



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

AOP 12.10: RECOGNITION OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to promote an understanding of the criteria used to recognize undergraduate academic achievement at Mississippi State University.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1. Recognition for outstanding academic achievement is accorded to full-time undergraduate students each regular semester. For these purposes, a student must complete at least twelve (12) semester hours of coursework at MSU with no incomplete grades and no grades lower than C. The levels of recognition are:
 - a. **President's Scholars:** Students who earned a GPA of 3.80 – 4.00.
 - b. **Deans' Scholars:** Students who earned a GPA of 3.50 – 3.79.
2. Long-term outstanding academic achievement is recognized at graduation. Students who have completed at least 60 of the total hours for their degrees at MSU and earned high grade point averages both on their cumulative and MSU coursework will receive the following recognition.
 - a. **Summa Cum Laude:** Students whose averages are 3.80 – 4.00.
 - b. **Magna Cum Laude:** Students whose averages are 3.60 – 3.79.
 - c. **Cum Laude:** Students whose averages are 3.40 – 3.59.
3. Students completing the requirements for the baccalaureate degree who have earned the grade of A or S in all courses attempted through the end of the semester before graduation, will be recognized as a **Stephen D. Lee Scholar** at the University's commencement exercise. Courses taken at Mississippi State University and all transfer courses will be used to determine eligibility for recognition. In order to qualify as a S. D. Lee Scholar, a student cannot invoke the following policies: academic amnesty, academic forgiveness, academic fresh-start, or F-Grade forgiveness for the University Studies degree.
4. Students receiving a second baccalaureate degree from MSU will be recognized in the same manner for outstanding academic achievement. In such cases, all coursework (from the first and second degree) will comprise the GPA.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years (or whenever circumstances require an earlier review) by the Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED:

<u>/s/ Peter Ryan</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
Executive Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School	Date

<u>/s/ David R. Shaw</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
Provost and Executive Vice President	Date

<u>/s/ Rebecca Robichaux-Davis</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate	Date

<u>/s/ Tracey N. Baham</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
Assistant Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness	Date

<u>/s/ Joan Lucas</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
General Counsel	Date

APPROVED:

<u>/s/ Mark Keenum</u>	<u>8/23/2021</u>
President	Date