

6.20.1 Curriculum Latin Honors

Last Revised: March 2025

Policy: Piedmont Community College (PCC) recognizes outstanding students who have distinguished themselves through scholarship with the use of the Latin Honors system by awarding degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude.

Purpose/Definitions:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to salute or honor outstanding students who have distinguished themselves through scholarship with the use of the Latin Honors system that is used widely by two- and four-year educational institutions. It provides the College the opportunity to highlight its focus on academic excellence.

Definitions

Latin Honors—an award of distinction given to students that meet or exceed specific grade point average thresholds. The three most common honors include summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude.

Summa Cum Laude—an academic level of distinction that educational institutions use to signify an academic degree that was received “with highest honor.” PCC awards this honor to graduates whose cumulative grade point average is at least 3.75.

Magna Cum Laude—an academic level of distinction that educational institutions use to signify an academic degree that was received “with great honor.” PCC awards this honor to graduates whose cumulative grade point average is at least 3.40.

Cum Laude—an academic level of distinction that educational institutions use to signify an academic degree that was received “with honor.” PCC awards this honor to graduates whose cumulative grade point average is at least 3.20.

PCC Cumulative Grade Point Average—equivalent of the cumulative scholastic average based on PCC courses.

Transcript—academic record of a student’s completed coursework, the grades earned for each, as well as the cumulative PCC GPA.

GPA—Grade Point Average; equivalent of the cumulative scholastic average.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College's Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Instruction/CAO has monitoring authority over this policy.

Procedure:

Section 1: Determining eligibility

- 1.1. The Registrar's Office will determine which students will graduate with honors based on their cumulative, PCC institutional GPA and total number of earned hours taken at PCC.
- 1.2. Students are eligible for Latin Honors if they:
 - 1.2.1. earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in Curriculum degree programs; or
 - 1.2.2. earn a minimum of 50 percent of the credit hours in their diploma program, if the diploma is the highest credential confirmed.
- 1.3. GPA calculations for Latin Honors will be based on credits earned at PCC.
- 1.4. Latin Honors are determined by a student's cumulative GPA at the completion of the semester for which they are certified for graduation.
- 1.5. Graduation GPAs are calculated based on PCC courses numbered 100 and above.
- 1.6. Students entering and completing a second associate degree or diploma following completion of the initial degree are eligible to receive the Latin Honors designation.

Section 2: Determining the Latin Honor level

- 2.1. To ensure that students who are eligible for Latin Honors are recognized in the graduation program, the Registrar will rank the candidates according to their cumulative GPA.
- 2.2. Credit hours earned with a P or S are not considered in the determination.
- 2.3. Latin Honors are awarded based on the following guidelines:
 - 2.3.1. Summa Cum Laude will be awarded to graduates whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.75.

2.3.2. Magna Cum Laude will be awarded to graduates whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.40.

2.3.3. Cum Laude will be awarded to graduates whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.20.

Section 3: Awarding the honor

- 3.1. At the end of each semester, students who complete their graduation requirements are awarded Latin Honors if they meet the requirements.
- 3.2. Latin Honors are not awarded until all outstanding "I" (Incomplete) grades are satisfied.
- 3.3. Latin Honors will be inscribed on the degree or diploma and noted on the official transcript of record.

Section 4: Student Rights

- 4.1. Students have the right to appeal grades in accordance with PCC Policy 7.12.3 Final Grade Appeal Process which, depending on the outcome, could change a student's cumulative GPA, thereby making them either eligible or ineligible for Latin Honors.

Legal Citation: N/A

History: Effective April 2017; Revised November 2018, September 2021, March 2025 —Cross-references PCC Policy 7.12.3 Final Grade Appeal Process