Graduation with Honors - Class of 2012

Full Curriculum Honors Credentials

Students who complete the full curriculum of Commonwealth Honors College (CHC) -- comprised of General Studies and Advanced Scholarship components -- are eligible for graduation with one of the College’s honors credentials on their diplomas:

- Commonwealth Honors College Scholar
- Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with distinction
- Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with great distinction
- Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with greatest distinction

Additionally, students earn the credential Departmental Honors or Multidisciplinary Honors for satisfactory completion of Advanced Scholarship DH or MH requirements.

To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 45 graded-residence credits and meet the criteria noted below.

Criteria

**Commonwealth Honors College Scholar**
Awarded upon successful completion of Commonwealth Honors College requirements with a cumulative graduation GPA of 3.400* or higher, all required honors courses passed with Bs or higher, and completion of a 6-credit honors thesis or project with a grade or grades of B or higher.

* Students who will graduate by September 2012 are grandfathered under a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.200 for Commonwealth Honors College Scholar.

**Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with distinction**
Awarded upon successful completion of Commonwealth Honors College requirements with a cumulative graduation GPA of 3.400 or higher, all required honors courses
passed with Bs or higher, and completion of a 6-credit honors thesis or project, including archive documentation requirements with a grade or grades of B+ or higher.

**Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with great distinction**
Awarded upon successful completion of Commonwealth Honors College requirements with a cumulative graduation GPA of 3.600 or higher, all required honors courses passed with Bs or higher, and completion of a 6-credit honors thesis or project, including archive documentation requirements with a grade or grades of A- or A.

**Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with greatest distinction**
Awarded upon successful completion of Commonwealth Honors College requirements with a cumulative graduation GPA of 3.800 or higher, all required honors courses passed with Bs or higher, and completion of a 6-credit honors thesis or project, including archive documentation requirements with a grade or grades of A- or A.

**Departmental Honors (DH)**
Awarded to Commonwealth Honors College students who satisfactorily complete the Advanced Scholarship requirements of a DH track administered by Commonwealth Honors College in collaboration with academic departments.

**Multidisciplinary Honors (MH)**
Awarded to Commonwealth Honors College students who satisfactorily complete the Advanced Scholarship requirements of the MH track administered by Commonwealth Honors College. Note: This track was previously known as either Interdisciplinary Honors or General Honors.

**Partial-Curriculum Honors Credentials**

**Advanced Scholarship Credentials**
Students who complete only the Advanced Scholarship component of Commonwealth Honors College are eligible for either the credential Departmental Honors or Multidisciplinary Honors on their transcripts at graduation.

**General Studies Credential**
Students who complete the General Studies component of Commonwealth Honors College, and decide not to complete the Advanced Scholarship component, may consider completing requirements for the alternative transcript credential General Studies Honors.
Latin Honors

Prior to December 2008, Latin Honors was awarded only to graduates of Commonwealth Honors College and was administered by the Honors College. In December 2008, the Faculty Senate voted to have the Undergraduate Registrar administer the awards based upon the student’s percentile rank within his/her school or college.

Members of the Commonwealth Honors College, Classes of 2009-2012, who complete the full Commonwealth Honors College curriculum (General Studies plus Advanced Scholarship) will be awarded Latin honors based upon either the old or new system, whichever results in the highest Latin honors designation. Details regarding both systems are outlined below.

Class of 2012 Latin Honors Policy

Commonwealth Honors College students who will graduate by September 2012 and who complete the full Commonwealth Honors College curriculum (honors work in General Studies plus Advanced Scholarship, including the honors thesis or project) are grandfathered under the Latin honors requirements stated in the UMass Guide to Undergraduate Programs at the time of their admission. Satisfactory completion of those requirements, including 45 graded-residence credits, can result in the Latin honors designations below.

Note: Only one Latin honors designation may be awarded for each UMass Amherst degree earned (e.g., B.A., B.S., B.B.A.).

- **Cum laude** is awarded to Commonwealth Honors College students who earn a 3.200 or higher cumulative GPA.
- **Magna cum laude** is awarded to Commonwealth Honors College students who earn a minimum grade of B+ for their honors thesis or project (499) courses, a minimum grade of B+ on their archive document, and have a cumulative GPA between 3.500 and 3.799 at the time of graduation.
- **Summa cum laude** is awarded to Commonwealth Honors College students who earn a minimum grade of A- for their honors thesis or project (499) courses, a minimum grade of A- on their archive document, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.800 or higher at the time of graduation.

Class of 2013-onward Latin Honors Policy

All University students are eligible for Latin honors regardless of Commonwealth Honors College membership. The new Latin honors system is administered by the
Undergraduate Registrar's office and requires **54 graded-residence credits**.

* Exception: students who matriculated at the University prior to Summer 2009 are grandfathered under the old **45 graded-residence credits** policy for *cum laude*. However, **54 graded-residence credits** are required for *magna and summa cum laude* under the new system.

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