

Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2021

TO: Dr. Dale Rice
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Anne Reber
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Student Rule 16 Honors Program

Approved by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee on September 3, 2021

Approved by the Faculty Senate on October 11, 2021

Approved by the President on November 4, 2021

The changes proposed were submitted by staff in the Honors Program. The justification on the next page provides all the supporting information for the proposed changes.

PROPOSAL

Please see attached rule with tracked changes.

JUSTIFICATION

16.1.1 - Updated to reflect that Texas A&M freshman admissions will be test-optional for 2022.

16.1.3 (previously listed as 16.2.2) Updated to address inconsistency in section numbering.

16.2 (previously listed as a duplicated 16.2.2) Updated to address inconsistency in section numbering.

16.2.1 Updated to reflect practice (thankfully infrequent) not codified elsewhere. We have been advised by the Division of Student Affairs that students recognized by our office fit the category of representing the university (see Rule 27) and for that reason we check for student conduct and Honor Code violations before someone can serve in a leadership role, be nominated for a nationally-competitive scholarship/fellowship, or receive recognition such as the Dean's Excellence Award.

We also apply the same rationale for graduating with Honors Fellows as is described in Student Rule 15, that a violation past 60 hours means that a student cannot receive that distinction at graduation. An Honor Code violation before 60 hours that is remediated (so that the * is removed from the transcript) does not prevent a student from graduating with the Honors Fellows distinction so long as other distinction requirements are met.

PROPOSED BY:

Name: Dr. Jonathan Kotinek
Program Director, Honor Program
Phone: (979) 845-1957
E-Mail Address: jkotinek@tamu.edu
Department: Honor Program, LAUNCH
Department Mail Stop: 4233 TAMU
Date: April 19, 2021

Present Rule with additions in **red font** and deletions struck

16. Honors Program

~~(Revised: 2018)~~ **(Revised: 2021)**

The university confers graduation honors upon a candidate for a baccalaureate degree who has completed a substantial body of course work through the University Honors Program or any one of the several college or departmental Honors programs; see listing at <http://honorsprograms.tamu.edu>.

16.1 Honors Eligibility. Students are Honors-eligible as entering freshmen or transfer students if they are accepted to the University Honors Program through a competitive application, or to another college or departmental Honors program.

16.1.1 For Fall ~~2021~~ 2022 Applicants only: Incoming freshmen who are not in an Honors program will be considered Honors-eligible if they graduated in the top 10% of their high school class or have been identified as National Merit Semifinalists, National Merit Scholars, or National Hispanic **Recognition** Scholars, and have submitted a request to be marked Honors-eligible to LAUNCH.

16.1.2 Incoming transfer students will be considered Honors-eligible if they have at least a cumulative 3.5 GPA from their sending institution and have submitted a request to be marked Honors-eligible to LAUNCH.

~~16.2.2~~ **16.1.3** Second semester freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors (collectively, “Continuing Students”) may enroll in honors courses if they earned a cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) at Texas A&M of 3.50 or above. First semester transfer students are considered for participation on an individual basis. To maintain eligibility to register for Honors sections each semester, a student must maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPR.

~~16.2.2~~ **16.2** Honors Fellows. The distinction for the University Honors Program is called “Honors Fellows.” To earn Honors Fellows, a student must ~~remain in good standing with~~ **meet** program requirements, listed below.

- Maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPR*.
- Meet minimum co-curricular participation requirements.
 - First-year students meet requirements ~~are met~~ by participating in the Learning Community Seminar.
 - Continuing University Honors students need to attend two Honors Student Council events per semester, at least one of which must be designated as academic in nature.**
- Demonstrate progress toward Honors Fellows distinction requirements by taking at least six Honors credits per year.
- Make an annual update to their Honors ePortfolio.

* **First-year students are not held to the GPR requirement in their first semester so long as they meet participation requirements.** ~~Freshmen who are not~~ **Those not** meeting co-curricular participation requirements will be subject to probation for GPR in the spring semester **of their first year.** ~~Freshmen~~ **First-year students** who do not have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPR at the end of their first academic year will be placed on probation during the upcoming **fall semester of their second year.**

**Continuing students who will be away from campus for a semester of study abroad or internship should arrange an alternative with an Honors Advisor ahead of time.

16.2.1 To complete distinction requirements and receive the Honors Fellows distinction at graduation, Honors Students must:

- Earn a total of 30 honors points:
- Each credit hour of Honors course work equals 1 point. At least 21 points must come from Honors course work distributed as follows
 - Breadth: 9 hours must meet Core Curriculum or graduation requirements as specified in the student's catalog.
 - Depth: 12 hours must be in upper-division (300/400-level) courses or graduate courses taken for undergraduate credit.
 - Practical Application: Complete an Honors Capstone experience. The Capstone will be worth 6 points, whether taken for credit or not. Requires UGST 497 both semesters of the capstone.
- Up to 3 points may be earned through Honors Experiences either designated by the University Honors Program or contracted for points.
- Maintain co-curricular requirements.
- Meet minimum 3.25 GPR in Honors course work.
- **Be in good standing with the university at the time of graduation distinction audit and through graduation.**
- **Not have an F* on the transcript and not have been found responsible for an Honor Code violation as an Upper Division student. Upper Division status is defined as having earned 60 or more credit hours (including transfer hours and advanced placement credits) on the date of the violation. This sanction is automatic upon a finding of responsibility, and is imposed without regard to the severity of other sanctions imposed by the Aggie Honor System Office.**

16.3 Probation. Honors Students who fail to meet requirements for their Honors program will be given a semester of probation to correct any deficiencies. While in probationary semester, a priority registration time will not be assigned. Honors Students who fail to meet requirements after a semester of probation will be dismissed from their program.