Graduation Honors Policy – Bemidji State University

Prepared by Michelle Frenzel, EDEM, September 24, 2018, in consultation with BSUFA Academic Affairs Council members.

Feedback regarding current policy and proposed revision from Fall 2017:

- The majority of complaints regarding graduation honors are from transfer students with 30-49 credits from BSU.
- Faculty would like to maintain the current percentage of students graduating with honors, which is between 25-28% of graduates.
- Records Office would like to reduce the need for manual reviews of honors eligibility, which is required with the transfer student language.

Proposed Revision to Catalog

Graduation Honors

Summa cum laude: at least 3.90 GPA.
Magna cum laude: at least 3.70 - 3.75, but less than 3.90 GPA.
Cum laude: at least 3.50 - 3.60, but less than 3.70 - 3.75 GPA.

COMPUTATION OF GRADUATION HONORS

For instructions in calculating grade point average, see Grades and Grading later in this section.

1. **Students** must complete a minimum of fifty (50) thirty (30) semester credits in residence of letter-graded (A, B, C, D, F) course work.
   
   **Transfer students**: 1) For transfer students with fifty (50) credits or more in residence, only the GPA earned at Bemidji State University is used in determining honors. 2) Transfer students who have earned a total of thirty (30) to forty-nine (49) credits in residence at Bemidji State University of letter-graded (A, B, C, D, F) course work may be considered for honors status if their cumulative grade point average (GPA) from each institution of higher education is at least 3.50. The lowest GPA earned determines the final level of honors.

2. Honors at the time of the commencement ceremony are computed on the cumulative grades at the end of the semester prior to commencement exercises. However, actual degree honors will be based on the cumulative GPA at the time the degree is awarded.

3. Incompletes are computed as “F” grades.

Proposed Implementation

Fall 2018 graduates would be the first graduates eligible for graduation honors based on the revised policy. The prior policy will remain in effect through August 2020 for summer 2020 graduates, which is two years and an appropriate length of time for transfer students. It is expected that the percentage of students graduating with honors will increase slightly during this two-year period, and then level off to current percentages.