

# Proposed Honors Legislation



Committee on Educational Policy – Fall 2007

# Honors programs

- Help to attract and retain students
- Acknowledge and reward student achievement
- Reinforce academic excellence

We are the only UC campus that lacks

- a campuswide honors curriculum
- a dean's ("quarterly", "provost") honors list
- university-wide criteria for awarding honors at graduation

UC Santa Cruz retains its academically most-prepared students at lower percentages than would be expected.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by students in the highest two quintiles based on either high school GPA or standardized test scores. Find the report at <http://senate.ucsc.edu/cep/CEPretention1495.pdf>.

For reasons such as these, a recent ad hoc UCSC Honors Committee recommended that our campus establish a category of University Honors.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Establishing a UC Santa Cruz Campuswide Honors Program: a report to the Academic Senate from the Committee on Honors. June 2004. We would like to particularly acknowledge the work of this committee as a source of ideas.

CEP is proposing an amendment to regulation SCR 11 on UCSC honors designations.

Currently SCR establishes honors in the *major* (SCR 11.1) and *college* honors for “overall academic work” (SCR 11.2).

CEP's proposed amendments would do the following:

- establish a category of *University Honors* using the Latin designations *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*. Eligibility for University Honors would be based on the UC grade point average.
- establish a quarterly Dean's Honors List based on the current quarter's GPA and the units earned and graded.

## *Requirement of at least 70 completed UC units*

All other UC campuses specify that, in order to be eligible for honors at graduation, a student must complete a minimum number of UC units:

	Minimum units	Minimum <i>graded</i>
UCB	50 (semester)	43
UCD	45	
UCI	72	
UCLA	90	90
UCM	50 (semester)	43
UCR	60	60
UCSD	80	80
UCSB	76	76
<b>UCSC</b>	<b>70 (proposed)</b>	

## *Rankings and designations*

The rankings proposed here for determining which of the three honors-at-graduation designations applies.

	Highest	Next highest	Next highest	Total
UCB	top 3%	next 7%	next 10%	20%
UCD <sup>3</sup>	top 2%	next 2%	next 4%	8%
UCI	top 1%	next 2%	next 9%	12%
UCLA	top 5%	next 5%	next 10%	20%
UCM	top 2%	next 4%	next 10%	16%
UCR	top 2%	next 4%	next 10%	16%
UCSD	top 2%	next 4%	next 8%	14%
UCSB	top 2.5%	next 6%	next 11.5%	20%
<b>UCSC</b> <b>(proposed)</b>	<b>top 2%</b>	<b>next 3%</b>	<b>next 10%</b>	<b>15%</b>

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<sup>3</sup> The percentages UCD admits into each category depend on the number of units completed. These figures are for students who have completed 45-89 units at UC.

## *Dean's Honors criteria*

For a student to be eligible for quarterly Dean's Honors, the proposed legislation requires that she

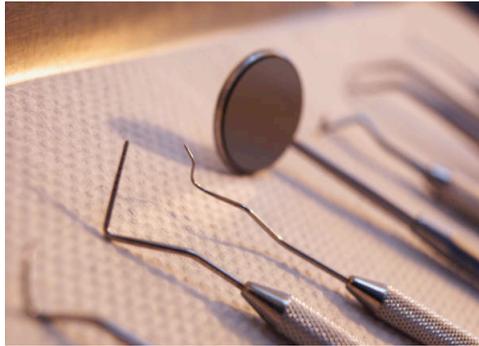
- complete at least 15 letter-graded units that quarter, of which 10 are graded
- have a GPA equal to that required for honors at graduation for the current academic year

## *Schools*

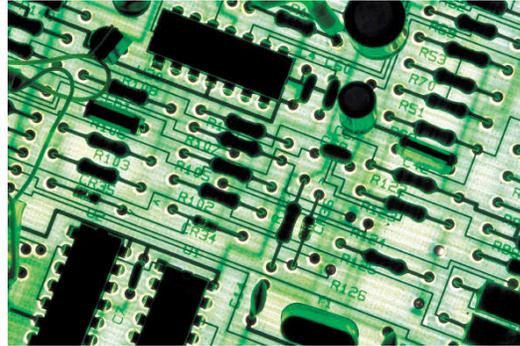
UCSC has one distinct School, the School of Engineering.

It may well acquire more in time.

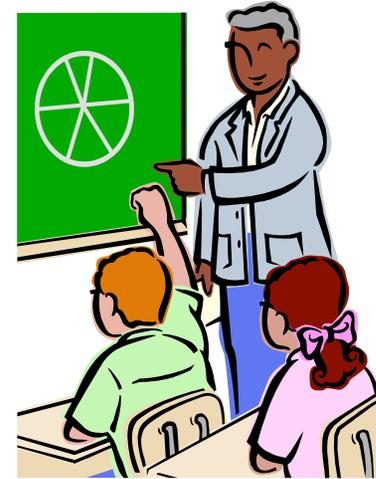
Many of our sister campuses allow or require that rankings be done *by School*, but *subject to universitywide criteria*.



School of Dentistry



School of Engineering



Other

Rankings (and so designations) would be governed by the *same* criteria...

but applied *separately* to any Schools

## *Honors and integrity*

The proposed legislation establishes that *any* honors designation can be withheld given an academic integrity violation that leads to a reportable disciplinary sanction.

‘Reportable’ sanctions are an already-defined category.