

Latin Honors Proposal

The Educational Policy Committee recommends the adoption of a program of Latin Honors awarded at graduation to recognize outstanding academic achievement in our undergraduate students. Over the past few years both faculty and students have noted the desirability of such recognition and the fact that many of our peer institutions award Latin Honors. In discussions of possible ways of implementing these awards the EPC recommends that:

1. Three levels of honors be awarded (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude);
2. Each of the three levels be increasingly selective;
3. A total of approximately 15% of the graduating class receive these honors to reflect the same standards used in determining the Dean's List;
4. Grade point averages cut-offs be set reflecting this approximate percentage and be reviewed (and adjusted, if needed) every three to five years;
5. The award be based on the cumulative grade point average attained by the semester in which the student graduates;
6. Awards for transfer students be calculated on their grades at William and Mary, only;
7. Stick-on transfers be affixed to the diploma (samples of these were reviewed by the EPC) to insure both that the award of these honors be included on the diploma and that diplomas are awarded to all students at the same time.

In reviewing available data concerning the grade point average of the top 15% of graduating seniors we propose the following grade point cut-offs for Latin Honors:

cum laude	3.5
magna cum laude	3.65
summa cum laude	3.80