

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3412S

Date of Senate Approval 02/09/12

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 24:

Change Criteria for Awarding Latin Honors

Effective Date: Fall 2012

1. Delete: On page 47, under **Academic Honors**, second paragraph, second sentence:

Students must earn at least 75 semester hours at UNC Asheville to be eligible for Latin honors.

Add: On page 47, in place of deleted entry:

Students must earn at least 60 semester hours at UNC Asheville to be eligible for Latin honors.

Impact Statement:

The new criteria for awarding Latin honors will not affect major, minor, or university requirements.

Rationale:

In recent years, the provost's office has received numerous letters and visits from frustrated transfer students who have expressed strong dissatisfaction with the present Latin honors policy. The proposed change to a 60 semester-hour requirement for Latin honors eligibility stems from the fact that 48% of UNC Asheville graduates between December 1996 and May 2011 entered the university as transfer students. Many of these students fulfill the university's graduation requirements by completing fewer than 75 semester hours, in part because some have already completed associate degrees at the community college level. A reduction in the semester hours required for Latin honors eligibility from 75 to 60 brings this award criterion in line with the graduation requirement that students complete at least 60 semester hours at a 4-year institution. The change also encourages academic success for a large proportion of the student population who would not otherwise be eligible.

If this change were applied to all 1291 graduates in the last four regular semesters (December 2009–May 2011), an additional 56 (4.3%) students with between 60 and 74 semester hours and a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.60 would have received Latin honors. A total of 306 (23.7%) students with at least 75 credit hours actually received Latin honors during this period.

A faculty senate document approved in 1991 (0291F) describes a change from 60 semester hours to 75 semester hours to be eligible for university-wide honors. In the rationale for this decision, the

document refers to cases where transfer students were awarded honors based on as few as 45 semester hours of coursework because grades in the final semester were not available in time for the calculation of the awards. At the time of the change to 75 hours, the calculation of cumulative grade-point averages would have included roughly 60 semester hours since the final semester grades were excluded.

A faculty senate document approved in 1996 (4496S) changes the calculation of cumulative grade-point averages to include all coursework at UNC Asheville, including the last semester, but the 75 semester-hour criterion remained in place.