

The SAASC convened on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 to consider a proposal from Dean Christian Brady of the Lewis Honors College to change Senate Rule 5.3.2. to require Honors students to maintain a cumulative 3.40 GPA in order to remain in good standing in the Honors College.

Attendance: Susan Effgen, Tom Troland, Shawn Caudill, Azhar Swanson, Kevin Donohue, Herman Farrell (Chair), Annie Weber (ex-officio), Dean Christian Brady, Associate Dean Czarena Crofcheck.

Procedure:

The proposal was reviewed by the Undergraduate Council (correspondence included in this PDF) and then reviewed by the SAASC. Susan Effgen, a member of the SAASC, acted as facilitator of the proposal.

Discussion:

Effgen presented the proposal to the committee. Members of the committee expressed general support for the proposal, noting that the cumulative 3.40 GPA requirement aligns with the cum laude distinction that is delineated on UK diplomas for all students graduating with a cumulative 3.40 GPA. There was some discussion at this meeting and the previous meeting concerning first year students that might struggle during that first year. But it was noted that students would not be removed from the college until the end of the first year, after being placed on probation for one semester. The committee reviewed the benchmarks and noted a similar requirement of maintaining a 3.40 GPA over the course of the 4 years with similar probationary periods. It was noted, from the 5 year review that was included in the proposal, that the change would not adversely affect many Honors students since a vast majority of them maintain GPAs well above 3.40.

The Chair noted that the proposed change to the Senate Rule 5.3.2, as set forth in the proposal does not include the implementation language regarding the probationary period that is included in the proposal letter. The committee agreed that the proposal should be approved with the inclusion of that language.

So the proposed SR change now reads:

5.3.2.X Lewis Honors College

Students in the Lewis Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 in order to remain in good standing. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.40, the student will be given one semester to bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.40 and additional academic advising will be required. If a student falls below a cumulative 3.40 for two semesters *in a row* they will be dismissed from the Lewis Honors College. Affected students may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of the Lewis Honors College. There will

be no impact on scholarships unless otherwise stated in the scholarship contract that they received upon enrollment.

Vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

To: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair, University Senate Council

From: Christian Brady, Dean, Lewis Honors College

Date: October 1, 2018

RE: **Increase in the minimum overall GPA required to graduate with Honors**

Proposal for Senate Rules:

5.3.2.8 Lewis Honors College

Students in the Lewis Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 in order to remain in good standing. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.40, the student will be given one semester to bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.40.

Implementation:

This will apply to students admitted Fall 2019 and following. If a student should fall below a cumulative 3.40 GPA for one semester, they will be put on probationary status and additional academic advising will be required. If a student falls below a cumulative 3.40 for two semesters *in a row* they will be dismissed from the LHC. They may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of the LHC. There will be no impact on scholarships received unless otherwise stated in the scholarship contract that they received upon enrollment.

Justification:

Currently, the minimum cumulative GPA requirement to graduate from the Lewis Honors College is a 3.0. The 3.40 requirement is the same as the University minimum GPA required to graduate with *cum laude* distinction; it seems fitting that graduating from the University "with Honors" should not have a lower standard than graduating *cum laude*.

A 3.40 cumulative GPA is also in line with the required Honors GPA at peer and aspirant institutions.

This proposal contains the following supporting data and documentation to support this change:

- 1) Approval from the Honors College Council representing the Honors Faculty.
- 2) Summary of GPA requirements of benchmark Honors Colleges.
- 3) Summary of data showing how the increase in the minimum would have affected the last five years of Honors Graduates. All of these students were in the Honors Program.

Purpose. Intellect. Integrity.

Proposed New *Senate Rules 5.3.2.8* (“Lewis Honors College”) in Track Changes
(new language is on page five)

5.3.2 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES-PROBATION AND SUSPENSION POLICIES

Individual colleges may establish policies regarding academic probation and suspension with regard to a student's academic standing within the college in addition to the University-wide policies prescribed in SR 5.3.1. If a college establishes such a policy, the policy must be approved by the University Senate, and the policy shall be made available in writing to the students. (See this Section 5.3.1.2 and 5.3.1.3.) [US: 4/25/84]

5.3.2.1 College of Design

A student may be placed on probation in the College of Design or suspended from the College of Design, but not necessarily the University, according to the College of Design standards that follow.

A student enrolled in the College of Design who is placed on college probation may continue with studies in the college and university subject to general University regulations concerning academic standing. A student enrolled in the College of Design who is suspended from the college may not take classes offered in the College of Design until reinstated. A student who is suspended from the College of Design may take classes outside the college subject to general University regulations concerning academic standing.

A grade of “C” or higher is required to advance to the next level of studio in the College of Design. A grade below C in an architectural design studio is considered unacceptable for majors in the College of Design. A student who earns a grade below C in a design studio will be placed on College probation. This probation will be removed when the student earns a grade of C or higher in the same studio.

A student will be suspended from the college for:

- A.** failing to earn a grade of C or higher in a particular architectural design studio for the second time; or
- B.** failing to earn a grade of C or higher in a particular design studio in its first or second offering after the semester in which the student earned a grade below C in that studio, provided the student remains in the University, except that students are not required to enroll in summer sessions; or
- C.** failing to earn a grade of C or higher in any design studio while the student is on University probation for two or more consecutive semesters.

Provision **C.** does not apply to first year architectural design students.

College of Design rules on probation and suspension may be waived by the Dean of the College of Design under extraordinary circumstances, with notification to the Faculty.

A student who has been suspended from the College of Design may petition the Dean for reinstatement after a period of no less than 12 months.

5.3.2.2 College of Health Sciences [US: 4/25/84; US: 12/14/92; US: 5/5/2014]

Proposed New *Senate Rules 5.3.2.8* (“Lewis Honors College”) in Track Changes
(new language is on page five)

The following standards apply to Health Sciences students in professional programs:

A. Placement on Probation

A student will be placed on probation in the professional program when:

1. the semester GPA falls below 2.0 in courses required by the professional program; or,
2. a failing grade is earned in any course required by the professional program.

B. Removal from Probation

A student may satisfy the deficiency warranting probation and will be removed from probation when:

1. in the semester following probation, a 2.0 or above semester GPA is achieved in courses required by the professional program; and
2. a passing grade is earned in any previously failed course required by the professional program.

C. Suspension:

A student will be suspended from the professional program when:

1. The student does not earn a 2.0 semester GPA in courses required by the professional program is not earned either at the end of the probationary semester, or in any subsequent semester; or
2. The student fails a course required by the professional program a second time; or
3. The student fails two courses required by the professional program, unless alternative action is recommended by the Program Director and approved by the Dean.

5.3.2.3 College of Engineering [US: 4/25/84; US: 2/12/96; US: 3/9/2009]

The following rules apply to the College of Engineering.

- A.** Any engineering student who has completed two or more semesters at UK and who fails to maintain a cumulative UK GPA of 2.0 or higher will be suspended from the College of Engineering and will not be readmitted until this GPA is 2.0 or higher.
- B.** Any student enrolled in the College of Engineering who earns a UK GPA of less than 2.0 in any semester will be placed on academic probation.
- C.** Any student on academic probation who fails to earn a 2.0 or higher semester GPA will be suspended from the College of Engineering and will not be readmitted until he or she has obtained a semester GPA of 2.0 or higher for one semester and the student’s cumulative GPA is 2.0 or greater.
- D.** Students who are suspended twice from the College of Engineering will not be readmitted.

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5.3.2.4 College of Education [US: 3/9/87; US: 11/14/88; US: 9/8/97]

The teacher candidate's progress in a Teacher Education Program is continuously monitored. A student may be placed on probationary status or suspended from the program for failure to make satisfactory progress. Conditions resulting in probation or suspension include the following:

A. Retention of Candidates In Teacher Education Programs

The progress of candidates who have been admitted to a teacher education program is continuously monitored. Some of the items which are monitored are: (a) whether a student has failed to earn a grade of C or better in a professional education class, (b) whether a student has failed to maintain 2.50 minimum GPA's overall and in required subject areas, (c) whether a student has demonstrated continued adherence to the EPSB Professional Code of Ethics, and (d) whether adequate progress is being made in building the Working Portfolio.

If problems are identified, program faculty will determine a plan for addressing the problems and implement the plan including feedback and direction to the student.

B. Continuous Assessment In Teacher Education Programs

A student's progress through all teacher preparation programs is continuously monitored, assessed, and reviewed. In addition to typical evaluation processes that occur as part of their course work and field placements, students will be assessed a minimum of three times during their program by representatives of their respective program faculty.

The three assessments will occur upon entry into the Teacher Education Program, at a midpoint in the program (no later than the semester prior to student teaching), and as students exit the program following student teaching. Assessments will include, but are not limited to: (a) basic skills assessment, (b) review of grades via transcript, (c) personal and professional skills assessed during interviews with program faculty when taking campus based courses, and during field experiences, (d) portfolio documents, and (e) continued adherence to the KY Professional Code of Ethics.

Following admission to a Teacher Education Program, if problems have been identified at any of the assessment points, program faculty will determine a plan for addressing the problems and implement the plan including feedback and direction to the student. In addition, if specific strengths are recognized during these assessments, the student will be commended.

C. Admission to Student Teaching

Prior to the student teaching semester, each candidate will be asked to provide evidence in the form of the Working Portfolio to demonstrate the acquisition of skills related to teaching in the chosen subject field, and to document progress in any identified problem areas. Each candidate's portfolio will be reviewed by the appropriate program faculty, and continued progress through the program will be contingent on the results of this midpoint review.

Admission to student teaching requires a successful midpoint assessment review and recommendation by the program faculty that the candidate be allowed to student teach.

5.3.2.5 Program in Accountancy [US: 4/13/87]

A. Retention Standards

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Students pursuing the Five-Year Professional Program in Accountancy must maintain a 3.00 GPA in all hours attempted throughout the five-year program. If a student's GPA in the hours attempted after admission to the professional program falls below 3.00, the student will be given one semester to bring his or her GPA up to 3.00.

B. Graduation Standards

In order to graduate with an M.S. in the Professional Program in Accountancy, students must have at least a 3.00 GPA in all worked attempted and must have successfully completed a comprehensive final examination.

5.3.2.6 College of Nursing [US: 10/14/91]

The following standards apply undergraduate students in the professional nursing program.

(NOTE: In the statements below, the phrase "in the College of Nursing (CON)" refers to courses with an NUR prefix that are specific requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The phrase "by the CON" refers to other courses in the student's approved academic plan, which does not have the NUR prefix, e.g., ENG, CHE, BIO.)

These standards apply to all undergraduate students unless alternative action is recommended by the Undergraduate Student Admission and Progression Committee and approved by the Dean of the College of Nursing.

A. Undergraduate Program Probation

Regardless of academic standing in the University, a student shall be placed on probation when the student:

1. earns a semester GPA less than 2.0 in courses required by the College of Nursing; OR,
2. earns a grade less than a C (2.0) for any course required in the CON (NUR prefix).

B. Removal from Undergraduate Program Probation

A student shall be removed from probation when the student:

1. in the semester following probation earns a semester GPA of at least 2.0 in courses required by the College of Nursing; an
2. earns at least a grade of C (2.0) in any course required in the CON (NUR prefix) for which the student previously earned a grade below C (2.0).

C. Undergraduate Program Suspension

A student shall be suspended from the undergraduate nursing program when the student:

1. earns less than a semester GPA of 2.0 in courses required by the CON either at the end of the first probationary period or in any subsequent semester; or

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2. For a second time fails to earn a grade of C (2.0) in a course required in the CON (NUR prefix); or
3. fails to earn a grade of C (2.0) in any two courses required in the CON (NUR Prefix); or
4. earns less than a GPA of 1.5 in the courses required by the CON at the end of any semester, except for the first semester at the University, with a preliminary probationary period.

D. Removal from Suspension

After the period of suspension, a student may be reinstated into the CON when the student meets the requirements for admission.

E. Master of Science in Nursing GPA Requirements

A minimum of 3.0 GPA in all graduate nursing courses is required for graduation, in addition to a cumulative 3.0 GPA over all graduate courses.

5.3.2.7 Gatton College of Business and Economics [US: 5/5/2003]

The following rules apply to students in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

- A. No student with a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 will be enrolled in the Gatton College of Business and Economics. Any student who fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 will be suspended from the Gatton College of Business and Economics and will not be readmitted until this GPA is 2.0 or greater. No probationary notice will be given.
- B. Any student enrolled in the Gatton College of Business and Economics who achieves a GPA of less than 2.0 in any semester will be placed on probation.
- C. Any student on probation who fails to achieve a 2.0 semester GPA will be dropped from the Gatton College of Business and Economics and will not be readmitted until he or she has obtained a semester GPA of 2.0 or greater for one semester and the student’s cumulative GPA is 2.0 or greater.
- D. Students who are suspended twice from the Gatton College of Business and Economics will not be readmitted.

5.3.2.8 Lewis Honors College [US: 12/10/2018]

Students in the Lewis Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 in order to remain in good standing. If a student’s cumulative GPA falls below a 3.40, the student will be given one semester to bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.40 and additional academic advising will be required. If a student falls below a cumulative 3.4 for two semesters in a row they will be dismissed from the Lewis Honors College. Affected students may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of the Lewis Honors College. There will be no impact on scholarships unless otherwise stated in the scholarship contract that they received upon enrollment.

1) Approval from the Honors College Council

The Honors College Council was presented with the proposal to make this change and voted to approve the increase in the minimum GPA to 3.40 at the September 28, 2018, meeting. The vote was five in favor and three against. Two members were not present, but one indicated their support for the motion. Those who voted against the motion did so out of concern for impact on the diversity of the college. These concerns are of primary importance to the dean and associate dean as well and we are dedicated to taking measures to negate or mitigate any negative impact.

2) Summary of GPA requirements for graduation of benchmark Honors Colleges

University of Arizona	<u>3.5 or higher to graduate</u>
Penn State	<u>3.4 at graduation, maintain throughout</u>
University of Michigan	<u>3.4 by sophomore year</u>
UC Davis	<u>3.250 Maintained across all semesters</u>
Ohio State University	<u>3.4 Maintained across all semesters</u>
University of South Carolina	<u>3.3 Maintained across all semesters after first year</u>
TAMU	<u>3.5 Maintained across all semesters after first year</u>
Mississippi State	<u>3.4 Maintained across all semester in Honors courses</u>

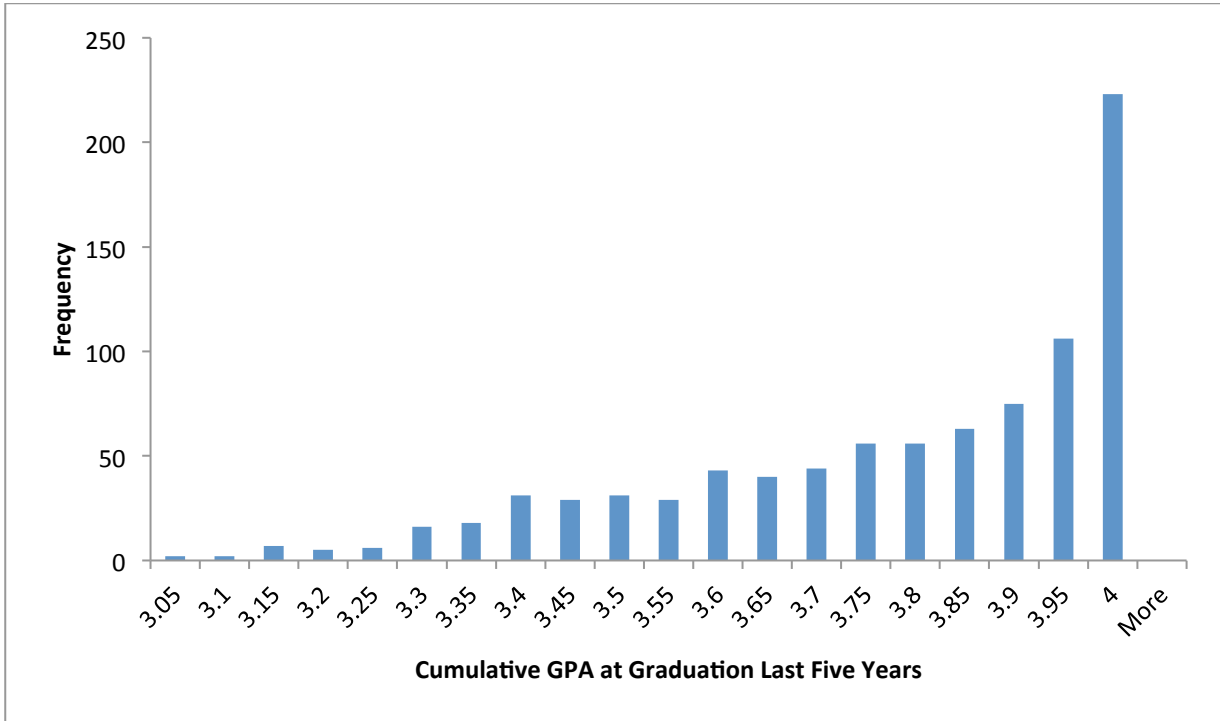
3) Summary of Data Based on Past Honors Graduates

HONORS GRADUATES, 2014-2018

The following analysis is based on data pulled from Tableau; these degrees were awarded to students who applied for graduation with an active Honors status. All majors are the primary majors as listed in Tableau.

It is important to remember that the students from these years were a part of a very different and changing Honors Program than the Lewis Honors College implemented in 2017. Far fewer students were admitted each year, ACT/SAT scores were important factors of admissions (they are not considered in admission to the LHC), and there was comparatively little support provided for the students as they progressed through the program, which was focused upon their first four semesters. In many ways this is not an apt comparison, but it is the only data that we have.

For example, this five-year cohort had a URM population of just 6.5%. The current population of Under-Represented Minorities in the LHC is over 8.3%. This is not as diverse as we would like, but recruitment efforts are already moving in the right direction. Changes to recruitment efforts, in coordination with the University Office of Enrollment Management, and the introduction of personal counselors, an expanded academic advising team, and dedicated Honors faculty are all part of our efforts to recruit and support a diverse student body in terms of both background and disciplines.



A total of 882 degrees was awarded, with 86 of those degrees granted to students with lower than a 3.4. This represents **10% of the total**, where 16% of the total received a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Student Demographics

The total number of students was 882, where 86 received a cumulative GPA of less than a 3.4 at graduation, or 10%. This section shows the percentages of students that received a cumulative GPA of less than 3.4 from different stratified categories. For all the categories considered, the percentage of the students in that category that received a cumulative GPA of below 3.4 ranged from 6 to 13%.

Gender	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Gender
Female	493	37	8%
Male	389	49	13%

Residency	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Residency
Resident	687	71	10%
Non-Resident	195	15	8%

Pell Grant	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Pell Grant
Eligible	132	17	13%
Not Eligible	750	69	9%

Appalachian	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Appalachian
Yes	143	16	11%
No	739	70	9%

First Gen	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within First Gen
Yes	62	5*	8%
No	820	81	10%

*3.083, 3.254, 3.263, 3.276, 3.351

URM	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within URM
Yes	54	5*	9%
No	828	81	10%

* 3.254, 3.288, 3.291, 3.355, 3.356

Ethnicity	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Ethnicity
Asian	32	2	6%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	10	1	10%
Hispanic	26	2	8%
Multi-Racial (two or more races)	18	2	11%
White (Non-Hispanic)	758	74	10%
Total Reporting	844	81	10%

Demographics for Students Under 3.4 Cumulative GPA

Again, the total number of students with a listed major was 881, where 86 received a cumulative GPA of less than a 3.4 at graduation, or 10%. This section shows the percentage of students that received a cumulative GPA of less than 3.4 from different the different colleges. The percentage of the students in each college that received a cumulative GPA of below 3.4 ranged from 3 to 15%. The two colleges with the highest percentage of cumulative GPAs below 3.4 were Engineering and Business and Economics, both at 15%.

College	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within College
Ag, Food and Environment	71	8	11%
Arts and Sciences	318	21	7%
Business & Economics	114	17	15%
Communication and Information	29	1	4%
Design	7	1	14%
Education	36	1	3%
Engineering	215	33	15%
Fine Arts	27	1	4%
Health Sciences	35	1	3%
Nursing	21	2	10%
Public Health	6	0	0%
Social Work	2	0	0%
	881	86	

Taking a closer look at only the majors where there were students with a cumulative graduation GPA of less than a 3.4, there were 30 majors. The majors with more than 1 student below a 3.4 and a below-3.4-GPA percentage at 15% or higher were all analyzed further.

Major	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Major
Biology	121	10	8%
Chemical Engineering	55	10	18%
Mechanical Engineering	39	7	18%
Chemistry	27	45	15%
Accounting	33	4	12%
Agricultural Biotechnology	16	4	25%
Computer Engineering	24	4	17%
Computer Science	43	4	9%
Economics	27	4	15%
Finance	25	4	16%

Marketing	18	4	22%
Biosystems Engineering	12	3	25%
Electrical Engineering	14	3	21%
Political Science	32	3	9%
Nursing	21	2	10%
Psychology	36	2	6%
Animal Sciences	15	1	7%
Architecture	5	1	20%
Civil Engineering	13	1	8%
Community & Leadership Dev	3	1	33%
Equine Science & Management	8	1	13%
Human Health Sciences	21	1	5%
Human Nutrition	9	1	11%
Journalism	6	1	17%
Kinesiology	14	1	7%
Management	16	1	6%
Materials Engineering	12	1	8%
Mathematics	8	1	13%
Neuroscience	5	1	20%
Theatre	8	1	13%

For the following analysis, current cumulative GPAs of students in these majors were pulled from Tableau. Even the smallest percentage of 26% for Economics indicates that the at least the top 25% of the class would be able to remain in the Honors College and, for six majors, almost half of the students would be able to remain in Honors.

Major	# of Students (Honors)	# <3.4 GPA (Honors)	% Within Major (Honors)	% above a 3.4 (All)
Chemical Engineering	55	10	18%	48%
Mechanical Engineering	39	7	18%	34%
Chemistry	27	4	15%	46%
Ag Biotech	16	4	25%	48%
Computer Engineering	24	4	17%	49%
Economics	27	4	15%	26%
Finance	25	4	16%	51%
Marketing	18	4	22%	41%
Biosystems Engineering	12	3	25%	37%
Electrical Engineering	14	3	21%	49%