

# KENT STATE UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION OF CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Preparation Date **1-Mar-19** Curriculum Bulletin \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date **Fall 2019** Approved by EPC \_\_\_\_\_

Department **EPC Ad Hoc Committee**  
College **PR - Provost**  
Proposal **Revise Policy**  
Proposal Name **Graduation with Institutional Honors and Distinction policies**

Description of proposal:

**The EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies recommends to the EPC a revision to the honors policies for baccalaureate and associate degree students to recognize high-achieving students who have earned the necessary credit hours for a Kent State degree, but who do not have the required Kent State credit hours for honors designation per the current eligibility requirements.**

Describe impact on other programs, policies or procedures (e.g., duplication issues; enrollment and staffing considerations; need, audience)

Units consulted (other departments, programs or campuses affected by this proposal):

**Members of the EPC Ad Hoc Committee consulted with colleagues in their college and with student government bodies on the eight campuses.**

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## REQUIRED ENDORSEMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chair / School Director

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Campus Dean (for Regional Campuses proposals)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
College Dean (or designee)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of Graduate Studies (for graduate proposals)

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Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (or designee)

# Revision of Institutional Honors Policy Proposal Summary

## SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

The EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies recommends a revision to the honors policies for baccalaureate and associate degree students. The goal of the revision is to recognize high-achieving students who have earned the necessary credit hours for a Kent State degree, but who do not have the required Kent State credit hours for honors designation per the current eligibility requirements.

Please note that this proposal pertains only to the university-wide honors bestowed upon students at graduation (e.g., *magna cum laude*), and not to an honors recognition given by the Honors College or by individual departments.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A request for the EPC Ad Hoc Committee to review Kent State's honors policy—specifically the requirement that students must have 60 Kent State credit hours to be eligible—was made by advisors who work with transfer students and by transfer students themselves.

*From the recommendation of a Kent State alumnus, I recently investigated the process of distinguishing graduates with institutional honors. Upon investigation, it is very disheartening as a transfer student to learn of the requirements that are set forth. As a transfer student who has spent the past two years (four semesters) diligently completing courses at Kent State University to complete my baccalaureate degree, it is very sad to know that the University does not recognize students who took minimally fewer credits hours at the institution.*

*To know that as a student with a 4.00 GPA who took 58 credit hours at Kent State University I and possibly other students are underrecognized (and feel underappreciated) is shocking, especially one week prior to my graduation. However, I guess one positive from this is learning this information now and not being surprised during commencement when my academic performance is neglected.*

— Correspondence from a Kent State graduate who earned an unadjusted 4.000 GPA, but was ineligible for *summa cum laude* because he did not have 60 Kent State credit hours.

Discussion of Kent State's institutional honors policy brought forth strong and conflicting viewpoints among EPC Ad Hoc members and from student groups and colleagues with whom EPC Ad Hoc members consulted for feedback.

On the one side was the opinion that the 60-credit hour requirement ensures that students applying for honors have completed at least half their degree program at Kent State. To lower or eliminate that requirement would be unfair to native Kent State students because those students will have all their grades calculated for an honors determination; whereas, students who transfer in many courses will not have their transfer grades factored into determining honors.

On the other side was the opinion that many high-performing students will have been high performing at all the institutions they attended. For these students, it is unfair for Kent State not to recognize their achievements. They may have started their studies at another institution, but they chose to earn their bachelor's degree from Kent State. To honor students who came later to Kent State would not remove or diminish the honor bestowed upon students who began here.

No matter the perspective, those on both sides agreed that the current eligibility restriction for honors is not transfer friendly. With the enrollment forecast of a shrinking high school population—Ohio high school graduates are expected to decline by 13,000 in the next 15 years—the university has set a strategic focus on enrolling other student groups, most prominently, transfer students.

*Kent State considers my transfer courses valid enough to accept as credits toward earning a degree, but the grades I earned are not valid toward earning honors? How is that fair? I worked really hard to earn a 3.8 at Stark State before I came to Kent State. Now, I'm starting over at Kent State with my GPA.*

— Correspondence from a new Kent State student

Kent State has 68 active and pending transfer partnerships and agreements with community colleges to allow associate-to-baccalaureate articulation with Kent State's programs. The university is developing a dual admission partnership with Cuyahoga Community College to facilitate a seamless entry to specific Kent State bachelor's degrees for Tri-C graduates. The Regional College is working with Eastern Gateway Community College to tap that community college's large online student population to enroll in one of the college's online bachelor's degrees after they earn their associate degree at Eastern Gateway.

While the majority of these partnerships and agreements have an associate-to-bachelor's sequencing plan that calls for students to complete 60 credit hours at Kent State, several have less, including Lorain County Community College (58 credit hours), Stark State College (55 credit hours) and North Central State College (55 credit hours). The articulation agreement with Lakeland Community College for the construction management program is structured so that students will need only 30 credit hours to earn their Kent State bachelor's degree. Students who follow these plans will be ineligible for honors the moment they enroll at Kent State.

*I am writing you today to gain clarification or better understanding regarding graduation and academic recognition for students of the University Partnership program. My daughter will be graduating from Kent State (through the UP program) early in December. My daughter started off her academic career at LCCC [Lorain County Community College] and completed her 2 years there with a 3.9 GPA. She earned a 3.66 GPA for her Kent State coursework but, as I understand, Kent State does not recognize the portion of her GPA earned for her LCCC coursework.*

*Additionally, as I was told by her today, she is not eligible for Cum Laude recognition on her degree because she has to have a minimum of 60 credits taken on Kent State's campus. If true, this is very disenfranchising. You provide a Partnership program and, essentially, make the Partnership students feel like second-class citizens by not affording them the opportunity to share in the same academic recognition.*

— Correspondence from a parent whose daughter will earn a Kent State degree with 42 Kent State credits and 79 transfer credits.

In addition to developing the numerous associate-to-baccalaureate transfer agreements, Kent State also offers several baccalaureate completer programs for students who hold a specific credential and/or have amassed college credit. The College of Nursing's B.S.N. degree program for registered nurses is 59 Kent State credit hours. The Regional College's B.S. degree in Respiratory Care for respiratory therapists is 57 Kent State credit hours. (Both are 120 credit hours including transfer credit hours.)

In academic year 2018-19, new transfer students to the Kent Campus came with an average of 58 transfer credit hours. Of that transfer population, nearly 30 percent had more than 60 transfer credit hours (see Appendix A). A five-year review of Kent State baccalaureate graduates revealed that students graduating with less than 60 Kent State credit hours has steadily increased, from 166 graduates in 2013 to 211 graduates in 2017. These graduates had, on average, 47 Kent State credit hours (see Appendix B).

The 60-credit requirement for honors eligibility not only affects transfer students but also College Credit Plus students who complete college courses in high school and are admitted to Kent State as new students (not transfer). In fall 2014, 33.2 percent of new freshmen on the Kent Campus had transfer college credit. Just four years later, that number has increased nearly 10 points to 42.9 percent. In fall 2018, new freshmen arrived on the Kent Campus with an average of 16 transfer credit hours, a full semester (see Appendix C). Two of Kent State's top feeder colleges for transfer students had the third and fourth highest student enrollment in the College Credit Plus program: Cuyahoga Community College (4,653 students) and Stark State College (4,429 students)<sup>1</sup>.

### **Recommendation 1: Revision to the Eligibility Requirement**

Based on these factors, the EPC Ad Hoc Committee recommends that, in addition to keeping the 60-credit requirement for honors eligibility, a separate eligibility be established for students who do not meet the 60 mark but have a minimum 3.500 transfer GPA at the point of admission to Kent State. This recommendation was inspired by the Latin honors policy at Sam Houston State University in Texas.<sup>2</sup>

Example of the EPC Ad Hoc recommendation in practice:

Step 1: At graduation, student has a 3.500 Kent State GPA\* required for *cum laude* honors.

Step 2: Did the student earn 60+ credit hours at Kent State?

Yes: Student receives *cum laude* honors.

No: Go to step 3.

Step 3: Did the student earn a 3.500+ transfer GPA\*\*?

Yes: Student receives *cum laude* honors.

No: Student does not receive honors.

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Higher Education (November 2018). College Credit Plus Annual Report 2017-2018. Retrieved from [www.ohiohighered.org/content/college\\_credit\\_plus\\_about](http://www.ohiohighered.org/content/college_credit_plus_about).

<sup>2</sup> Sam Houston State University (n.d.). Latin Honors. Retrieved from [www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/graduation/commencement/latin-honors.html](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/graduation/commencement/latin-honors.html).

- \* The Kent State GPA for honors is calculated from all original grades for undergraduate courses earned at Kent State, including those forgiven and/or recalculated under other policies.
- \*\* The transfer GPA is calculated from all grades for undergraduate transfer courses awarded college credit at Kent State and completed prior to the student's most recent admission to Kent State.

The EPC Ad Hoc Committee recommends this additional step since it will allow students' previous coursework to be considered when determining their eligibility for honors. The Kent State GPA criteria to earn honors is not changing, and all students still will need to meet those criteria to earn honors. What this step does is provide a way to honor students who have performed well at both Kent State and their previous institutions.

Committee members realize that there may be a concern that that this revision will create an influx of graduates standing at commencement to be recognized for honors status (indeed, that is what prompted the university to increase the GPA criteria to earn honors several years ago). However, based on a review of past graduates, this recommendation most likely will result only in a small increase of those being honored. From a five-year review of bachelor's degree graduates (see Appendix D), an average 0.50 percent of total graduates (14 students) had less than 60 Kent State credit hours and a 3.5+ honors GPA and a 3.5+ transfer GPA for spring graduation (average 0.63 percent or nine students for fall graduation). No matter the minimum impact overall, the policy revision will be very meaningful to the individual graduates receiving this honor.

### **Other Options Considered for Credit-Hour Eligibility**

EPC Ad Hoc members considered several other options to the one being proposed. They included (1) removing the credit-hour requirement for eligibility; (2) lowering the credit-hour requirement for eligibility; (3) calculating all grades earned in all courses at all previous institutions for eligibility; and (4) creating a separate honors designation for students who do not meet the 60-credit hour requirement.

1. Remove the credit-hour requirement for eligibility. Many EPC Ad Hoc members were in favor of this option. If 30 Kent State credit hours is all students need to earn a bachelor's degree, then it should be all that is needed to be eligible for honors. A review of Kent State's 33 comparison universities showed that 10 (30%) have no requirement, compared to 11 (33%) who have the same 60-credit requirement as Kent State (see Appendix E). Those who do not have a credit-hour requirement include Clemson University, Ohio University and Georgia State University. However, based on feedback from various people who felt strongly that the policy should not benefit transfer students over native students, members did not see the faculty committees approving this option.
2. Lower the credit-hour requirement for eligibility. EPC Ad Hoc members discussed lowering the credit hours from 60 to a number between 59 and 31. Eight (24%) of Kent State's comparison universities follow this practice (e.g., Virginia Commonwealth University requires students to have 45 university credit hours, see Appendix E). However, some EPC Ad Hoc members felt that 60 credit hours—half the total of a baccalaureate—is explainable, and any other number seemed arbitrary. A five-year review of Kent State baccalaureate graduates with 30-59 Kent State credit hours showed that the vast majority of these graduates earned exactly 33 Kent State credit hours (see Appendix B).

3. Calculate all grades earned in all courses at all previous institutions for eligibility.  
This option would alleviate the supposed bias issue because the student's full academic work—at Kent State and elsewhere—would be reviewed. However, Kent State's current processes and systems make this review unattainable. Presently, staff review and the system is programmed to process only the courses that the university accepts for college credit. To revise would constitute an administrative and financial burden.
4. Create a separate honors designation for students who don't meet the 60-credit hour requirement. While this option would allow the university to uphold the current eligibility requirement for honors, it would perpetuate the main criticism that Kent State treats transfer students secondary when recognizing their achievements. In addition, College Credit Plus students, who are admitted as new students (even though they may transfer in many credit hours), would be caught between the two designations. EPC Ad Hoc members could not find another college or university in the country that had a separate distinction for transfer students earning a baccalaureate.

### **Recommendation 2: Revision to the Policy Name**

The EPC Ad Hoc Committee recommends a revision to the policy's name, from Institutional Honors to Latin Honors, to signify a change in the policy. "Latin Honors" was chosen as it was the most used title—along with "Graduation Honors" (or "Honors at Graduation")—among Kent State's 33 peer, aspirant, benchmark and Ohio public universities (see Appendix E).

The committee believed that "Graduation Honors" does not distinguish clearly between the honors awarded by the university and the honors awarded by the Honors College or by individual departments – all bestowed at graduation.

Latin Honors is the title used by Miami University, Ohio State University and all but one of Kent State's aspirational universities. No other university comparable to Kent State uses the title "Institutional Honors."

### **Recommendation 3: Revision to the Honors Policy for the Associate Degree**

Associate degree students who hold a minimum 3.500 unadjusted GPA at Kent State are eligible to graduate with distinction if they have earned a minimum 32 credit hours at Kent State. EPC Ad Hoc members recommend lowering the minimum credit hours to 30, which will align the policy with the one for a bachelor's degree (i.e., half of the total credit hours for the degree).

Students must have 15 Kent State credit hours to earn an associate degree. The committee does not recommend creating an eligibility policy for students with 15 to 29 Kent State credit hours.

Based on a review of past graduates, this recommendation will not result in a large increase of those being distinguished. From a five-year review of associate degree graduates (see Appendix F), only one percent of graduates (55 out of 5,624 total students) earned 30-31 Kent State credit hours; and, of those 55 students, only 13 total in the five years had a Kent State unadjusted GPA of 3.500 or higher. No matter the minimum impact to the university, the policy revision will be very meaningful to the individual graduates receiving the distinction.

## ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES

The alternative is status quo, and the consequences will be a continuation of graduating students with a worthy Kent State GPA who feel disheartened that the university will not recognize their academic achievements. Many of these graduates feel that they are being treated like “second-class citizens” – leading to less-engaged alumni. The current policy is misaligned with the university’s strategic goal to increase and support a transfer student body.

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies recommends that, effective for Kent State’s December 2019 graduation, revisions to the honors policies as outlined on the following pages be approved to recognize high-achieving graduates with transfer coursework.

### *What changes are proposed for recognition at the bachelor’s degree level?*

- Policy name
  - From Institutional Honors to Latin Honors
- Inclusion of students with more transfer credits
  - Students with less than 60 Kent State credit hours will be eligible for honors if they have a 3.500 transfer GPA at the point of their most recent admission

### *What changes are proposed for recognition at the associate degree level?*

- Decrease of minimum Kent State credit hours for eligibility
  - From 32 to 30 credit hours

### *What stays the same for recognition at both degree levels?*

- Minimum Kent State GPA for each honors designation
- Method for calculating and determining Kent State GPA for honors

## TIMETABLE AND ACTIONS REQUIRED

Educational Policies Council .....March 2019  
 Faculty Senate .....April 2019  
 Proposed implementation .....December 2019 Graduation

### **Appendix Description**

- A Data review on transfer credit hours
- B Data review of baccalaureate graduates with 30-59 Kent State credit hours
- C Data review of new students with transfer credit hours
- D Data review of baccalaureate graduates and eligibility for honors
- E Comparison of baccalaureate honor policies at 33 universities
- F Data review of associate degree graduates and eligibility for distinction
- G Information about the EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies

## Current Policy: Graduation with Institutional Honors

Candidates for bachelor's degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship throughout their undergraduate years graduate with institutional honors. Graduation with institutional honors is conferred on students who earn a baccalaureate with a GPA of at least:

- 3.500 *cum laude*
- 3.700 *magna cum laude*
- 3.900 *summa cum laude*

Institutional honors are based solely on the GPA earned in all coursework taken at Kent State University, including original grades forgiven and/or recalculated under other policies. A minimum of 60 credit hours must be earned at Kent State University to qualify. For the purposes of computing the final GPA and determining honors awards, the GPA is extended to three decimal places and not rounded up.

Honor citations are inscribed on diplomas as follows: *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*. Honors candidates will be distinguished at the commencement ceremony based on all their institutional academic work completed prior to those courses taken during their final term of enrollment.

## Revised Policy: Graduation with Latin Honors

Candidates for bachelor's degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship throughout their undergraduate years will graduate with Latin honors. To graduate with this recognition at Kent State University, students must achieve one of the following criteria:

- Earn a minimum 60 credit hours at Kent State and earn a minimum 3.500 Kent State GPA; or
- Earn at least 30 but fewer than 60 credit hours at Kent State and earn a minimum 3.500 Kent State GPA and earn a minimum 3.500 transfer GPA

There are three levels of Latin honors at graduation with a bachelor's degree:

- *Cum Laude* (Latin for "with honor") — Student has earned a Kent State GPA of 3.500 to 3.699.
- *Magna Cum Laude* (Latin for "with great honor") — Student has earned a Kent State GPA of 3.700 to 3.899.
- *Summa Cum Laude* (Latin for "with highest honor") — Student has earned a Kent State GPA of 3.900 to 4.000.

The Kent State GPA for determining Latin honors is calculated from all grades earned in undergraduate courses at Kent State University, including original grades forgiven and/or recalculated under other policies. The transfer GPA is calculated from all grades earned in undergraduate transfer courses that were awarded college credit by Kent State and completed prior to the student's most recent admission to Kent State. The GPA for both is extended to three decimal places and not rounded up.

Because grades in courses taken in the student's final term are not official until after commencement, Latin honors candidates will be recognized at the commencement ceremony based on all their Kent State academic work completed prior to those courses. However, the final term grades will be used in determining honors posted to the transcript and the diploma. Honor citations are inscribed on diplomas as follows: *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*.



## **Current Policy:** Graduation with Distinction

Candidates for associate degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship through their coursework will graduate “with distinction.” “With distinction” is awarded when students achieve a minimum 3.500 GPA for all undergraduate coursework at Kent State University.

In order for students to be considered for graduation “with distinction” and have it inscribed on their diploma, a minimum 32 credit hours must be completed at Kent State University.

The students’ unadjusted GPA at the time the associate degree is conferred (which should be unadjusted by the application of the academic forgiveness policy or course repeat policies) will be used in determining “with distinction.”

## **Revised Policy:** Graduation with Distinction

Candidates for associate degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship throughout their coursework will graduate “with distinction.” To graduate with this recognition, students must achieve the following criteria:

- Earn a minimum 30 credit hours at Kent State University, and
- Earn a minimum 3.500 Kent State University GPA

A Kent State GPA is calculated from all grades earned in undergraduate courses at Kent State University, including original grades forgiven and/or recalculated under other policies. The GPA used to determine the “with distinction” designation is extended to three decimal places and not rounded up.

Because grades in courses taken in the student’s graduation term are not official until after commencement, those grades will not be calculated into the GPA for recognizing candidates at the commencement ceremony. However, the final term grades will be used in determining the “graduated with distinction” recognition posted to the transcript and the diploma.

## APPENDIX A

### Data review on transfer credit hours Academic Years 2009 – 2018

#### Average of Transfer Credit Hours

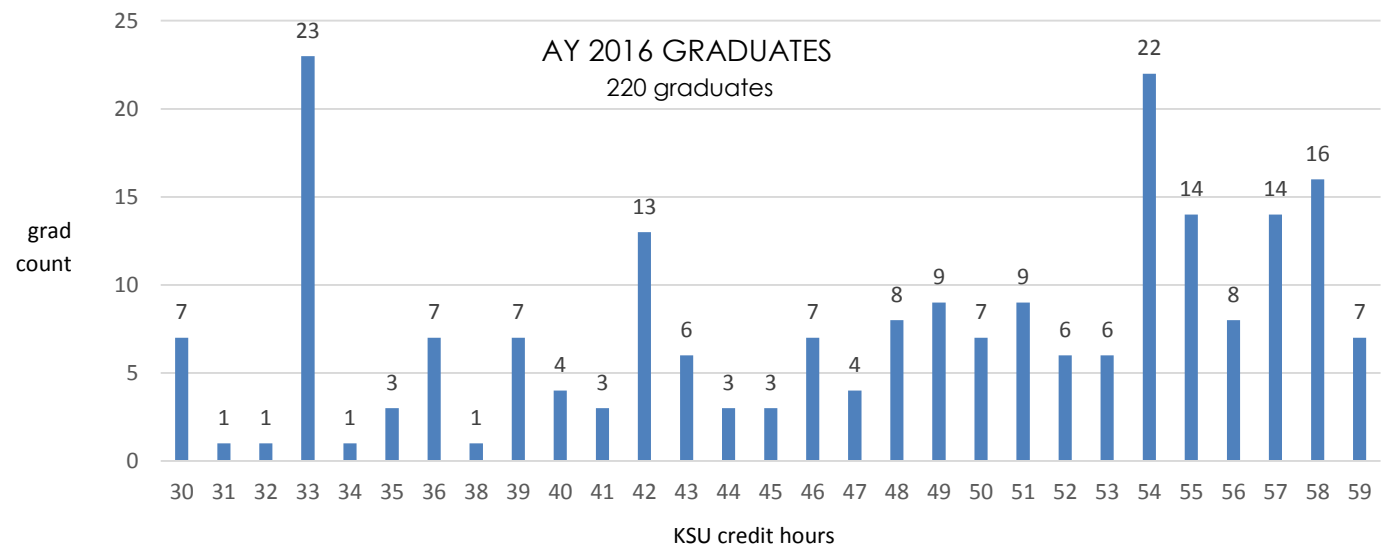
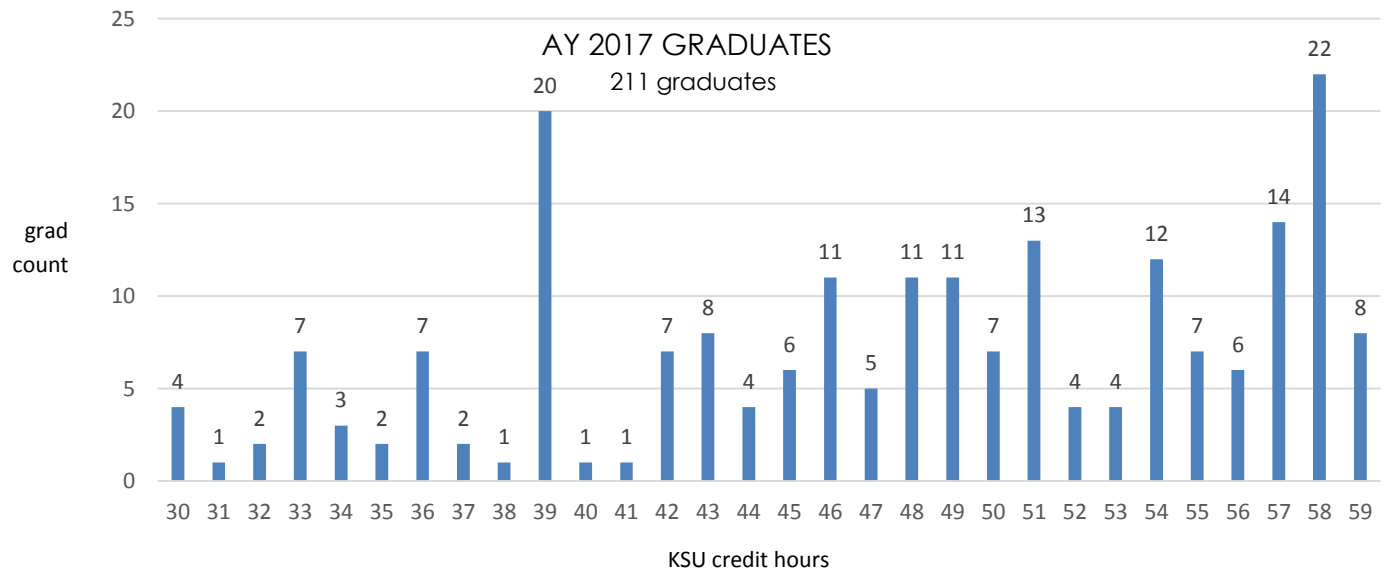
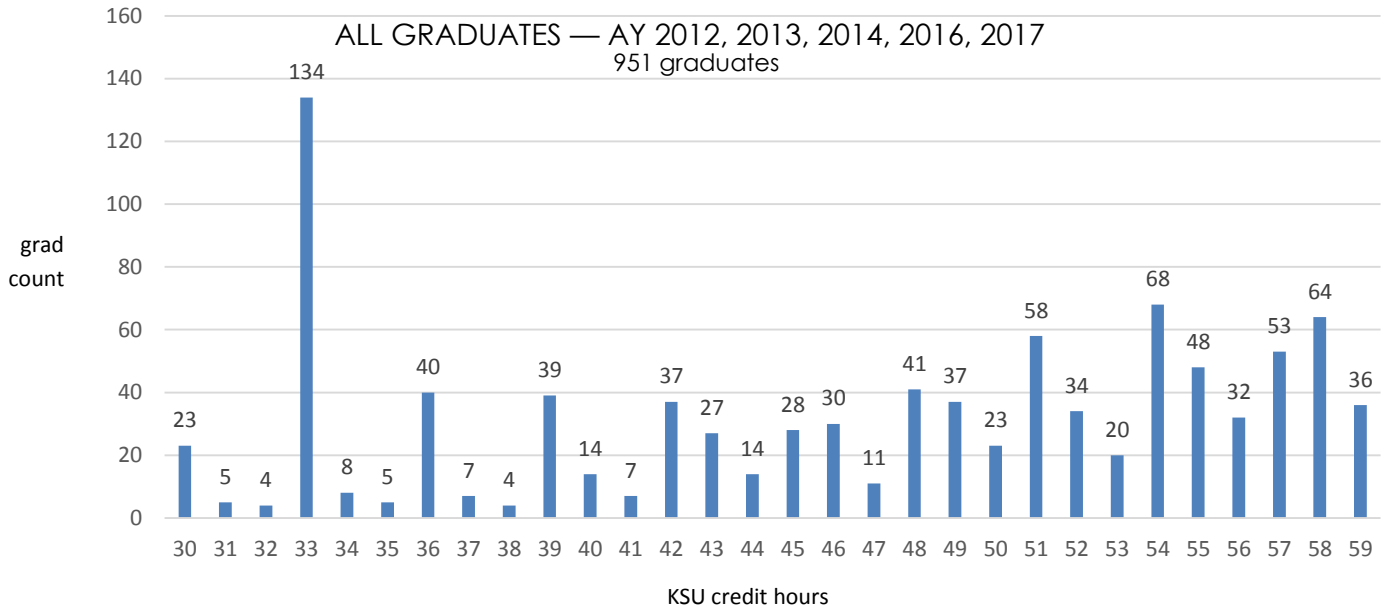
	Kent Campus	Regional Campus	Grand Total
2009-10	59.2	42.3	48.5
2010-11	56.4	41.2	46.6
2011-12	57.5	43.6	48.5
2012-13	57.4	43.6	48.1
2013-14	57.4	45.4	49.5
2014-15	60.3	47.8	51.7
2015-16	60.7	45.5	50.4
2016-17	60.5	44.7	49.8
2017-18	57.1	46.2	49.8
2018-19	57.8	46.1	50.1

#### Percentage by Transfer Credit Hour Ranges

	0-29	30-59	60-89	90+
2014-15	45.2%	28.0%	17.9%	8.9%
2015-16	44.1%	27.9%	19.9%	8.0%
2016-17	43.3%	29.8%	18.2%	8.7%
2017-18	42.2%	30.5%	19.5%	7.9%
2018-19	40.2%	31.5%	20.9%	7.4%

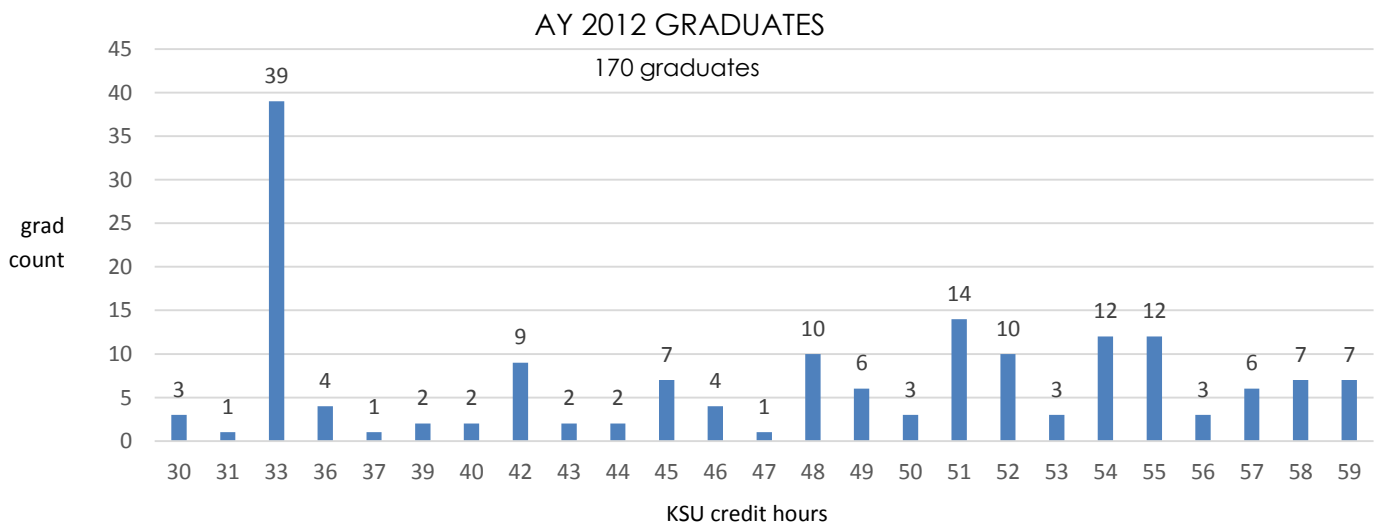
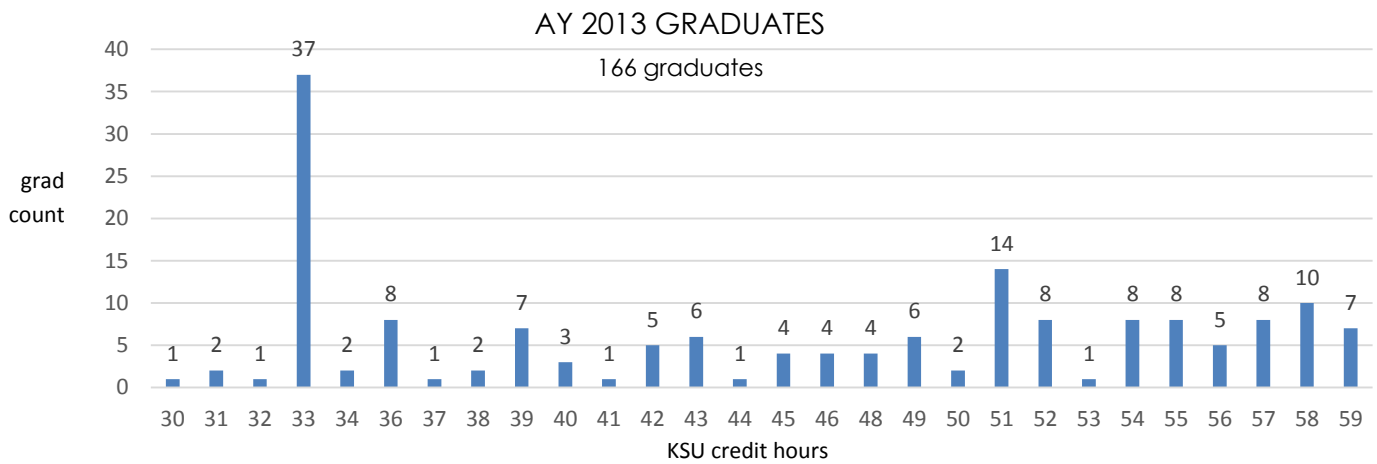
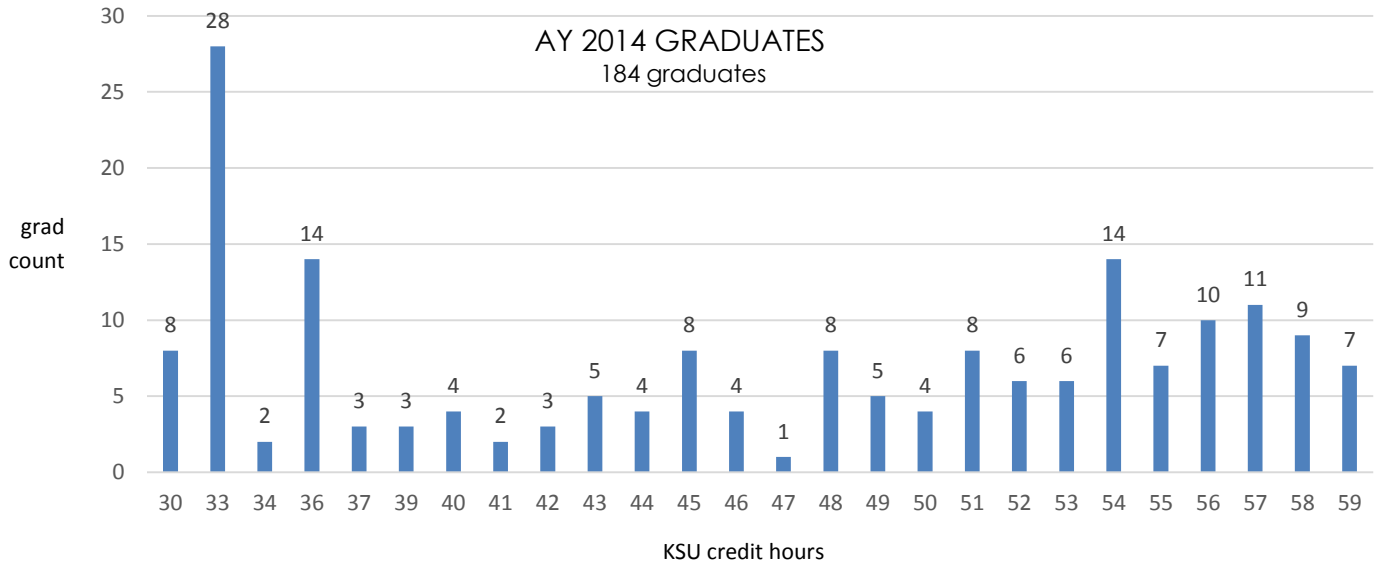
## APPENDIX B

### Five-Year Review Of Graduates with 30-59 Kent State Credit Hours



## APPENDIX B

### Five-Year Review Of Graduates with 30-59 Kent State Credit Hours



## APPENDIX C

## Data Review of New Students with Transfer Credit Hours Academic Years 2014 – 2018

**Kent Campus**

New Freshmen with Transfer Credit Hours  
and Average Transfer Credit Hours

Fall	# New FR	# with TR HR	% with TR HR	Avg TR HR
2014	4,273	1,419	33.2%	14.6
2015	4,319	1,671	38.7%	14.6
2016	4,348	1,681	38.7%	15.1
2017	4,292	1,808	42.1%	15.1
2018	4,396	1,888	42.9%	15.9

Distribution of Transfer Credit Hours by Range

Fall	Up to 15	15.1 to 30	30.1 to 45	Over 45
2014	68.3%	20.1%	7.6%	4.0%
2015	67.4%	21.9%	6.0%	4.7%
2016	64.3%	24.0%	7.9%	3.8%
2017	64.9%	23.7%	7.1%	4.3%
2018	62.4%	24.3%	8.4%	4.9%

Total Earned Credit Hours for New Freshmen

Fall	None	1 to 15	16 to 30	31 to 45	Over 45
2014	60.1%	25.5%	8.6%	3.8%	2.0%
2015	56.2%	28.2%	9.8%	3.3%	2.5%
2016	56.6%	26.4%	10.9%	4.0%	2.1%
2017	53.1%	28.7%	11.7%	4.3%	2.2%
2018	51.0%	29.1%	12.5%	4.7%	2.7%

(Data as of 15<sup>th</sup> day of fall semester)

**Regional Campuses**

New Freshmen with Transfer Credit Hours  
and Average Transfer Credit Hours

Fall	# New FR	# with TR HR	% with TR HR	Avg TR HR
2014	2,085	187	9.0%	13.0
2015	1,974	196	9.9%	12.1
2016	2,067	295	14.3%	11.9
2017	1,923	283	14.7%	12.3
2018	1,864	251	13.5%	12.0

Distribution of Transfer Credit Hours by Range

Fall	Up to 15	15.1 to 30	30.1 to 45	Over 45
2014	78.6%	13.4%	2.7%	5.3%
2015	76.0%	15.8%	4.1%	4.1%
2016	79.0%	14.6%	4.7%	1.7%
2017	72.4%	20.8%	4.9%	1.8%
2018	77.7%	16.7%	2.0%	3.6%

Total Earned Credit Hours for New Freshmen

Fall	None	1 to 15	16 to 30	31 to 45	Over 45
2014	82.2%	13.4%	2.8%	0.8%	0.8%
2015	82.2%	12.6%	3.3%	1.1%	0.8%
2016	78.8%	14.8%	4.3%	1.6%	0.6%
2017	77.0%	15.1%	5.5%	1.9%	0.6%
2018	74.1%	15.6%	6.9%	2.0%	1.4%

(Data as of 15<sup>th</sup> day of fall semester)

## APPENDIX D

## Data Review of Graduated Baccalaureates and Latin Honors (Academic Years 2012 – 2017)

Baccalaureate graduates for five academic years (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)\*

Table 1: By graduation academic year.

Graduation academic year	Total graduates	Students with 30-59 KSU credit hours			
		3.5+ honors GPA		3.5+ honors GPA + 3.5+ transfer GPA	
		Student #	(% total)	Student #	(% total)
2012	4,745	89	1.88%	33	0.70%
2013	4,774	77	1.61%	25	0.52%
2014	4,944	93	1.88%	34	0.69%
2016	5,525	90	1.63%	26	0.47%
2017	5,669	91	1.61%	23	0.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,657</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1.71%</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0.55%</b>

Table 2: By graduation term.

Graduation term	Total graduates	Students with 30-59 KSU credit hours			
		3.5+ honors GPA		3.5+ honors GPA + 3.5+ transfer GPA	
		Student #	(% total)	Student #	(% total)
Fall 2012	1,378	33	(2.39%)	11	(0.80%)
Fall 2013	1,410	21	(1.49%)	4	(0.28%)
Fall 2014	1,436	37	(2.58%)	16	(1.11%)
Fall 2016	1,610	33	(2.05%)	9	(0.56%)
Fall 2017	1,675	35	(2.09%)	7	(0.42%)
<b>Average</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>(2.12%)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(0.63%)</b>
Spring 2013	2,582	39	(1.51%)	17	(0.66%)
Spring 2014	2,573	34	(1.32%)	12	(0.47%)
Spring 2015	2,669	37	(1.39%)	14	(0.52%)
Spring 2017	3,075	43	(1.40%)	12	(0.39%)
Spring 2018	3,253	37	(1.14%)	15	(0.46%)
<b>Average</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>(1.35%)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(0.50%)</b>
Summer 2013	785	17	(2.17%)	5	(0.64%)
Summer 2014	791	22	(2.78%)	9	(1.14%)
Summer 2015	839	19	(2.26%)	4	(0.48%)
Summer 2017	840	14	(1.67%)	5	(0.60%)
Summer 2018	741	19	(2.56%)	1	(0.13%)
<b>Average</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>(2.29%)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(0.60%)</b>

\* Data for academic year 2015 was inadvertently omitted from analysis.

## APPENDIX D

### Graduates with 30-59 Kent State credit hours who would have earned Latin honors in this five-year period if a 3.500+ transfer GPA was in place for eligibility:

Chart 1: By graduation academic year\*.

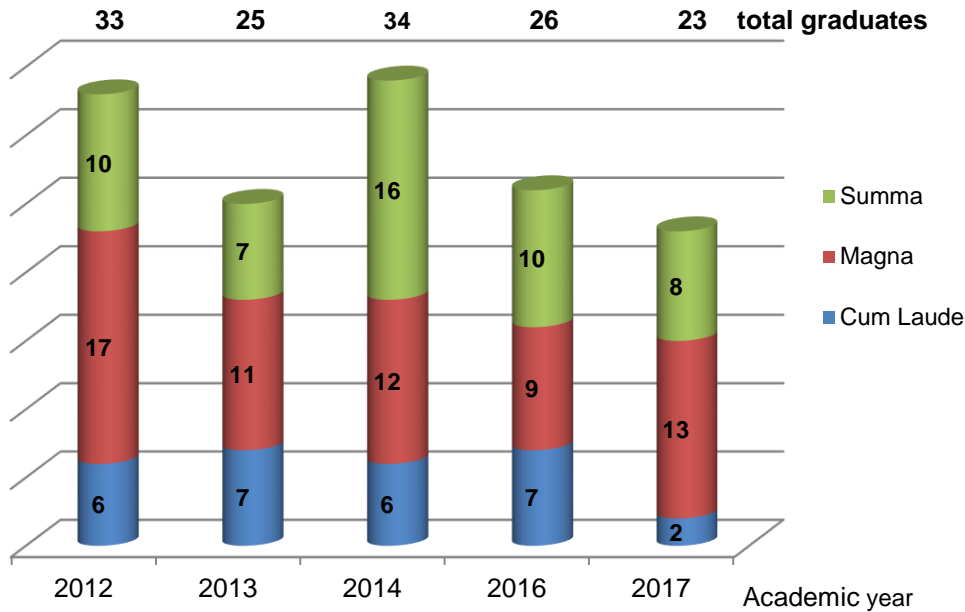
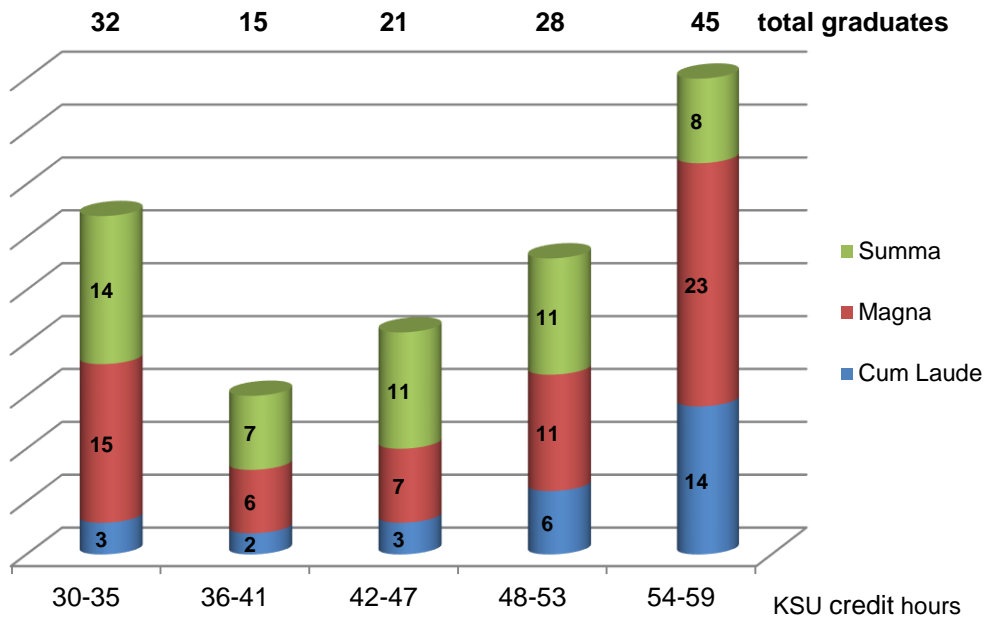


Chart 2: By Kent State earned credit hours



\* Data for academic year 2015 was inadvertently omitted from analysis.

## APPENDIX E

## Baccalaureate Honor Policies - University Comparison

## Summary of Comparison

Credit Hour Eligibility *	#	%
60 credit hours (or 50%)	11	33
No credit-hour eligibility	10	30
>30 and <60 credit hours	8	24
Other	4	12

Kent State: 60 credit hours

\* Credit hours completed at the university to be eligible for honors.

Policy Title Comparison	#	%
Latin Honors	11	33
Graduation Honors (or variation)	11	33
University Honors	3	9
Academic Honors	2	6
Other: Honors, Final Honors, Honors Recognition, Degrees with Distinction, Latin Scholastic Distinction, Honors Distinction	6	18

Kent State: Institutional Honors

## GPA Criteria Comparison

Cum Laude			Magna Cum Laude			Summa Cum Laude		
Min. GPA	#	%	Min. GPA	#	%	Min. GPA	#	%
3.50	17	53	3.70-3.75	16	50	3.90-3.95	21	66
3.20-3.25	5	16	3.60-3.65	9	28	3.80	9	28
3.40	4	13	3.50	4	13	3.75	2	6
3.30	3	9	3.80-3.85	3	9			
3.60	2	6						
3.70	1	3						

Most popular combinations	
3.50 – 3.70 – 3.90	9 universities
3.50 – 3.75 – 3.90	6 universities
3.40 – 3.60 – 3.80	4 universities

Kent State: 3.50 – 3.70 – 3.90

Data does not include Temple University, which uses percentages.

## Comparison of Universities

Aspirational Universities	Name	Credit Hour Eligibility	Minimum GPA Criteria		
			Cum	Magna	Summa
Clemson Univ.	Latin Honors	none	3.70	3.85	3.95
Temple Univ.	Latin Honors	60	9% below magna	5% below summa	top 2%
Univ. of South Florida	Honors at Graduation	30 (upper division)	3.50	3.70	3.90
Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	Latin Honors	45	3.30	3.60	3.90

Peer Universities	Name	Credit Hour Eligibility	Minimum GPA Criteria		
			Cum	Magna	Summa
Georgia State Univ.	Graduation with Honors	none	3.50	3.70	3.90
Ohio Univ.	Graduation Honors	none	3.50	3.75	3.90
Syracuse Univ.	University Honors	60	3.40	3.60	3.80
			Architecture has lower GPA		
Univ. of Houston	Latin Honors	last 66	3.25	3.50	3.75
Univ. of North Texas	Graduation with Honors	note 2	3.50	3.70	3.90
Utah State Univ.	Latin Scholastic Distinctions	40	3.50	3.80	3.95
Western Michigan Univ.	Honors Recognition	50	3.50	3.70	3.90

Benchmark Universities	Name	Credit Hour Eligibility	Minimum GPA Criteria		
			Cum	Magna	Summa
Ball State Univ.	Academic Honors	60	3.60	3.80	3.90
Bowling Green State Univ.	University Honors	none	3.50	3.75	3.90
Miami Univ.	Latin Honors	note 1	3.50-3.70	3.75-3.85	3.90-3.95
			Varies by college		
Northern Illinois Univ.	Degrees with Distinction	60	3.50	3.75	3.90
State Univ. of New York, Albany	Latin Honors	56	3.25	3.50	3.75
Texas Tech Univ.	Graduation with Honors	48	3.50	3.70	3.90
Univ. of Memphis	University Honors	42	3.25	3.50	3.80
Univ. of Mississippi	Graduation with Honors	50%	3.50	3.75	3.90



## APPENDIX E

## Baccalaureate Honor Policies - University Comparison

Benchmark Universities <i>continued</i>	Name	Credit Hour Eligibility	Minimum GPA Criteria		
			Cum	Magna	Summa
Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro	Graduation with Honors	45	3.50	3.70	3.90
Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman	Graduation with Honors	60	3.40	3.60	3.80
Univ. of Southern Mississippi	Latin Honors	<i>none</i>	3.25	3.50	3.80
Univ. of Texas, Arlington	Latin Honors	45	3.50	3.70	3.90
			<i>or lower overall GPA if higher GPA for last 45 credit hours</i>		
Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	Final Honors	60	3.50	3.65	3.80

Ohio Public Universities *	Name	Credit Hour Eligibility	Minimum GPA Criteria		
			Cum	Magna	Summa
Central State Univ.	Graduation Honors	<i>none</i>	3.20	3.60	3.80
Cleveland State Univ.	Graduation Honors	<i>none</i>	3.30	3.60	3.80
Ohio State Univ.	Latin Honors	60	3.50	3.70	3.90
Shawnee State Univ.	Honors	<i>none</i>	3.50	3.75	3.90
Univ. of Akron	Academic Honors	60	3.40	3.60	3.80
Univ. of Cincinnati	Latin Honors	60	3.60	3.75	3.90
Univ. of Toledo	Honors Distinction	<i>none</i>	3.30	3.60	3.90
Wright State Univ.	Latin Honors	<i>none</i>	3.50	3.70	3.90
Youngstown State Univ.	Graduation Honors	60	3.40	3.60	3.80

\* Ohio University is in the peer table; Miami University and Bowling Green State University are in the benchmark table.

**NOTES**

1. Miami University students with less than 64 credits are decided institutional honors by either average of all Miami grades or average of all college-level grades, whichever is lower.
2. University of North Texas calculates transfer coursework into honors GPA.

## APPENDIX F

### Data Review of Graduated Associate Degree Students and Distinction (Academic Years 2012 – 2017)

#### Kent State University Data Review

Associate degree graduates\* for five academic years (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)\*\*:

- Average 57 percent of total graduates had transfer credit
- Average 7 percent of those with transfer credit were not eligible for institutional honors due to 32-credit restriction for eligibility

	AY 2012	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2016	AY 2017
Total Graduated Students	1,126	1,283	1,131	1,026	1,058
With Transfer Credit	580 (52%)	708 (55%)	628 (56%)	560 (55%)	690 (65%)
Not Eligible for Distinction	31 (5%)	43 (6%)	48 (8%)	43 (8%)	41 (6%)
Met GPA for Distinction	7 (23%)	8 (19%)	16 (33%)	13 (30%)	6 (15%)

**Associate degree graduates who met the Kent State GPA for distinction in this five-year period, but were not eligible due to the minimum 32 Kent State credit hour requirement:**

Chart 1: By graduation academic year\*.

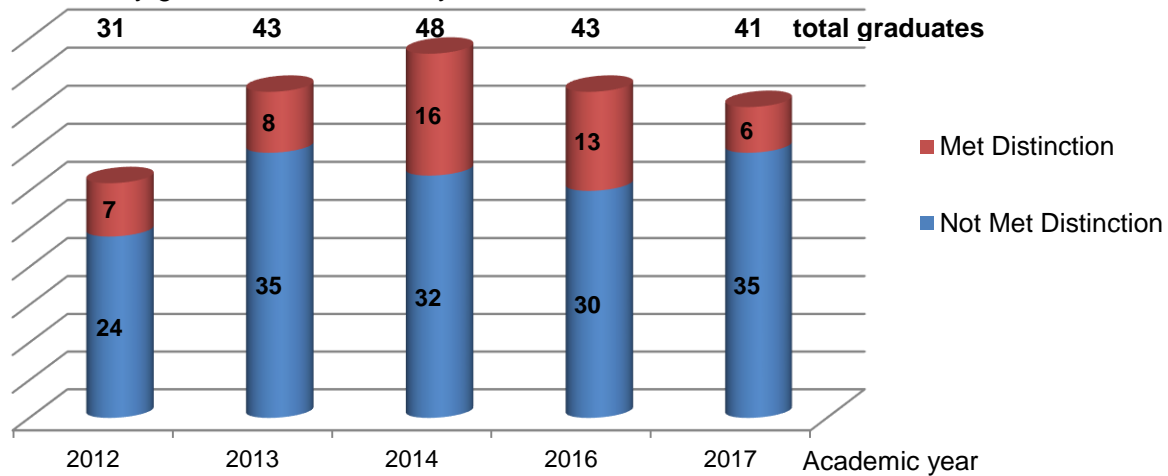
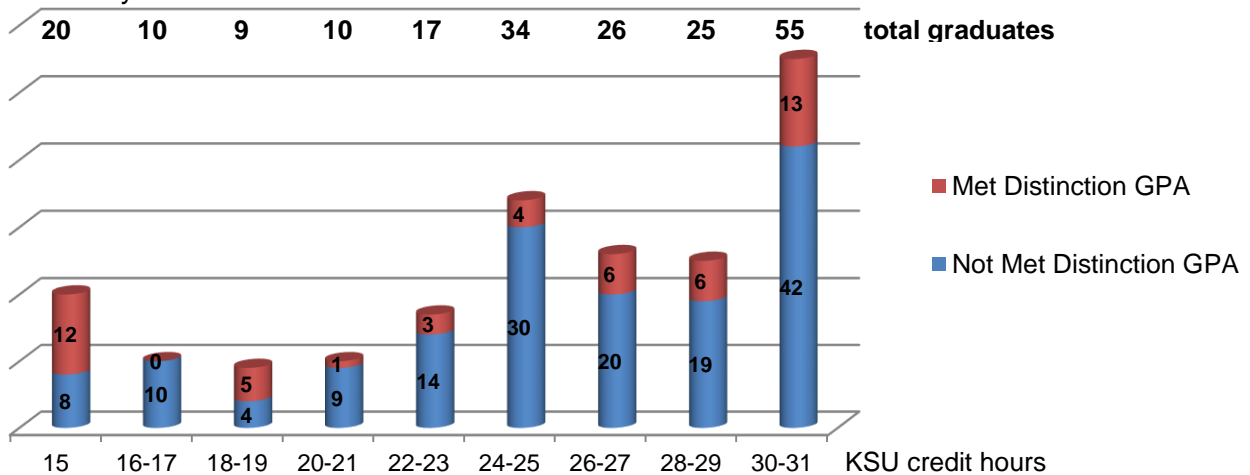


Chart 2: By Kent State earned credit hours



\* Number does not include continuing students automatically awarded the A.A. or A.S. degree.

\*\* Data for academic year 2015 was accidentally omitted from analysis.

## APPENDIX G

### EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies

**REPORTS TO:** Educational Policies Council and provost

**CHARGE:** The committee will review academic policies and practices; determine the policies and practices that create obstacles for student progress toward graduation and/or do not support the quality of a Kent State University education; and make recommendations of new and revised policies that promote student success.

#### Philosophy

The EPC Ad Hoc Committee has agreed that any policy it recommends would be:

1. Upholding the integrity, quality and standards of a Kent State education;  
*The policy should connect with Kent State's mission and core values.*
2. Aligned with the university's strategic priority of "Students First";  
*Kent State should demonstrate its commitment to educate and graduate students by providing the best opportunities for students to be successful.*
3. Consistent across all programs, colleges and campuses to the greatest extent possible; and  
*Students regularly change programs and declare multiple programs spanning departments, schools and colleges on all campuses and locations.*
4. Easy to explain, demonstrate and put into words.  
*The policy should be clear enough that students, faculty, advisors and administrators can understand and articulate it to each other.*

#### Spring 2019 Membership

Chair: Melody Tankersley, Senior Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Vice-Chair: Therese Tillett, Associate Vice President, Curriculum Planning and Administration

- Stavros Atsas, Analyst, Office of Graduation Planning Systems
- Stephanie Belovich, Associate Professor, College of Podiatric Medicine
- Jessie Carduner, Associate Professor, Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies
- Liz Driscoll Dewitt, Director I, Enrollment Management and Student Services, Ashtabula Campus
- Sue Emens, Assistant Dean, Geauga Campus
- Jill Folk, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences
- Bill Hauck, Assistant Professor, School of Fashion Design and Merchandising
- Lynette Johnson, Associate University Registrar
- Steve Mitchell, Associate Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Services
- Tracey Motter, Associate Dean, College of Nursing
- Kim Peer, Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences
- Eboni Pringle, Dean, University College
- Amy Quillin, Student Ombuds, Division of Student Affairs
- Lock Reynolds, Associate Professor, Department of Economics
- Matt Rollyson, Assistant Dean, College of Communication and Information
- Valerie Rose, Financial Aid Coordinator, Office of Student Financial Aid
- Linnea Stafford, Senior Information Officer, Office of Institutional Research
- Cynthia Stillings, Associate Dean, College of the Arts
- Andrew Tonge, Chair, Department of Mathematical Sciences
- Don White, Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
- Gina Zavota, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
- Melissa Zullo, Associate Professor, College of Public Health