

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

**S17-13, Amendment B to University Policy S17-13,  
Undergraduate Student Honors at SJSU**

**Legislative History:**

At its meeting of November 16, 2020, the Academic Senate approved Amendment B to University Policy S17-13 presented by Senator Sullivan-Green for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. S17-13 was approved and signed by President Mary A. Papazian on October 4, 2017. Amendment A to University Policy S17-13 was approved and signed by President Mary A. Papazian on May 9, 2018. Amendment A moved responsibility for the Honors Convocation and Honor Roll to the Office of the Provost.

**ACTION BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

**Signed and approved by  
Mary A. Papazian, President,  
San José State University on  
March 18, 2021.**

**AMENDMENT B TO UNIVERSITY  
POLICY S17-13,  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT  
HONORS AT SJSU**

**Whereas:** S17-13 was written in such a manner that students in certain majors in multidisciplinary departments are unable to receive honors because there is not sufficient commonality in the programs to justify honors at the departmental level; and

**Whereas:** All degree programs should have the opportunity to create an honors track within their program; therefore be it

**Resolved:** That S17-13 be amended to define honors by the major rather than by department.

# Amendment B to University Policy S17-13 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~~ [3.0 Honors in the Major](#)

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.

## ~~3.0 Departmental Major Honors~~ 3.0 Honors in the Major

3.1 Qualifications: ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major are awarded to students who successfully complete an approved program with their major.

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

3.1.2 ~~Departmental major honors~~ Honors in the major must be approved by the same on-campus mechanisms that are used to approve other academic programs. This includes review by the appropriate college curriculum committee and the relevant curriculum committees of the Academic Senate.

3.1.3 Approved ~~departmental major honors programs~~

Honors in the Major are then filed with the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs, Office of Undergraduate Education which then notifies the appropriate campus agencies to begin implementation.

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

**3.2.1** Departmental major honors Honors in the major should be awarded strictly for academic achievement (GPA and specified coursework).

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

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

**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, Honors in the major (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 Honors in the major 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~~ Honors in the major status will be shown on the transcript, together with a notation explaining what the designation means.

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

**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.