

Educational Services
Chancellor's Cabinet: Latin Honors for Baccalaureate Degrees
October 5, 2021

Issue: Awarding Latin Honors to Community College Baccalaureate Degree Students

Background:

Historically colleges and universities throughout the United States have used Latin phrases cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude to indicate the level of distinction with which an academic degree has been earned.

In an effort for the California community college baccalaureate degree students to receive the same distinction as their university counterparts, the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Program (BDP) Steering Committee voted to award Latin Honors to community college baccalaureate students—and recommended each district establish their own guidelines for GPA criteria.

The CIC Policies and Procedures Committee recommended SDCCD align Latin Honors standards with the same criteria as SDCCD Graduation with Distinction. Chancellor's Cabinet approved the following:

- 1) Adopt the Latin Honors system for baccalaureate degree students;
- 2) Align the Latin Honors standards with the existing SDCCD Graduation with Distinction criteria;

Summa Cum Laude Honors: GPA equal to 4.0

Magna Cum Laude: GPA equal to or greater than 3.75 but less than 4.0

Cum Laude: GPA equal to or greater than 3.5, but less than 3.75

- 3) Retroactively award Latin Honors to Mesa College Baccalaureate Degree students.