

**COVER SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE
ACADEMIC SENATE**

Date [February 13, 2022](#), Senate Meeting Date [February 23, 2022](#), Report #
(Senate Use Only) _____

Intended Action: **Informational**__ **Senate Vote** **X**
Consultative/Advisory__

Name of Committee Submitting Report:

[Academic Standards](#)

**Committee Status: (elected chartered, appointed chartered, ad hoc,
etc.)**

Names of Committee Members:

[Bryan Wells](#)

[Carol Lamb](#)

[Carrie R Jackson](#)

[Gregg Sturuss](#)

[Jacqueline Gaffney](#)

[Jennifer A Pintar](#)

[Johnathan A Farris](#)

[Mary Beth Earnhardt](#)

[Ruth Palich](#)

[Tysa M Egleton](#)

Elected Members

Appointed Members

Please write a brief summary of the report the Committee is submitting to the Senate:

The Committee is responding to Laura Robich who, on behalf of RN-BSN students, has requested the committee to consider changing the policy for graduating with honors so transfer students with fewer than 60 hours of YSU residency may be awarded honors upon graduation.

The Committee after considering:

- that this policy must be universal for all transfer students
- policies at other Ohio public universities

Recommends that a form of honors can be confirmed on transfer students based on (1) a minimum number of residency hours are met along with GPA requirements.

If substantive changes in your committee recommendation are made from the floor, would the committee prefer that the matter be sent back to the committee for further consideration?

Introduction and Rationale

Many transfer students graduating from YSU who have accrued the request hours for a baccalaureate degree, or an associate degree are ineligible to receive honors designation from YSU as they have not met the total hours residency requirement. Students choosing to obtain degrees at YSU after completion of an associate degree, certificate, or other formal education from an accredited institution of higher learning should be equally eligible to be recognized for their academic achievements as students whose program path led them to greater residency hours at YSU.

An investigation of transfer programs from other Ohio public and private Universities determined there is inconsistency in how transfer students incoming transferred GPA and residency earned GPAs were considered when awarding transfer students honors with their degree. Some institutions included the incoming GPA to meet total hours required for honors where others excluded the incoming GPA from the school(s) students are transferring from. Upon consideration of the following points the Academic Standards Committee determined that honors can be awarded:

- For consistency and fidelity of YSU's standards honors eligibility should only include coursework completed at YSU.

- A minimum of 30 semester hours final hours earned at YSU are needed for the awarding of honors to baccalaureate degree transfer students.
- A minimum of 20 semester hours final hours earned at YSU are needed for the awarding of honors to associate degree transfer students.
- YSU earned GPA over the 30+ hours must be 3.40 or higher for a baccalaureate degree
- YSU earned GPA over the 20+ hours must be 3.40 or higher or an associate degree
- That alternative honors language is used to reflect course work completed at YSU. Latin terms will be applied to degree earners who have completed 60 hours of the required course work for a Baccalaureate or 40 hours for an Associate degree at YSU
- Students with fewer than the requested residency hours of 60 hours for a Baccalaureate or 40 hours for an Associate degree will have English terms to denote their coursework achievement.

Student with greater than 60/40 residency semester hours	Transfer student with 30/20 residency semester hours	
	Option A	Option B
Cum laude	With Distinction	With Honors
Magna cum laude	With Great Distinction	With Great Honors
Summa cum laude	With Highest Distinction	With Highest Honors

- To maintain consistency and keep from marginalizing students - the following current policy language would change:

From:

Transfer students who are baccalaureate degree candidates must have at least 60 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University, or those who are associate degree candidates must have at least 40 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University to be eligible for academic distinction or honors. In computing the required grade point averages, only university credit is considered; no transfer credit is included in the calculation.

To:

Transfer students who are baccalaureate degree candidates must have at least 30 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University, or those who are associate degree candidates must have at least 20 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University to be eligible for academic distinction or honors. In computing the required grade point averages, only university credit is considered; no transfer credit is included in the calculation.

Revised Policy/Policies (when applicable)

From:

Transfer students who are baccalaureate degree candidates must have at least 60 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University, or those who are associate degree candidates must have at least 40 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University to be eligible for academic distinction or honors. In computing the required grade point averages, only university credit is considered; no transfer credit is included in the calculation.

To:

Transfer students who are baccalaureate degree candidates must have at least 30 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University, or those who are associate degree candidates must have at least 20 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University to be eligible for academic distinction or honors. In computing the required grade point averages, only university credit is considered; no transfer credit is included in the calculation.

Recommendation

That honors be conferred to YSU students completing a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit at Youngstown State University for baccalaureate degree candidates and a minimum of 20 hours for associates degree candidates. Honors will only be calculated based on YSU earned courses, and GPA requirements will be consistent across all degree earners. Baccalaureate degree students with fewer than 60 but with 30 or more hours and associate degree students with fewer than 40 but with 20 or more hours will have their honors designation in English.