

**The Academic Standards Committee's
Motions to Faculty Senate
November 2007**

The Academic Standards Committee moves that the Faculty Senate approve the following motions, which passed the committee unanimously:

1. To be eligible for Latin honors at UTC, students must have a minimum of 60 hours at UTC.
2. The University grants graduation honors to students with distinguished academic records. The graduation honors are:

cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.5.

magna cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.7.

summa cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.9 or higher.

All other wording pertaining to honors in the catalog remains the same.

Current catalog requirements:

General University Graduation Honors

The University grants graduation honors to students with distinguished academic records. The graduation honors are:

cum laude granted when the student's cumulative and UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.5.

magna cum laude granted when the student's cumulative and UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.75.

summa cum laude granted to the student with the highest cumulative and UTC GPA for the graduating class.

The student with the highest cumulative and UTC GPA average will be awarded *summa cum laude* if his or her average is at least 3.9. The University will recognize more than one *summa cum laude* graduate in the event of a tie.

Graduation honors will be inscribed on the diplomas. Institutional credit will not be counted in the grade point average for graduation or honors. Grade point averages are not rounded. These standards apply to all undergraduate degree candidates, regardless of the catalog under which they entered.

Rationale

During the previous academic year, the Academic Standards Committee and the Faculty Senate approved the motion to count only UTC hours in a student's GPA. This change will go into effect beginning with the Fall 2008 semester. As a result, the only GPA to "count" toward honors is the UTC GPA; thus, the catalog wording had to be changed. This revision led to a discussion of the number of hours a student must take at UTC to be considered for Latin honors. The committee decided that at least 60 hours or approximately one-half of a student's course work should be done at UTC for that student to be considered for Latin honors. The committee looked at numerous schools and found the range to be from 42 hours to 75 hours.

The grade point averages required for each of the Latin honors were also considered. Again, after looking at the requirements at several other schools, the committee decided on 3.5, 3.7, and 3.9, respectively, for the individual honors. The committee's research revealed that, among the twelve schools we considered, UTC was the only school to award just one student the *summa cum laude* honor (except in cases of a tie.) We found several schools required a 3.8, 3.85, or 3.9. No school listed as its requirement the one person with the highest GPA to receive *summa*.