

College of Liberal Arts Standards for Graduation with Honors

Political Science Major Department of Political Science

1414 Social Science Building

612.624.4144

www.polisci.umn.edu

To graduate with Honors from the College of Liberal Arts, a student must be admitted to the Junior-Senior Honors program, and must meet the Honors graduation GPA requirement and the Honors residency requirement. The student must also complete the major Honors opportunities and the HCLA Honors opportunities. Students completing more than one major must designate one Honors major.

All students are required to meet with their HCLA advisor and departmental Honors representative to discuss fulfilling the graduation requirements prior to final admission to the Junior/Senior Honors Program.

A. Honors GPA Requirement

Eligibility to graduate with honors is based on the GPA in the student's final 60 graded credits (only full semesters will be used, i.e. more than 60 credits may be included in the honors GPA).

The eligibility for Honors graduation GPA levels are as follows:

- *cum laude* 3.5 GPA or higher
- *magna cum laude* 3.66 GPA or higher
- *summa cum laude* 3.75 GPA or higher

GPA only determines Honors eligibility; the quality of the thesis determines the awarded level of Latin Honors.

B. Honors Residency Requirement

Students must complete a minimum of 60 graded (A/F) University of Minnesota-Twin Cities credits (transfer credits are not included). *All Honors courses must be graded A-F.*

A minimum of four honors opportunities completed in your last 60 credits under the guidelines below are required for the degree. Two of those four will be controlled by the major department, with the other two controlled by HCLA.

C. Major Honors Opportunities

1. An Honors thesis or project that has been approved by the faculty for the intended level of honors. (This replaces the senior project required for all BA graduates.)
A major project that is acceptable as an honors project is required for *cum laude* and *magna cum laude*. The honors project must be approved by the faculty supervisor. For *summa cum laude*, the student must complete a *summa* thesis that is approved unanimously by three faculty members: the thesis supervisor, a second faculty member from the major program, and one faculty member from outside the major program.

For *cum laude* and *magna cum laude*, completed in Pol 4900V.

For *summa cum laude*, completed in Pol 3110V.

2. One 3xxx level or higher Honors course (H or V designator) in the major OR a 5xxx-level course in which the student completes the graduate work (Honors petition required) OR an 8xxx graduate-level course. (A contract attached to a 3xxx-level departmental course may also be used if approved by the instructor and the director of HCLA.)

D. HCLA-Controlled Honors Opportunities

3. One Honors course opportunity *outside the major*. Students may choose either a 3xxx level Honors Seminar (HSem designator) *or* a 3xxx or higher level departmental honors course with an H or V designator.
4. One additional Honors opportunity inside *or* outside the major. For this 'open' Honors opportunity students may choose one of the following:
 - Another 3xxx-level Honors Seminar (HSem)
 - A 3xxx-level or higher departmental honors course (H or V designator)
 - A study abroad experience (No honors petition is required if the study abroad is noted on the student's transcript, which also counts towards the residency. A petition is required for non-transcript posted experiences.)
 - An 8xxx-level graduate course
 - A 5xxx-level course (in which the student does the graduate-level work)*
 - A research opportunity with a professor*
 - An in-depth internship or a community service (The in-depth nature of the experience can be demonstrated by a reflective essay.)*

*With petition approved by HCLA