

1. Nature of request: **Revision to Graduation Honors for Baccalaureate Degree Policy**
2. If submitted by department, date of vote: **n/a**
3. Rationale for recommended change: **This change would revise the residency requirement for graduation honors to 45 credits and create an additional recognition for transfer students who complete at least 30 but less than 45 credits in residency at Central.**
4. Exact wording that will go into Undergraduate Catalog (if applicable): **See below.**
5. Date new policy will go into effect: **Fall 2024**
6. Effects on programs and faculty load (if any): **Approximately 25% of graduates currently receive graduation honors. Revising the residency requirement from 60 credits to 45 credits and creating an additional recognition for transfer students would impact approximately 7% of graduates, or 110 additional students annually.**

Current

Graduation Honors for Baccalaureate Degree

Graduation honors for the baccalaureate degree recognize high academic achievement at Central Connecticut State University as demonstrated by the following cumulative grade-point averages:

- Cum laude (honors) 3.50-3.69
- Magna cum laude (high honors) 3.70-3.89
- Summa cum laude (highest honors) 3.90-4.00

Graduation honors, which appear on both the diploma and the transcript, will be awarded only to full-time and part-time students who complete their graduation requirements with a minimum of 60 credits in residence at Central Connecticut State University and a cumulative earned grade-point average of at least 3.50. The residency requirement for honors may not be waived.

Candidates for Graduation Honors will be recognized at the Commencement ceremony.

Candidacy for Graduation Honors shall be determined by using the student's GPA and earned credit count, plus any in-progress courses, as of the commencement booklet printing deadline. Candidacy for Graduation Honors does not guarantee the award of Graduation Honors upon completion of degree requirements.

Proposed

Graduation Honors for Baccalaureate Degree

Graduation honors for the baccalaureate degree recognize high academic achievement at Central Connecticut State University as demonstrated by the following cumulative grade-point averages:

- Cum laude (honors) 3.50-3.69
- Magna cum laude (high honors) 3.70-3.89
- Summa cum laude (highest honors) 3.90-4.00

Graduation honors, which appear on both the diploma and the transcript, will be awarded only to full-time and part-time students who complete their graduation requirements with a minimum of **45** credits in residence at Central Connecticut State University and a cumulative earned grade-point average of at least 3.50. The residency requirement for graduation honors may not be waived. **Graduating students who have achieved a grade-point average of at least 3.50 but have not completed 45 credits in residence at Central will be granted the Dean's Distinction award.**

Candidates for all Graduation Honors will be recognized at the Commencement ceremony.

Candidacy for Graduation Honors shall be determined by using the student's GPA and earned credit count, plus any in-progress courses, as of the commencement booklet printing deadline. Candidacy for Graduation Honors does not guarantee the award of Graduation Honors upon completion of degree requirements.

Policy Examples:

- Eastern:** 45-credit residency requirement for Latin graduation honors
30-credit residency requirement for Dean's Distinction recognition
<https://www.easternct.edu/registrar/forms/commencement-honors.html>
<https://www.easternct.edu/registrar/forms/deans-distinction.html>
- Southern:** 45-credit residency requirement for Latin graduation honors
<https://catalog.southernct.edu/undergraduate/grades-honors-standing.html>
- Western:** 30 credit residency requirements for Latin graduation honors
<https://catalogs.wcsu.edu/ugrad/academic-services-procedures/>

American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admission Officers (AACRAO) Policy Database:

A review of graduation honors policies in the AACRAO database returned over 300 sample institutional policy statements from other 4-year institutions. Institutional credit minimums for graduation honors eligibility varied widely. Some institutions do not list a minimum credit requirement for graduation honors, instead defaulting to the institution's minimum residency requirement to confer a degree. Other institutions typically listed credit minimums for graduation honors in the 30-60 credit range.