedures

1.1 In order to encourage and reward outstanding academic achievement of students, San José State University awards honorific designations in these categories:

[2.0 The Semester Honor Roll: President's and Dean's Scholars](#)

[3.0 Departmental Major Honors](#)

[4.0 Honors in a Special Course Sequence](#)

[5.0 Latin Honors at Graduation](#)

1.2 All references to grade point average (GPA) in this document are to a 4.0 letter grading system, as defined in the SJSU catalog.

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

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

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

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

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

2.5 Any undergraduate student who has earned an SJSU GPA of 4.00 for the Fall or Spring semester shall be deemed to be a President's Scholar for that semester.

2.6 Any undergraduate student who has earned an SJSU GPA of 3.65 or higher GPA shall be deemed to be a Dean's Scholar for that semester.

237 **2.7 Recognition and Privileges**

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239 **2.7.1** All honor roll awards, whether earned for the previous Fall or for
240 the previous Spring, will be recognized by the Office of the Provost.

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242 **2.7.2** Honor roll status will be shown on the transcript beneath the
243 semester in which it is earned, together with a notation explaining
244 what the designation means.

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246 **2.7.3** The University shall host an Honors Convocation (at least
247 yearly) overseen by the Office of the Provost.

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249 **3.0 Departmental Major Honors**

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251 **3.1** Qualifications: Departmental major honors are awarded to students who
252 successfully complete an approved program with their major.

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254 **3.1.1** Each department that elects to have a major honors
255 program should customize the program to its individual
256 discipline.

257
258 **3.1.2** Departmental major honors programs must be approved by the
259 same on-campus mechanisms that are used to approve other
260 academic programs. This includes review by the appropriate college
261 curriculum committee and the relevant curriculum committees of the
262 Academic Senate.

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264 **3.1.3** Approved departmental major honors programs are then
265 filed with the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate
266 Programs, which then notifies the appropriate campus
267 agencies to begin implementation.

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269 **3.2** Criteria for departmental major honors programs: honors should be earned by
270 specific honors level work as contrasted to work only in regular classes and
271 should reflect the student's choice to attempt departmental major honors.

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273 **3.2.1** Departmental major honors should be awarded strictly for academic
274 achievement (GPA and specified coursework).

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276 **3.2.2** Departmental major honors will be given only to students who
277 distinguish themselves within their department with outstanding
278 academic achievement. Among the methods used to measure this
279 achievement, there must be a component that uses grades earned in
280 the department.

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282 **3.2.2.1** This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in the major

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3.2.2.2 This may include use of a minimum GPA requirement in a specified group of departmental major courses

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

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

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

3.2.6 All indications of departmental major honors prior to successful completion of all requirements must be noted as tentative and dependent upon maintenance of honors standards in the student’s final semester.

3.3 Recognition and Privileges

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

3.3.2 Departmental major honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

4.0 Honors in a Special Course Sequence

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

4.1.1 SCSs are unique course sequences outside of a major program, which provide students with an interdisciplinary perspective on topics of broad interest. By their nature, SCSs require curricular oversight and subject expertise across departments and/or colleges.

SCSs are subject to the same unit minima as minors.

4.1.2 Honors requirements for a SCS must be approved by the same on-campus mechanisms used to approve other academic programs. This includes review by the appropriate college curriculum committee(s) and the relevant curriculum committees of the Academic Senate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3 Recognition and Privileges

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

4.3.2 SCS honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

5.0 Latin Honors at Graduation

5.1 Qualifications

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

5.1.1.1 An "All College" GPA, which reflects all graded, accredited baccalaureate work and assures that the honor is bestowed for outstanding achievement in the earning of the entire degree; and

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

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

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

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

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

5.2 Recognition and Privileges

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

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

5.2.3 Latin honors status will be indicated on the official diploma of the student.

I&SA vote on original policy:

Approved: April 3, 2017
Vote: 11-0-0
Present: Kaufman (Chair), Walters, Yao, Simpson, Miller, Wilson, Nash, Perea, Mendoza, Spica, Sen, Bruck (non-voting)
Financial impact: None
Workload impact: The result of this policy would be a decrease in the number of students receiving honors (elimination of Honors at Entrance) and potentially smaller numbers of Latin honors designations due to higher GPA requirements. Semester honors designations will be

421 determined on a shorter time scale, but by eliminating the use of
422 the past 3 semesters work, fewer total honors designations are
423 likely.

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425 I&SA vote on amendment:

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427 Approved: September 11, 2017
428 Vote: 14-0-1
429 Present: Bullen, Busick, Gill, Hill, Khan, Nash, Ng, Sen, Simpson, Sofish,
430 Sullivan-Green, Trousdale, Walters, Wilson, Yao
431 Absent: Grindstaff, Hospidales, Kinney, Manzo
432 Financial impact: None expected
433 Workload impact: No change from current situation
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