

## Undergraduate Council Report to the Faculty Senate

April 29, 2022

### ACTION ITEMS

Undergrad	Dual List	Change Type	Title/Program	Approval Status
<b><u>CBHHS</u></b>				
22-1008		New Online Program	Finance, BBA <i>Addition of the current Finance, BBA (General Finance Emphasis only) to the UA Little Rock Online Campus</i>	Approved
22-1026		Program Deletion	Minor, Advert. Integ. Market. Comm. <i>Deletion of the Minor in Advertising Integrated Marketing Communication</i>	Approved
22-1027		Course Change	BINS 3305 <i>Description change to include integration of emerging technologies in the workplace, which a competency area in AACSB accreditation standards.</i>	Approved
22-1027	GRAD	Course Change	BINS 4331/5331 <i>Adding 5000-level version of course to create a new dual-listed course.</i>	Approved
22-1029		Course Change	BINS 4394 <i>Change course to make it repeatable for up to 6 hours of credit; Change description to reflect this.</i>	Approved
22-1031		Program Change	Minor, Human Resource Mgmt <i>Reduction in hours from 18 to 15; change in program requirements to provide an HR foundation for nonbusiness majors</i>	Approved
22-1032		Course Change	MGMT 3300 <i>Remove Banner enforcement of prerequisite</i>	Approved
22-1033		Course Change	MGMT 3320 <i>Remove Banner enforcement of prerequisite</i>	Approved
22-1034		Course Change	MGMT 4394 <i>Change course to make it repeatable for up to 6 hours of credit; Change description to reflect this.</i>	Approved
22-1035		New Course	MKTG 4394 <i>New course: "Internship"</i>	Approved
22-1036		Course Change	MKTG 3350 <i>Remove Banner-enforcement of prerequisite</i>	Approved
22-1037		Program Change	Minor, Digital Marketing <i>Changed the program name from "Minor in Marketing" to "Minor in Digital Marketing"</i>	Approved
<b><u>DCSTEM</u></b>				
21-1013		Course Suspension	IFSC 1110 <i>Suspension of "Introduction to Ethics"</i>	Approved

21-1014	GRAD	Course Suspension <i>Suspension of "Strategies for Innovation"</i>	TINV 4301/5301	Approved
21-1015		Course Suspension <i>Suspension of "Info, Computing, and Future"</i>	TINV 4302	Approved
21-1016		New Program <i>Same 18 hours of course requirements as the current minor in Information Technology</i>	CP, Information Technology	Approved
22-1038		Course Change <i>Description changed to reduce number of topics covered and to update verbiage based on ABET assessment of the program; prerequisite changed from "B of better in MATH 3332" to "C or better in MATH 3332"</i>	MEEG 3371	Approved
22-1039		Course Change <i>Description changed to reduce number of topics covered and to update verbiage based on ABET assessment of the program</i>	MEEG 1207	Approved
22-1040		Course Change <i>Description changed to reduce number of topics covered and to update verbiage based on ABET assessment; prerequisite changed from "MEEG 3378" to "MEEG 3378 or CNMG 3378 (or equivalent)"</i>	MEEG 3374	Approved
22-1041		Course Change <i>Reduce lab hours from four to three; description changed to add verbiage from new ABET student learning outcome</i>	MEEG 3379	Approved
22-1042		Course Change <i>Title changed from "Introduction to Vibrations" to "Vibrations I"; description changed to update verbiage based on ABET assessment</i>	MEEG 3370	Approved
22-1043		Course Change <i>Prerequisite changed to require a C or better in MATH 1452 and to add "or equivalent" to all course prerequisites; description changed to update verbiage based on ABET assessment</i>	MEEG 3378	Approved
22-1044		New Course <i>New course: "Mechanical Engineering Capstone I"</i>	MEEG 4185	Approved
22-1045		Course Change <i>description changed to update verbiage based on ABET assessment</i>	MEEG 4379	Approved
22-1046		New Course <i>New course: "Mechanical Engineering Capstone II"</i>	MEEG 4185	Approved
22-1070		Course Deletion <i>Deletion of ancient orphan course "Arch Graph I" that is still in the system</i>	ENG 1341	Approved
22-1072		Program Change <i>Add ECET 3450 "Microcontroller Applications" as an option for ECEG 3334/3134; eliminate obsolete alpha codes from electives list; increase of option to take coursework from other college programs (increased from 3 hours to 6 hours)</i>	Electrical/Computer Eng., B.S.	Approved
22-1073		New Program <i>Nine credit hour embedded certificate</i>	CP, Cybersecurity Governance	Approved
22-1074		New Program <i>Six credit hour embedded certificate</i>	CP, Digital Forensics	Approved
22-1075		New Program <i>Twelve credit hour embedded certificate</i>	CP, Cybersecurity Operations	Approved

22-1076	New Program <i>Fifteen credit hour embedded certificate</i>	CP, Software Security	Approved
22-1077	New Program <i>Nine credit hour embedded certificate</i>	CP, Data Security	Approved

### **CHASSE**

21-1016	Program Change <i>Add an option for an internship to requirements</i>	CP, Nonprofit Leadership Studies	Approved
21-1071	New Program <i>Creation of a 12-hour certificate of proficiency in Middle Eastern Studies</i>	CP, Middle Eastern Studies	Approved

**4 program changes, 8 new programs, 14 course changes, 3 new courses, 3 course suspensions, 1 course deletion, and 1 program deletion approved since 03/18/22.**

**For AY 2021-22, UGC approved a total of 34 program changes, 16 new programs, 54 course changes, 19 new courses, 9 course suspensions, 1 course deletion, and 2 program deletions.**

### **Report on Honors Policy review**

On January 21, 2022, Faculty Senate president Amanda Nolen notified the Undergraduate Council and Grad Council chairs that a series of issues/complaints regarding the Honors policy ([501.7](#)) had been routed through the Provost's Office to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee redirected these issues to the Councils to review the current policy and determine if updating was in order. There were four issues/complaints referred to the Councils for consideration:

1. Post-baccalaureate degrees are currently ineligible for graduation (Latin) honors; they are reserved only for the first undergraduate degree
2. Calculations for graduation honors include all courses ever attempted (including all grades from retake/replace) from all institutions ever attended
3. Academic clemency makes a student ineligible for graduation honors
4. Graduate students are not eligible for graduation honors

UGC found that issue 4 was outside of its purview and thus only considered the other three topics, leaving the question of graduate student honors to Grad Council.

In its early review of the policy, UGC identified three key problems with the current honors policy structure and application:

1. It is unclear to students that the GPA they see in DegreeWorks is not necessarily the same as the GPA used for determining graduation honors. This lack of clarity leads some students to believe they will graduate with honors when, in fact, they will not. Students often learn that they will not earn graduation honors when they order regalia, leading to a tarnishing of the commencement experience and often angry or distraught emails, phone calls, and visits to Records in an attempt to understand what has happened.
2. The GPA for determining graduation honors for transfer students and for students with repeated courses is not available to students because it must be calculated manually to add back in quality points for replaced courses and transfer courses, including those not accepted for credit by UA Little Rock. Records currently calculates these GPAs during the degree audit process to determine students' honors eligibility, creating additional workload for staff.
3. Students are not adequately informed early in their academic career, nor reminded regularly, about the honors policy beyond the grade point ranges for Latin honors. Students often miss the fact that "graduation honors are

calculated on all academic work including all UA Little Rock credit courses, all repeated courses and all work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not.” Although advisors could be a source of information about the honors policy for students, the policy’s application is currently not transparent enough for advisors to be able to apply it to a student sitting in front of them (for example, an advisors may not know about a student’s prior work at another institution that was not accepted for credit). Anecdotal evidence suggests that some advisors do not fully understand the policy and its potential pitfalls for transfer students, never discuss the honors policy with students, or misinterpret the policy for students.

As a result of these problems, the current policy negatively impacts transfer students at a disproportional rate. Based on student complaints and feedback from Records and Registration staff, UGC had three guiding concerns in its discussions and suggestions for updating the policy:

1. to make the policy more equitable to a larger group of students and minimizing the number of students negatively impacted by the policy,
2. to make the policy more transparent to students and advisors in an attempt to reduce the number of students denied graduation honors when they thought they were going to receive them, and
3. to reduce the number of manual GPA calculations that staff members in Records and Registration must complete each semester.

UGC began its review by examining the honors policies at public R2 peer institutions and other in-state institutions. It found that honors policies vary widely from institution to institution, including differences in GPA ranges for the Latin designations, differences in the minimum credit-hour residency requirements to qualify for honors, and differences in which courses are included in, or excluded from, graduation honors calculations. This inconsistency led Council members to believe that UA Little Rock could, and should, modify its honors policy to best address the needs of its unique student population. Furthermore, while the specifics of other institutions’ policies vary greatly, some general patterns emerged that gave the Council a starting point for discussions that led to the below recommendations.

Upon review of Honors policy ([501.7](#)), the Undergraduate Council recommends the following changes:

1. To qualify for graduation honors, a student must complete a minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock. (except as noted in #5 below)
2. Graduation honors are calculated on all academic work completed in UA Little Rock credit-bearing courses.
3. For repeated courses, only the grade from the final iteration of the course will be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average for determining graduation honors.
4. All work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not, will not be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average for determining graduation honors (except as noted in #5 below)
5. Students who do not complete the minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock may request, in writing, that all work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not, be used in the final calculation of honors. In the case of repeated courses from other institutions, only the grade from the final iteration of the course will be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average for determining graduation honors.
6. Students who are granted academic clemency are still eligible to qualify for graduation honors, but they must complete a minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock not including the hours for which clemency was granted. [*this change would also necessitate a change to the Academic Clemency policy ([501.1](#))*]

7. The associate degree with honors will be conferred upon candidates who have completed a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock and at graduation have earned a minimum cumulative grade point of 3.7 on all academic work completed in UA Little Rock credit-bearing courses. Students who are granted academic clemency are still eligible to receive an associate degree with honors, but they must complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock not including the hours for which clemency was granted.
8. A student who has earned a baccalaureate degree from UA Little Rock and is pursuing a second baccalaureate degree at UA Little Rock is granted graduation honors based on the credit hours earned subsequent to the posting of the first degree.
  - a. If fewer than 30 credit hours are completed at UA Little Rock subsequent to the posting of the first UA Little Rock degree, the level of graduation honors can be no higher than that obtained on the first degree.
  - b. If 30 or more credit hours are completed at UA Little Rock subsequent to the posting of the first UA Little Rock degree, the level of graduation honors on the second degree is based on the cumulative grade point average on coursework subsequent to the first degree.
9. Students who graduate from another college or university and pursue a second undergraduate degree at UA Little Rock must complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock to be eligible for honors. Graduation honors on the second degree is based on the cumulative grade point average on all UA Little Rock coursework subsequent to the first degree.

Finally, UGC also learned that very few academic units at UA Little Rock offer program-level honors. Those that currently exist in BANNER are

- Donaghey Scholar
- Honors in Biology
- Honors in Chemistry
- Honors in English
- Honors in French
- Honors in History
- Honors in Mathematics
- Honors in Physics
- Honors in Computer/Information Science
- Honors in Mass Communication

As an additional recommendation, UGC suggests that other academic units consider adding program-level honors to their majors. This addition would benefit students who excel in their major field of study but whose non-major coursework might disqualify them from degree-level (Latin) honors. In the end, students want their success recognized publicly at commencement, and the creation of more program-level honors would allow the University to acknowledge student success at a higher rate.