

**PROPOSAL TO INITIATE
NONSUBSTANTIVE Academic Change(s)
At Fayetteville State University**

Proposal Title: Revise Criteria for Graduation with Distinction

This proposal involves (check all appropriate boxes and highlight appropriate phrase):

- Initiating a course that does not affect the Core Curriculum is a non-substantive change; if the proposal adds to, eliminates or otherwise changes coursework in the Core Curriculum, it is a substantive change.
- Modifying course that does not affect the Core Curriculum is a non-substantive change; if the proposal adds to, eliminates or otherwise changes coursework in the Core Curriculum, it is a substantive change.
- Eliminating a course that does not affect the Core Curriculum is a non-substantive change; if the proposal adds to, eliminates or otherwise changes coursework in the Core Curriculum, it is a substantive change.
- Modifying 49% or less of the required semester hours within an established program is a non-substantive change. Proposals to modify 50% or more of an existing program, as determined by the total number of credit hours affected by modifications, are treated as a proposal for a new program, which is a substantive change.
- Modifying 49% or less of the elective semester hours within an established program is a non-substantive change. Proposals to modify 50% or more of an existing program, as determined by the total number of credit hours affected by modifications, are treated as a substantive change.
- Initiating a New Program or Eliminating a Program are substantive changes.
- Modifying program admission or exit requirements is a substantive change (provide general description):

Other (provide general description): Revise policy on Graduation with Distinction

This proposal is submitted by:

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College/School (CAS, SOE, SBE) Affiliation: NA

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Summary of Proposal Entitled Revise Criteria for Graduation with Distinction

- I. **Proposal Description:** Please specify changes in requirements of hours in each area of program requirements. Please provide the current catalog summary of requirements chart, a proposed catalog summary requirements chart, and the catalog description for the new course(s) and current course(s) changed including pre-requisites.

To revise the number of credits from 90 to 60 earned at FSU required for graduation with honor of Summa Cum Laude; discontinue naming Valedictorian and Salutatorian

- II. **Purpose:** Please describe what this change will do, e.g., decrease time to graduation, encourage retention, better prepare students for the workforce or further study, etc.

This policy will make the FSU earned hours for graduation with Summa Cum Laude the same as required for Cum Laude and Magna Cum Laude.

- III. **Rationale:** Please address why the proposal is being made. The following may assist you in your response as appropriate: Is the revision in response to assessment of student learning? If so, please cite the data. Is the revision in response to changes in the profession, accrediting agencies, or the discipline? If so, please specify and provide documentation. Is the revision in response to a review of the requirements of professional organizations? If so, please specify and provide documentation. Is the revision in response to recommendations from external consultant(s)? If so, please specify and cite. Is the revision intended to make the program more attractive to potential students? If so, explain. Is the revision in response to some aspect of the FSU and/or UNC strategic plan? How?

Revising criteria for Graduation with Summa Cum Laude -This proposal will enable more transfer students and military-affiliated students to graduate with the honor of Summa Cum Laude. Transfer students, including military affiliated students, comprise an increasing percentage of FSU students. Many are degree completion students. The requirement to earn 90 hours at FSU for Summa Cum Laude eliminates the possibility for many of these students to graduate Summa Cum Laude. With this proposal, a student with 60+ hours at FSU (at least half of required hours for any degree at FSU) will graduate Summa Cum Laude if they have a cumulative GPA of 3.8 – 4.0.

For the purposes of recognition at commencement recognition of these Latin honors will be based on a student's GPA at the beginning of the final semester of enrollment. Most students' GPAs do not change enough in their final semester to change their honors status, so using the GPA at the beginning of the semester poses minimal risk of students being incorrectly recognized for honors at commencement. The official designation on the final transcript will be based on all final grades.

Discontinuing Valedictorian and Salutatorian – This components will bring FSU in line with other UNC institutions; currently only one other institution recognizes these distinctions at commencement. NCSU is the only other school, and they report the desire to discontinue these distinctions. Moreover, the short amount of time between submission of final grades and determination of these distinctions open up too many possibilities of errors.

Discontinuing Valedictorian and Salutatorian and basing honors recognitions on students' status at the beginning of the semester will eliminate the necessity of administering graduating senior final exams early.

Clarification on the need for additional faculty or other resources if proposed changes are initiated:

Provide evidence that new resources are not needed, or explain how new resources will be provided; a summary of budgetary requirements, to include estimated amounts of funds needed, for the next five years and an estimate of the proposed revision's impact on SCH generation. NA

- IV. **List of Accompanying/Supporting Documents:** New courses proposals require submission of a course syllabus and a matrix of program and course student learning outcomes with assessments (Sample matrix format follows signature page).* Program changes require a matrix of program learning outcomes with course and outcomes assessments.** If the proposal includes a new course(s) to be taught by current faculty, please attach a SACS Faculty Credential Form to document how current faculty member(s) meet qualifications. If the proposal requires new faculty, has the position been approved? If so, identify position number; if no, please attach the request for faculty position form.
- V. **Catalog Listing:** Provide an accurate representation of how the proposed change should appear in the academic catalog; use the current catalog as a model for format and appearance. See the degree requirements chart.
1. Revised Catalog Statement - The statement below highlights the changes to the catalog.
 2. Survey of honors criteria at other UNC institutions – The Registrar's Office collected this information from other UNC Registrars. The comparison shows that our standards are very reasonable.
 3. Responses from other UNC institutions to the question: "Does your institution recognize Valedictorian and Salutatorian?" FSU is one of only two UNC institutions that recognize Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Revised Catalog Statement: Graduation with Distinction

Baccalaureate graduates may be awarded with the following honors:

- Summa Cum Laude: to those having a scholastic average of 3.800 - 4.000
- Magna Cum Laude: to those having a scholastic average of 3.500 - 3.799
- Cum Laude: to those having a scholastic average of 3.200 - 3.499

Graduation distinctions are awarded based on final cumulative statistics. To be eligible to graduate with honors, baccalaureate students must have completed a minimum of sixty (60) hours at Fayetteville State University:

- Summa Cum Laude: ~~90~~ 60 hours
- Magna Cum Laude: 60 hours
- Cum Laude: 60 hours

Students will be recognized for graduation with distinction at commencement exercises based on their grade point average when they are cleared for participating in commencement exercises. Graduation with distinction will be recognized on the final transcript on the basis of the complete academic record.

~~To be eligible for either Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors, graduates must have completed all work leading to the degree at Fayetteville State University. Credit hours excluded from this requirement include: college or university credits earned prior to graduation from high school, credits hours earned while participating in an approved University Study Abroad Program, and military Physical Education credit. The university reserves the right to limit the number of~~

excluded hours to 9. For second-degree seekers, prior degree credits awarded at FSU are not considered in the hours required for honors or Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Summary of Requirements for Honors at other UNC Institutions					
SCHOOL	Inst Hrs	Summa	Magna	Cum	Distinction
UNC-Chapel Hill	45				No Latin but Highest Distinction-3.8/Distinction-3.5
UNC-Greensboro	45	3.9	3.7	3.5	
UNC-Pembroke	45	3.85	3.7	3.4	
Appalachian State	48	3.85	3.65	3.45	
UNC-Charlotte	48	3.9	3.7	3.4	
Elizabeth City	60	3.8 (no grade below C)	3.6(no grade below C)	3.25	
North Carolina Central	60	3.8	3.5	3.2	30-59 in resident and if average GPAs from all prev institutions and NCCU meet those stated
UNC-Asheville	60	3.9	3.75	3.6	
Winston Salem State	60	3.8	3.5	3	30-59 in resident/3.0 - 4.0 GPA - Distinction
North Carolina A & T	70	3.75	3.5	3.2	
East Carolina	1/2 MIN DEGREE HRS	3.9	3.6	3.5	
UNC-Wilmington	25% of degree	3.9	3.7	3.5	
North Carolina State	30 and 2 semesters	3.75	3.5	3.25	
Fayetteville State	90/90/60	3.8	3.5	3.2	
Western Carolina		3.9	3.7	3.5	

Summary of Responses regarding Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Question from Ms. Baker to other Registrars: We select a Valedictorian and Salutatorian each semester for Commencement. We are currently reviewing this practice. I'd like to know how if your school selects a Valedictorian or Salutatorian or not."		
School	Response	
ASU	No	
ECSU	No, Latin honors only	
ECU	No	
FSU	Yes	
NC A&T	did not respond to survey	Catalog refers only to Latin honors http://www.ncat.edu/divisions/academic-affairs/bulletin/2015-2016/academic-info-and-regs/graduating-with-honors.html
NCCU	No	

NCSU	Yes, 4.0 and 100 institution hours; trying to eliminate but no luck as of yet	grades are not all in, and a student could move in or out of the group. It doesn't happen all that often, since these students have been consistent high-performers. Also, if a student moves into the group, but their name is not in the program, we still let them march with the group at graduation.
UNCA	No, but we do have the Manly E. Wright Scholarship Award, presented to "the graduating student first in scholarship". The recipient doesn't necessarily have a 4.00 gpa. Faculty nominate students, providing supporting letters of recommendation. The Honors Committee reviews the nominees, and recommends the recipient to the faculty. The student receiving the honor is announced at commencement	
UNCC	No; latin honors only	
UNC-CH	No	
UNC-G	No	
UNC-P	No	
UNC-W	No; latin honors only	
WCU	No, University Scholars; To be designated University Scholars, students must have enrolled as freshmen and completed their entire undergraduate careers at Western Carolina University with a GPA of 4.00. Students who meet this requirement, except for courses taken with permission at other institutions as transients, are eligible for designation as University Scholars.	Final grades are not in prior to commencement. Our grading deadline is the 10:00 a.m. the Monday after commencement. We designate Latin Honors and University Scholars based on prior terms for purposes of the commencement bulletin but adjust both based on final grades before we confer degrees and order diplomas.
WSSU	No, latin only	
NC-SA	No honors at all	

The signatures through the Dean are required for non-substantive changes; substantive changes require all signatures. All changes in graduate programs/courses require Graduate School review/action. All changes to programs leading to teacher licensure require Teacher Education Committee action.

Departmental Curriculum Committee Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Chair, Departmental Curriculum Committee (Print Name):

Department Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Departmental Chair (Print Name):

NOTE: *Program* changes require School/College Curriculum Committee Review and approval. *Course* changes (titles, pre-requisites, non-substantive changes in descriptions) do not require review by this Committee.

If appropriate:

College/School Curriculum Committee Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
(Chair, CAS/SBE/SOE Curriculum Committee (Print Name):

Dean of CAS / SBE / SOE Action (indicate disapproval/approval): ____ approve ____ disapprove

Signature: _____ date: _____
Dean, CAS/SBE/SOE (Print Name):

If appropriate:

Graduate Council/School Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Dean/Council Chair (Print Name):

Teacher Education Committee Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Chair, Teacher Education Committee (Print Name):

Core Curriculum Committee Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Chair, Core Curriculum Committee (Print Name):

Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Chair, Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee (Print Name):

Faculty Senate Action (indicate vote): ____ for ____ against

Signature: _____ date: _____
Chair, Faculty Senate (Print Name):

Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Action (indicate disapproval/approval): ____ approve ____ disapprove

Signature: _____ date: _____
Provost/ Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Print Name):

Chancellor Action (indicate disapproval/approval): ____ approve ____ disapprove

Signature: _____ date: _____