

**SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE****SUBJECT: Academic Honors and Awards****EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000; Revised March 14, 2013; February 9, 2023****Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the honors and awards that will be bestowed upon the students of Southwest Tennessee Community College (“Southwest” or “the College”) when they display academic excellence as described herein.

**Policy**

The Tennessee Board of Regents has authorized the College to develop criteria for honors designations.

**A. Dean’s List**

At the end of each term, a Dean’s List is compiled recognizing students who have distinguished themselves by an outstanding record of academic achievement for the semester just ended. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must have: 1) completed at least twelve (12) credit hours of college-level courses during the term; and 2) earned a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher with no grade of “F.” This accomplishment will be noted on the student’s permanent academic record.

**B. Commencement Academic Honors**

At the graduation ceremony, Academic Honors in recognition of outstanding academic performance are bestowed upon students who earn an associates degree. Three (3) levels of distinction are recognized- Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude. The distinctions are awarded as:

- Summa Cum Laude- cumulative GPA of 3.90 to 4.00
- Magna Cum Laude- cumulative GPA of 3.60 to 3.89
- Cum Laude- cumulative GPA of 3.35 to 3.59

Academic honors are engraved on the recipient’s diploma, noted in the commencement program, and posted on the student’s permanent academic record.

### C. Honors Societies

Honors societies are national organizations dedicated to the promotion of excellence in academic pursuits, leadership development, and service to the community. In support of these endeavors, Southwest maintains an active chapter of several honors societies.

### D. Honors Program

Honors education is characterized by in-class and extracurricular activities that meet the needs and abilities of the students it serves through practices that are measurably broader, deeper, or more complex than comparable learning experiences typically found at institutions of higher education. Honors experiences include a distinctive learner-directed environment and philosophy, provide opportunities that are appropriately tailored to fit Southwest's culture and mission, and frequently occur within a close community of students and faculty (adapted from NCHC, 2016).

Southwest maintains an active Honors Program. Special courses and activities are developed for advanced students. Those who would like to participate in the Honors Program may [contact the office](#) and make application.

There are three (3) categories of admission to the Honors Program: 1) continuing students; 2) part-time students; 3) and graduating high school seniors. All participants must have a 3.00 cumulative GPA. Continuing students must have completed all developmental studies requirements. Part-time students, in addition to having completed developmental studies requirements, must have completed at least twelve (12) college-level credit hours of study.

**Responsible**

**Source of Policy:** n/a

**Administrator:** VP of Academic Affairs

**Related Policy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TBR Policy Reference:** 2.01.00.00;  
2.03.01.01

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**President**

**Date:** February 9, 2023