RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AT YALE-NUS COLLEGE

1. **How is academic achievement recognised at Yale-NUS College?**

Yale-NUS College offers a four-year undergraduate honours programme. All Yale-NUS students graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree.

Latin Honours is one way in which the College recognises outstanding academic achievement. The College awards Latin Honours (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) to the top 35 percent of each graduating class as recognition of exceptional academic achievement. For more information on the rules concerning Latin Honours, please refer to Section 10 of the Yale-NUS Undergraduate Regulations: [http://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/academic-regulations/](http://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/academic-regulations/)

Yale-NUS students’ final transcript will now also indicate the commensurate National University of Singapore (NUS) honours classification, which may be used for benchmarking of Yale-NUS students for employment, scholarship, graduate school or related purposes.

In addition, the College recognises outstanding achievements by students through prizes for the outstanding capstone project in each major.

2. **How else does the College recognise outstanding achievement by students?**

At the graduation ceremony, awards are given out to recognise leadership and overall contribution by a student to the College. And throughout the year, the College presents awards to students for achievement in the arts, student leadership, sports and community service at other events.
3. **What are the levels of Latin Honours at Yale-NUS College?**

The levels of Latin Honours, are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honours</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>summa cum laude</td>
<td>To not more than the top 5 percent of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
<td>graduating class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cum laude</td>
<td>To not more than the next 10 percent of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>graduating class.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To not more than the next 20 percent of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>graduating class.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The rest of the graduating class.</td>
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</table>

- Latin Honours will go to no more than 35 percent of a graduating class.
- The graduating class is defined as graduates who entered the College at the same time unless the student has been tagged by the College to graduate with a later cohort due to promotion rules or other official reasons.

4. **How will the College determine the levels of Latin Honours for recipients?**

The Latin Honours are based on the Cumulative Average Point (CAP), which is the weighted average of individual course grades (or the sum of course grade points multiplied by the number of MCs for the corresponding course, divided by the total number of MCs).

No more than 60 percent or six of the students (whichever is larger) in any one major will receive honours at the cum laude level or above, and no more than 40 percent or four of the students (whichever is larger) will receive honours at the magna cum laude level or above. In cases where the number of students might exceed these limits, only the top students down to the designated limits will receive the relevant honour.

For example, a student whose CAP is within the top five percent of his/her graduating class and is among the top 40 percent or four students (whichever is larger) in his/her major will be awarded Bachelor of Arts or Science (Honours) degree with summa cum laude.

The same cut-offs will apply to students in any given Class who graduate later.

The above is intended to recognise academic achievement not only with respect to the overall CAP, but also academic excellence within the major.
5. Why is the College’s Latin Honours system based on the CAP?

A CAP-based Latin Honours system conveys the breadth of students’ academic achievement and experience at the College including the common curriculum, electives, capstones, and majors. It takes into account the assessment of diverse faculty since the CAP reflects the assessment of interdisciplinary faculty across the divisions. It is relatively constant compared to majors-based nominations that are dependent on the leadership of the majors, which may change periodically. This system is also an objective and transparent measure of academic performance.

6. How will the Latin Honours be applied to DDP students and other students who will graduate one or more years later?

DDP Law students will be considered for Latin Honours along with the other Yale-NUS students in their intake cohort.

The Liberal Arts B.A. (Hons) degree completed by DDP Law students will be considered as a ‘major’ for the purpose of the Latin Honours system, i.e., “No more than 60 percent or six of the students (whichever is larger) in any one major will receive honours at the *cum laude* level or above, and no more than 40 percent or four of the students (whichever is larger) will receive honours at the *magna cum laude* level or above. In cases where the number of students might exceed these limits, only the top students down to the designated limits will receive the relevant honour.”

Students who need to graduate later than the majority of their class (for example, due to promotion rules, Leave of Absence or other official reasons) will be considered for Latin Honours along with those in their intake cohort.
7. I understand there was a review of the Latin Honours system in 2019. What were the outcomes?

Yes, a full review of the College’s Latin Honours system was completed in December 2019.

Following extensive consultation with students, alumni, staff and faculty as well as with employers, the following recommendations were made by the review panel and approved for implementation:

- To keep the current Latin Honours system as a means to recognise the highest academic achievement. The College has done extensive groundwork in explaining Latin Honours to the wider community and will continue to widen its reach.
- The Yale-NUS transcript will indicate the commensurate NUS Honours level next to the final CAP to facilitate better understanding amongst employers, graduate schools and other stakeholders about the academic performance of Yale-NUS graduates vis-à-vis NUS students and students from other universities in Singapore.
- The explanation page of the transcript will include a table showing the NUS Honours system CAP range to accompany the note about commensurate NUS honours.
- The College will release the range of Latin Honours cut-offs to illustrate that all three levels of Latin Honours reflect a significant academic achievement by the recipients. These will be available on the College website and updated periodically.

8. Where will the commensurate NUS Honours level appear on the transcript?

The commensurate NUS Honours level will appear below the final Yale-NUS CAP. For most students, this will be near the end of the transcript immediately following their final semester’s grades. For concurrent degree students, the commensurate NUS Honours level will appear in the middle of the transcript below the CAP for the Yale-NUS modules and before the grades for their postgraduate modules.
9. **Will the changes to the transcript apply to all students and alumni?**

The additional information on the transcript will apply to all transcripts issued after March 2020. This includes the commensurate NUS Honours level next to the student’s final CAP, and the table showing the NUS Honours system CAP range that will appear with the information on the reverse side of the transcript.

From the Class of 2019 onwards, students are issued an electronic transcript (e-Transcript). The changes will apply to all e-Transcripts. E-Transcripts for the Class of 2019 will be automatically switched over to the new format.

Alumni from the Class of 2017 and 2018 can request a new transcript copy with the updated information via the Online Transcript Application portal.

10. **When will the next review of the Honours system at Yale-NUS College be conducted?**

The next review is targeted to take place five years following the first review which was completed in December 2019.

11. **How can I seek more information or information specific to me?**

Please contact your Assistant Dean of Students or Faculty Advisor for more information.