



**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.

REVIEW

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

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 with neither incomplete grades nor 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, the student cannot invoke the following policies: academic amnesty, academic forgiveness, or academic fresh-start.
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.

REVIEWED:

/s/ Peter L. Ryan
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

06/25/2018
Date

/s/ Judy Bonner
Provost and Executive Vice President

06/25/2018
Date

/s/ Brent Fountain
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate

06/25/2018
Date

/s/ Timothy N. Chamblee
Assistant Vice President and Director
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

06/28/2018
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

06/26/2018
Date

APPROVED:

/s/ Mark Keenum
President

07/11/2018
Date

This policy has been superseded