

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 5, 2017

TO: Thomas Holyoke, Chair, Academic Senate

James Mulooley, Chair, Academic Policy & Planning Committee

FROM: Kathleen Dyer, Chair



Academic Standards and Grading Subcommittee

RE: Graduation Honors for Transfer Students

Student Affairs has the following policy regarding graduating with honors:

(<https://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/are/degree-advising/graduation.html>)

Honors at the time of graduation from the university are awarded to undergraduate students based on the following criteria:

1. Students must have an overall minimum grade point average of 3.5 on all work attempted.
2. Students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on all work taken at the university.
3. Students must have completed 45 units in residence at California State University, Fresno.

As the policy states, honors are awarded if these requirements are met at the time of graduation. But students are allowed to be recognized as graduating with honors only if these are all true at the time the student applies for graduation, which is early in their final semester. Therefore, students who will meet the third requirement above at the time of graduation, but who do not meet it at the time they apply, are not allowed to be recognized as graduating with honors. At graduation ceremonies, they do not have their names marked in the program as honors, and they are not granted honor cords.

Obviously, this is very disappointing to students who have achieved the required GPA and want to show off those honor cords on graduation day. It is a symbolic gesture, but one that is meaningful to

those students who have earned it, which is, of course, why we do these things in the first place. So it seems counter-productive to deny the honor to those students who have earned it.

This is entirely a problem of transfer students. If they move through their degree program in two years following the transfer, but they are one or two units short of 45 by the end of their third semester, then they are excluded from honors. College deans have the right to waive the third requirement for transfer students, but they are not obligated to do so. Therefore, transfer students in some colleges are eligible to be recognized as graduating with honors, while transfer students in other colleges are not eligible, even with an equivalent or better academic record.

The Academic Standards and Grading subcommittee of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee of the Academic Senate requests that this practice be altered by simply removing the third requirement from the list above. The university already has a limit on the number of transfer units accepted, as well as a series of "CSUF Residence" requirements that must be met in order to graduate. Therefore, it is redundant to include another restriction here, and only serves to exclude transfer students from being recognized as honor students at graduation. Therefore, we propose that it is simply removed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.