

# BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

## DIRECTORY OF POLICY STATEMENTS

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**Subject: Dean's Honor List**

Undergraduate students must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for the Dean's Honor List.

1. Earn a minimum term GPA of 3.5.
2. Must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of letter grade work (i.e., A, B, C, D). Grades of S and P are not considered. Students are ineligible for the Dean's Honor List if they have an incomplete grade or grades of I, N, X, or U in a course for that semester.
3. All courses must be taken at Buffalo State College.

Part-Time Dean's List

Part-time, matriculated students (students carrying less than a 12-credit-hour course load per semester) will become eligible for Part-Time Dean's List only after prior completion of 12 credit hours of letter grade work (AE) at Buffalo State College. The Dean's List designation will be determined once a year at the end of the spring semester for courses taken during that semester and the preceding fall semester.

Eligibility also requires:

1. A minimum GPA of 3.5 for all coursework taken in that academic year.
2. No grades of I, N, X, U in a course during that year.
3. Completion of at least 12 hours of letter grade work per academic year.

**Baccalaureate Honors Designation**

Baccalaureate honors designation is awarded to graduating seniors who have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 for all work completed at SUNY Buffalo State. Graduates with a cumulative average of 3.80 to 4.00 are designated summa cum laude; 3.65 to 3.79 magna cum laude; and 3.50 to 3.64 cum laude. No degree candidates with outstanding grades of I, N, U, or X may be considered for honors.

Seniors must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in residence at Buffalo State to be eligible for honors designation. "In residence" is defined as enrollment in courses offered by Buffalo State on campus or through distance education. To be eligible for honors designation, students must complete their final 30 credit hours in residence. Students who are approved for study abroad or national student exchange in the second-to-last semester before graduating are exempt from the requirement to be in residence for the full final 30 credit hours. Baccalaureate honors designation is confirmed once a final degree audit is conducted and the degree is awarded. Honors designation is noted on the diploma and official transcript.

No honors designation exists for master's degrees or certificates of advanced study.

**Gold Honors Cord/Commencement Ceremony**

December and January term bachelor's graduates who meet the baccalaureate honors designation criteria are invited to wear the gold honors cord at the spring Commencement ceremony to signify their academic achievement. Bachelor's degree candidates who meet the baccalaureate honors designation criteria by the close of either the fall semester or January

term just prior to their final spring semester, and have completed or have in progress a cumulative 60 Buffalo State credit hours for the spring semester, may be eligible for honors designation when they graduate. Qualifying degree candidates are invited to wear the gold honors cord at the spring Commencement ceremony. Academic honors are also noted in the Commencement program.

Only eligible graduates and degree candidates may purchase and wear the gold honors cord. The Academic Affairs Office notifies eligible graduates and degree candidates by mail. An eligibility list is also maintained during Commencement registration and ticket distribution in the campus bookstore where caps, gowns, and honors cords may be purchased. Wearing the gold honors cord at Commencement is optional.

Gold honors cord eligibility is calculated using the following semester grades and credit hours:

December and January graduates: Final cumulative GPA and credit hours.

May and August degree candidates: December or January cumulative GPA (whichever term is the most recent), the cumulative number of Buffalo State credit hours earned, and the credit hours in progress during the spring semester.

Eligibility for baccalaureate honors designation is subject to change based on the calculation of final grades. Eligibility to wear the gold honors cord at Commencement does not guarantee notation of the baccalaureate honors designation on the diploma or transcript.