J.D. DEGREE HONORS ELIGIBILITY AT MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Types of Honors:

- Cum Laude
- Magna Cum Laude
- Summa Cum Laude
- Order of the Coif

Definitions

For the purpose of determining J.D. honors eligibility, the following terms have rigid definitions:

- Matriculation occurs on the J.D. student’s first day of class of their first academic term.
- A Graduating Class is represented by two separate groups per academic year:
  - August & December Graduates
  - May Graduates

Calculations

To preserve the value of honors, the results of all calculations are never rounded:

- GPA is represented by 4 digits (to the thousandth) with no rounding. For example, a GPA calculation that results in 3.79878 would have the final value of 3.798, not 3.799.
- Cutoff Percentages will always be used to extract a whole number of candidates with no rounding. For example, the top 37.5% of a graduating class of 100 people would result in consideration for the top 37 positions, not 38.

ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION

Minimum Letter-Graded Credits Requirement

Students who matriculated prior to May 2015 must earn a minimum of 62 letter-graded credits in law classes taken at the University of Michigan Law School in order to be eligible to receive degree honors. Students who matriculated in May 2015 or thereafter must earn a minimum of 63 such credits to be eligible.

The following credits do not count towards the 62 or 63 minimum letter-graded credit requirement:

- Non-law classes taken at the University of Michigan or at another university, whether or not a student receives a letter grade in such a course.
- Law classes taken at another law school, with two exceptions: 1) credits earned by a transfer student during their first year at another law school; and 2) credits earned by a student who was given permission by the Academic Standards and Practices Committee to visit another law school for one or two semesters due to compelling and unusual personal reasons. (Note: letter grades earned pursuant to these exceptions do not get factored in to a student’s Michigan Law School GPA.)
- Law classes in which a student earns a mandatory pass (“S”) grade, e.g. Legal Practice classes, mini-seminars, external studies classes, semester study abroad classes, and some clinical law classes.
- Law classes in which a student has converted a letter grade to a pass (“P”) grade.
Honors Determination
Only J.D. graduates who have earned the minimum required letter-graded credits in law school classes at Michigan Law School are eligible for honors. Honors-eligible graduates are awarded honors based on the additional qualifications below:

I. Students Who Matriculated Prior to May 2012
If an honors-eligible graduate's GPA meets one of the three criteria below, the corresponding honors will be awarded.

- An honors-eligible graduate with a 3.400 to 3.699 GPA will receive cum laude.
- An honors-eligible graduate with a 3.700 to 3.999 GPA will receive magna cum laude.
- An honors-eligible graduate with a 4.000 or higher GPA will receive summa cum laude.

II. Students Who Matriculated in May 2012 or Thereafter
Only honors-eligible graduates within the top 37.5% of a graduating class (which includes non-eligible and honors-eligible graduates) are qualified for honors. The honors-qualified group of graduates will receive only the highest honor they qualify for on the following basis:

- By default, honors-qualified graduates will receive cum laude.
- The top 10% of the honors-qualified group will receive magna cum laude, only.
- Honors-qualified graduates with a GPA of 4.0 or higher will receive summa cum laude, only.

III. Order of the Coif
For Coif purposes, graduates from the full academic year are combined for honors determination (e.g. August & December 2015, and May 2016). Only honors-eligible graduates within the top 10% of the combined graduating class (which includes non-eligible and honors-eligible graduates) will be considered for Order of the Coif. The final determinant for receipt of Order of the Coif is ultimately conditioned on a vote by the Law School faculty.

HONORS ANNOUNCEMENT
Honors are not announced at Senior Day (the commencement ceremony), as final grades required for honors determination will not be available at that time.

For August graduates, degrees will be updated with honors designations in mid-February.
For December graduates, degrees will be awarded with honors designations included in mid-February.
For May graduates, degrees will be awarded with honors designations included in the beginning of July.

Students with questions about honors eligibility should contact the Office of Student Records (300 Hutchins Hall; lawrecords@umich.edu; 734.763.6499).

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