

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

BACKGROUND:

Senate Council suggested the need for an ad hoc committee to evaluate accolades (“honors”) given to students at the University of Kentucky. The question arose in part because of the existence of the Lewis Honors College, but also as an attempt to better understand what honors and distinctions are being offered by which departments and colleges, and what the requirements for those accolades are. Based on this, the charge for this committee was to: (1) develop an inventory of all university accolades and (2) develop recommendations regarding the standards and processes for such accolades.

To accomplish the first objective, the Senate Council office compiled a list of Departmental Honors that are currently published in the Bulletin. E-mails were then sent to leadership in each college requesting information on any accolades that are currently offered. A comprehensive list is provided as an appendix to this memo.

To accomplish the second objective for the committee, leadership from each college nominated individuals from their respective colleges to serve on this committee. The committee members included:

- Kimberly Anderson, College of Engineering
- Susan Barron, College of Arts & Sciences
- Randall Crist, College of Education
- Beth Garvey, College of Medicine
- Kenneth Haynes, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment
- Robert Lou Hirsch, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment
- Gail Hoyt, Gatton College of Business & Economics
- Diane Loeffler, College of Social Work
- Douglas Michael, Rosenberg College of Law
- Elizabeth Salt, College of Nursing
- Leslie Vincent (chair), Gatton College of Business & Economics

The work of the committee focused on two key topics. First, what terminology should be used for university accolades and secondly, what should the role of the Senate be with respect to departmental honors.

TOPIC 1: TERMINOLOGY REGARDING “HONORS”

The committee met to discuss what “honors” refers to and how the various accolades should be labeled at the University of Kentucky.

Awards vs. Honors: In discussing the different accolades that students can receive, the first distinction that was made was “honors” versus “awards”. The committee felt that college and department level awards were distinct from “honors” and the current practice that is used by colleges and departments regarding awards should remain. Colleges and departments should hold the authority to grant awards to students without any university Senate oversight.

University Honors, Lewis Honors College, and Departmental Honors: Currently, there are 3 different types of “honors” that students can earn that are reported on the final transcript from the university. These include:

- University Honors: use Latin wording and is based on student GPA
- Lewis Honors College: students that have completed the requirements of the Lewis Honors College
- Departmental Honors: students that have earned the honors as determined by the department in which they have earned their degree and/or minor

It is the consensus of the committee that the current structure used by the University to designate “honors” is sufficient and should remain. The tiered structure for university honors is already established. The different categories of honors should be referred to by their complete name: “University Honors”, “Lewis Honors College”, and “Departmental Honors” as opposed to just the word “honors”. Using this more descriptive approach could reduce potential confusion as to the type of honor earned by the student.

It is our recommendation that the tiered break-down of honors at the University of Kentucky needs to be codified. Some ideas discussed included a legend for the transcript that indicated what each honor means and the criteria used to earn the accolade. Furthermore, this tiered system should be clarified on relevant websites to reduce any confusion regarding which honor the student has earned. Ideally there would be a page on the appropriate website that listed a roster of the departmental honors along with the criteria for earning that honor. Departments would need to update the bulletin and central listing as changes are made to the honors requirements.

TOPIC 2: SENATE INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT OF DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

The second topic focused on the role of the Senate in overseeing departmental honors. There is no coherent or succinct rule in Senate that describes what constitutes “honors”. The committee discussed whether there should be standards (i.e., minimum GPA) that are developed and incorporated into the Senate regulations to be used by all departments and if so, what those standards should be. The committee also discussed if there should be a formal approval process for departmental honors.

It was the consensus of the committee that there did not need to be a formal Senate approval process or oversight for departmental honors. The committee did agree that there were varying standards in place for departmental honors and that a centralized roster listing all departmental honors and the requirements to earn those honors would provide clarity as to what the students are receiving. The committee felt that the standards used should remain under the purview of the departments as they have the most knowledge of the curriculum and appropriate standards.

It was also noted that not all departments offer honors to students and a comprehensive listing would be valuable so that it is clear which departments have and do not have honors.

Finally, the committee suggested the development of best practices for the establishment and maintenance of departmental honors. It is the recommendation of the committee that departments should:

- Have a clearly defined approval process that includes a faculty vote for the establishment of departmental honors,
- Revisit the standards for the honor every 5 years.
- Publish the standards for the honor in the bulletin and relevant websites.

APPENDIX:

Reference Information

Governing Regulations VII (“University Organization”)

- Section E.2.c (bottom of page 4): “...Within the limits established by the University regulations and the University Senate Rules, the regular members of the Honors Faculty shall have jurisdiction over the curricular requirements leading to the Honors credential, and within those limits shall establish....”

Senate Actions

- [April 11, 2016](#): no explicit reference to changing the honors credential, although it is included in the revised GR language
- [April 17, 2017](#): [from minutes] “...Bailey responded that the SAOSC focused on structure and, while the report of the HCTC [Honors College Transition Committee] included a lengthy discussion of curricula, this was not part of the 10 questions the SAOSC had been charged with addressing.”

List of Accolades for Colleges with Undergraduate Programs	
<i>College</i>	<i>College/Department Accolades</i> <i>*Awards listed are considered to be distinct from honors.</i>
Agriculture, Food and Environment	<p>Offered, but no details in Bulletin Information provided by C. Agourdis</p> <p>Agricultural Economics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Departmental Honors (undergraduate student) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Graduate with an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Economics b. Graduate with a 3.4 cumulate GPA or higher c. Complete undergraduate research in agricultural economics (e.g., AEC 395 or AEC 580) <p>Animal and Food Sciences</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AFS Hall of Fame Award <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outstanding contributions to department and/or animal agriculture in Kentucky 2. AFS Outstanding Graduate Student Awards (MS and PhD levels) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize and award MS and PhD student (one each) who excel academically and in their respective research programs b. Requires letter of nomination from student’s major professor, student CV, grades, 300-word abstract of student’s research 3. Animal and Food Science Distinguished Alumnus Award <p>Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outstanding PhD <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awarded to a doctoral candidate who has demonstrated academic performance; research and scholarly activity; teaching; professional activity; university, college, department, and public service. 2. Outstanding MS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awarded to a master’s student who has demonstrated academic performance; research and scholarly activity; leadership; professional activity; university, college, department, and public service. 3. Undergraduate Excellence in Biosystems Engineering <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awarded to an undergraduate student who has demonstrated academic performance; leadership; university, college, department, and public service. 4. Outstanding Senior Design Team <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awarded to a senior design team that has demonstrated excellence in the development of an engineering design project; teamwork; and written and oral skills. 5. Friend of BAE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognizes individuals or organizations whose leadership and support have significantly contributed to the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Kentucky. 6. Lifetime Achievement

- a. Recognizes individuals with at least 20 years of accomplishments in biosystems and agricultural engineering. It is a recognition of those who have contributed to the program and profession on a long-term basis and demonstrated a significant investment in the biosystems and agricultural engineering profession.
- 7. Early Career Award
 - a. Recognizes outstanding individuals within 20 years of entering the profession. It is a recognition of those whose early careers demonstrate the potential to have significant impact on the biosystems and agricultural engineering profession.
- 8. Outstanding Sophomore, Outstanding Junior, Outstanding Senior
 - a. For scholarship, leadership and service to the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, the College of Engineering, and the University of Kentucky.
- 9. Outstanding Experiential Learning
 - a. For their significant accomplishments during an experiential learning activity when representing the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, the College of Engineering, and the University of Kentucky.
- 10. Frank Woeste Award
 - a. For scholarship, leadership and service to the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, the College of Engineering, and the University of Kentucky.
- 11. Outstanding Teacher
 - a. For teaching and service to the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, the College of Engineering, and the University of Kentucky.
- 12. Quarter Scale Endowed Scholarship
 - a. Awarded to an outstanding member of the quarter scale tractor team.

Community and Leadership Development

- 1. Community and Leadership Development
 - a. Outstanding Freshman Award
 - b. Outstanding Sophomore Award
 - c. Outstanding Junior Award
 - d. Outstanding Senior Award
 - e. Spirit of CLD Award
- 2. Career and Technical Education
 - a. Freshman Ag Ed Student of the Year
 - i. A freshman who has excelled in their academic courses and maintained involvement throughout the year in the Agricultural Education Society
 - b. Sophomore Ag Ed Student of the Year
 - i. A sophomore who is performing excellent in their academics; involved in the college and university; and is providing superb growth in their performance within the major.
 - c. Junior Ag Ed Student of the Year
 - i. A junior who is performing excellent in their academics; involved in the college and university; and is providing superb growth in their performance within the major.
 - d. Outstanding Ag Ed Student of the Year (Senior)
 - i. A senior who has maintained academic excellence throughout their UK tenure, involvement in student organizations, practice of excellence in teaching, and maintained a level of respect among faculty and peers
 - e. Academic Achievement
 - i. Seniors with a 4.0
- 3. CLD Graduate Program
 - a. Outstanding Teaching Award
 - b. Outstanding Thesis Award
 - c. Outstanding Scholarly Activity
- 4. Alumni Reunion
 - a. CLD Alumni Award
 - b. Agricultural Education Alumni Award
 - c. Graduate Alumni Award

Dietetics and Human Nutrition

Entomology

- 1. Manuscript acceptance and publication scholarships
 - a. https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/ver_12_2019_handbook.pdf
- 2. Knapp and Clark travel award for graduate students to attend conferences
- 3. Bobby Pass student choice speaker award (students choose a distinguished professor for delivering a seminar in the department,
- 4. Shelby Stamper Extension and Service award (a person with distinguished service in Extension is selected annually)

Family Sciences

Forestry and Natural Resources

Horticulture

- 1. American Society for Horticultural Science – Outstanding Undergraduate Horticulture Student
 - a. <https://ashs.org/page/OutstandingUndGraStu>
- 2. American Society for Horticultural Science – ASHS Scholars Award

- a. <https://ashs.org/page/ScholarsAward>

Landscape Architecture

1. American Society of Landscape Architects Student Honor & Merit Award Program
 - a. The ASLA student Honor and Merit award program, administered through the ASLA chapters, is designed to be a collaborative effort between and the chapters and landscape architecture programs. The awards recognize academic achievement, design competence, and interpersonal skills.
2. Sigma Lambda Alpha Honor Society – Landscape Architecture (an ACHS Member Society)
 - a. The purpose of this honor society is to encourage, recognize, and reward academic excellence in preparation for the profession of landscape architecture. Membership includes students, faculty/staff, and professionals. Leadership and sound character are emphasized. Preserving the valuable traditions and customs consonant with the wise husbandry of the land are sought, and a spirit of amiability is fostered among those of marked ability in this discipline. Eligible undergraduates, preferably juniors and seniors, should have a minimum 3.4 GPA on a four-point scale.
[https://www.achsnatl.org/society.asp?society=sla&honor_society=Sigma Lambda Alpha](https://www.achsnatl.org/society.asp?society=sla&honor_society=Sigma+Lambda+Alpha)
3. **Olmsted Scholars Program - Landscape Architecture Foundation**
 - a. The LAF Olmsted Scholars Program recognizes outstanding student leadership. Each university may nominate one student from each of its LAAB or LAAC-accredited landscape architecture programs. Eligible students are current master's students or undergraduates in their fourth or fifth year, who have made a commitment to the landscape architecture discipline.
<https://www.lafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/olmsted-scholars-program>
4. **National ASLA Student Design Awards – American Society of Landscape Architects**
 - a. The **ASLA Student Awards** honor the best in landscape architecture and provide a glimpse into the future of the profession. Winners of these prestigious awards are chosen by a jury that represents the breadth of the profession, including private, public, institutional, and academic practice, and exemplify diversity in professional experience, geography, gender, and ethnicity. Submissions are judged blind. Student Awards are presented in seven categories: General Design, Residential Design, Analysis & Planning, Research, Communications, Student Collaboration and Student Community Service. The jury may select one Award of Excellence and any number of Honor Awards. Award recipients receive featured coverage in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, and in many other design and construction industry publications, as well in the general interest media. ASLA honors the award recipients at the awards presentation ceremony each year during the national ASLA Conference. <https://www.asla.org>
5. **ASLA KY State Chapter – Student Design Awards**
 - a. The ASLA KY State Chapter Awards recognizes quality student work in three categories (Design-Non-Constructed, Planning & Analysis, Communication). The jury will consider the quality of design/planning effort/communications and quality of presentation. Recipients are recognized at the ASLA KY annual conference. <https://www.aslakentucky.org>

Plant and Soil Sciences

1. Plant and Soil Sciences
 - a. Doyle E. Peaslee Award
 - b. Periodically, since 1991, the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences has given the Doyle E. Peaslee Award to an outstanding graduate student in Agronomy. Doyle Peaslee was a long-time member of the Agronomy faculty and this award was established by his family in his memory. The basis for the award is: high GRE scores, good grades, research strength, and potential for “contributions to US agriculture. “The award consists of a small honorarium and an engraved plate with the student’s name posted in the department.
2. Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences (Graduate program)
 - a. The IPSS Graduate Program has an “Awards for Performance” policy for which the following stipend supplements are given. (Note that the continuation of these awards is year-to-year depending on block funding.)
 - b. Graduate Student Symposium
 - i. The IPSS Program sponsors an annual symposium at which its students present their work in graded format. The top three presentations are given a small monetary award (\$300, \$200, \$100)
 - c. Graduate Student 3MT Contest
 - i. The IPSS GSA sponsors an annual program-level 3MT contest. With funding from IPSS Block funding they provide a small monetary award to the contest winners.
 - d. Student Performance awards
 - i. Starting in 2019 the best new and current MS and PhD students in IPSS were honored with small monetary awards (\$200, \$100) based on a nomination letter and proof of performance from annual performance reviews.
 - e. Service awards (\$100 each)
 - i. Graduate students playing an active role in the IPS GSA by serving in an official capacity:
 1. President
 2. Vice-President
 3. Social committee
 4. Secretary
 5. GSC representative
 6. Senate-at-large
 7. Professional development chair
 - f. Gerald O. Mott Award
 - i. Crop Science Society of America
 - ii. Recognizes top-notch graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in crop science disciplines

Plant Pathology

	<p>Retailing and Tourism Management Veterinary Science</p>
<p>Arts and Sciences</p> <p>Arts and Sciences, continued</p>	<p>Anthropology 3.5 The honors program in the Department of Anthropology is a research-intensive experience in which the student works closely with a faculty mentor. Requirements are: (1) a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher; (2) a departmental Major GPA of 3.5 or higher; (3) a research component designed by the student and the faculty mentor.</p> <p>Biology 3.5 Biology majors are eligible for honors in biology if they: (1) Complete 6 hours of BIO 395. (2) Have an overall 3.5 GPA on graduation. (3) Successfully complete two biology honors (BIO--H) courses or two honors selected 500 or 600 level Biology (BIO) courses, or a combination of BIO--H and honors-selected 500/600 BIO courses. Each semester the honors-selected 500/600-level BIO courses will be identified by a course note in the course schedule: this note will state “fulfills an Honors in Biology course requirement”. (4) A public presentation of one’s research results. Such a presentation can be a journal article, a seminar given to a diverse group, a talk or a poster at a professional meeting, a thesis or some form of public presentation approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.</p> <p>Chemistry 3.5 12 hours in CHE or BCH courses (other than CHE 440G, 441G, and 572) at or above the 300 level. At least 6 of those hours must be in CHE 395. 3.5 cumulative GPA and 3.5 major GPA or above.</p> <p>Earth and Environmental Sciences 3.5 3.3 cumulative GPA and senior thesis or 3.5 cumulative GPA or above.</p> <p>Economics 3.2 3.2 cumulative GPA and a major GPA of 3.2 or above.</p> <p>English 3.75 (1) 3.75 major GPA or above in courses taken at UK which count toward the English major. (2) At least 8 such courses taken at UK (i.e., not transferred). (3) Successful completion of at least one designated ENG honors seminar with a grade of B or higher.</p> <p>Environmental and Sustainability Studies 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA.</p> <p>Gender and Women’s Studies 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.5 or above.</p> <p>Geography 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.5 or above.</p> <p>Health, Society, and Populations 3.6 3.6 or above major GPA.</p> <p>Hispanic Studies 3.6 Overall cumulative GPA 3.6 and departmental GPA in 300-500 level SPA courses 3.75.</p> <p>History 3.5 Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA, 3.5 departmental GPA or above and a grade of A or B in HIS 301 and HIS499.</p> <p>International Studies 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.5 or above.</p> <p>Linguistics 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.75 or above.</p> <p>Mathematical Economics 3.2 3.2 cumulative GPA or above and 3.2 major GPA or above.</p> <p>Mathematics 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA or above.</p> <p>Modern and Classical Language 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.75 or above.</p> <p>Neuroscience 3.5 Neuroscience majors are eligible for honors in neuroscience if they: (1) Have an overall GPA of 3.5 or above at graduation. (2) Complete two scholars courses or two 400G, 500 or 600 level or a combination of a scholars course and a 400G/500/600 BIO course. (3) Complete 6 credit hours of an independent research experience. (4) Give a public presentation of one’s research results. Such presentation can be a journal article, a seminar given to a diverse group, a talk or a poster at a professional meeting, a thesis or some form of public presentation approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.</p> <p>Philosophy 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA or above in PHI courses, plus a senior thesis. Students are encouraged to enroll in PHI 395 for support in writing the senior thesis.</p> <p>Physics 3.4 3.4 cumulative GPA or above and 3.4 major GPA or above in physics and astronomy. All students awarded department honors will have fully participated in independent study or research including the preparation of a final report; participation with a high grade in a 3-credit-hour PHY 395 or participation in a summer research experience are ways of achieving this. Other factors such as citizenship, leadership in the Society of Physics Students, and other meritorious activity will be considered in the selection of seniors for graduation with honors.</p> <p>Political Science 3.5 In order to graduate with departmental honors in political science, a student must obtain at least a 3.5 GPA in the major and at least a 3.25 overall GPA. Additionally, honor students must complete PS 490, Honors in Political Science. In this course, students will be expected to carry out a major research project. Should that option be unavailable, however, students <i>will have an opportunity</i> to arrange completion of a major research project under faculty guidance as part of PS 395, the department’s Independent Study course, subject to approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.</p> <p>Psychology 3.5 3.6 major GPA or above and successful completion of PSY 495 and PSY 496.</p> <p>Sociology 3.5 3.5 cumulative GPA or above.</p> <p>Topical 3.6 3.6 cumulative GPA or above and recommendation of the Associate Dean based on the final thesis.</p> <p>Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies 3.5 3.5 or above cumulative GPA and major GPA of 3.5 or above and GPA of 3.5 or above in 400-level WRD courses.</p>
<p>Business and Economics</p>	<p>Offered, but no details in Bulletin</p> <p>From J. Siebenthaler</p>

	Departmental honors are given to those students that earn Latin Honors and also have a 3.4 GPA in their actual major courses.
Communication and Information	Offered by Department of Communication, but no details in Bulletin
Design	None
Education	None
Engineering	None From K. Anderson - The College of Engineering does not have accolades specific to our College. However, we do have some certificates and scholars pathways that our students pursue. We are thinking about having a special ceremony to recognize these students and providing a medallion that they can wear at graduation (if permitted).
Fine Arts	None
Graduate School	None
Health Sciences	None
Honors	To graduate with Honors from the Lewis Honors College and have the University Honors designation on the final UK transcript and diploma, students must complete the requirements described above. (See Bulletin for details)
Nursing	Offered, but no details in Bulletin
Public Health	None
Social Work	The College of Social Work recognizes those undergraduate students who attain a 3.6 overall University of Kentucky GPA as having Departmental Honors which is indicated on the final transcript.