



University of Kentucky  
College of Pharmacy  
*Office of Academic Programs*

**September 20, 2021**

**To:** Aaron Cramer, PhD, Chair, UK Senate Council  
**From:** Frank Romanelli, PharmD, MPH, Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy  
**Re:** Latin Honors Calculations at the UK College of Pharmacy  
Doctor of Pharmacy degree program

**Proposal Regarding:**

*Specification surrounding calculations and qualifications utilized to determine Latin Honors Status within the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree program at the UK College of Pharmacy.*

**Background:**

In May 2021 the College was informed that based on a graduation audit most PharmD degree graduates from the Class of 2021 did not qualify for Latin Honors ("Cum Laude," etc.) pursuant to Senate Rule 5.5.2.2 which specifies that for the PharmD degree as well as the Juris Doctor (JD) degree a minimum number of quality hours that must be included in the test for qualification is 90. Applying this rule to the existing cohort of graduates would have meant that almost no student would meet the threshold for Latin Honors. To mitigate this situation in 2021 a one-time waiver was requested and approved by Senate Chair Dr. Aaron Cramer.

The College has reviewed the existing Senate Rule and believes the current issue has surfaced because of the Colleges 2015 curricular overhaul of the PharmD program which produced its first graduating class in 2020. The class of 2021 represents the second cohort of graduates under the revised curriculum. The revised curriculum contains several courses which are designated Pass/Fail and this in turn has reduced the minimum number of quality hours that can be used in the Latin Honors calculation. The conversion of coursework to Pass/Fail as a component of the last curricular review was driven by 2 main factors, (1) consistent with most PharmD programs - experiential coursework continues to move away from A-E grading scales which are difficult to apply in clinical settings (2) the new curriculum takes advantage of the move towards competency-based assessments that require practice, testing, and remediation until learning is achieved at some minimum standard level.

While we believe that Senate Rule 5.5.2.2 may be grounded in original calculations which were used when both the JD and PharmD degrees existed as undergraduate bachelor's degree programs (and not professional programs) the historical holdover of this rule remains slightly unclear.

**Proposal:**

The College proposes amending Senate Rule 5.5.2.2 related to "Conditions of Merit and

Circumstance for Degree Honors” so that the 90-quality hour requirement for qualification testing be eliminated and that for the purposes of calculating Latin Honors within the PharmD program cumulative final GPA be utilized across the following scale:

3.4-3.59	Cum Laude
3.6-3.79	Magna Cum Laude
3.8-4.0	Summa Cum Laude

**Proposed Amended Language:**

“The College of Pharmacy awards Latin Honors as follows: Doctor of Pharmacy degree candidates with a grade point average of 3.8 or higher will be graduated Summa Cum Laude; students with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher will be graduated magna cum laude; students with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher will be graduated cum laude. Latin honors will be awarded regardless of the number of graded credit hours (i.e., quality hours) earned by the student.”

**Internal Approval Process:**

Faculty Meeting:	September 2, 2021
Faculty e-vote:	September 19, 2021
Pass:	41
Fail:	1
Votes Cast:	42

### 5.5.2.2 Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors

Students shall be graduated "Summa Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.8 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 10/11/94; US: 4/11/94]

Students shall be graduated "Magna Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.6 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 4/11/94]

Students shall be graduated "Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.4 to 3.6 for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 4/11/94]

Students with a minimum of two but less than three years of work at the University shall receive the appropriate commencement honors if they attain a grade point average of 0.2 greater than the above.

- \* Courses taken under the Study Abroad and National Exchange Student programs (and for which students pay their tuition to the University of Kentucky) are considered as courses taken at UK for purposes of both the residency requirement of SR [3.1.1.1](#) and for graduates to be conferred commencement honors at the time of award of their degrees under SR Section 5.5.2.2. [SREC: 2/14/01; SREC: 5/31/2005]

The degree with honors from a professional college shall be based solely upon work done in the professional college.

The bachelor's degree with honors in a student's major or a degree with honors from a professional college will be conferred upon a student whom the faculty of the student's department, or college in the case of a professional college, and the dean of the student's college recommend receive the degree. A student may be required to complete work in addition to that required for the bachelor's or professional degree to receive a degree with honors. [US: 12/13/82]

All students in the Honors Program of the University who do not have a grade point standing of 3.5 or better but are in the top ten percent (10%) of their college's class are eligible to graduate in the Honors Program if they satisfy the other requirements and have approval of the Honors Program Director.

- \* A student who has invoked the academic bankruptcy rule (SR [5.4.1.5](#)) during his/her University career shall be considered, for the purposes of commencement honors, as having attended the University only for those hours earned subsequent to readmission. [SREC: 6/21/83]
- \* A student need not be enrolled full-time to fulfill the years of work necessary to receive commencement honors. Two years of work means 60 credit hours; three years means 90 credits. [SREC: 5/8/85]

~~\* Under this rule, the cumulative GPA is used to test for qualification for graduation honors, and the minimum number of credit hours that must be included in that GPA~~

calculation (i.e. quality hours) is 90 hours. However, for historical reasons, the minimum number of credit hours that must be included in the GPA calculation for students earning JD or PharmD degrees is 75% of the minimum number of credit hours required for the degree [SREC: 2/24/2006; 9/9/2019]

- \* A student does not have to be a full-time student to be eligible for qualifying for graduation honors. [SREC: 2/24/2006]

#### **5.5.2.2.2 Degree Honors in the PharmD Program (College of Pharmacy)**

The PharmD program awards Latin Honors as follows: Doctor of Pharmacy degree candidates with a grade point average of 3.8 or higher will be graduated Summa Cum Laude; students with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher will be graduated magna cum laude; students with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher will be graduated cum laude. Latin honors will be awarded regardless of the number of graded credit hours (i.e., quality hours) earned by the student.