PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION K-1

Rationale for Changes to Regulation K-1

The changes to Regulation K-1 (Graduation with Honors) are being proposed because under the current regulation, students enrolled at the branch campuses have difficulty meeting the 56 UI credit requirements for academic honors at graduation. Many of these are transfer students whose UI and overall GPA’s meet the GPA criteria for honors, however because they do not have 56 UI credits, they cannot graduate with honors.

The goal of this revised regulation is to maintain the standard for academic honors while providing the opportunity to recognize off-campus students who have consistently been honors students throughout their academic career.

Under the revised regulation, by requiring that a student’s UI GPA must meet the GPA honors criteria in both conditions 1 and 2, this insures that the student must first be an honors student at UI. Then, by also requiring the overall GPA (for students with 32-55 UI credits) to meet the GPA honors criteria, this would insure that transfer students were honors students at their other institutions as well.

Also the following changes are being proposed to clarify the regulation:

- Reference to student exchange programs is being deleted because grades for a student’s exchange program are recorded as transfer work, which are not included in the UI GPA.
- Reference to 88 credits in law is being deleted to simplify the regulation. All law students must have at least 88 credits in Law to graduate. According to the Law School, there is no minimum number of UI credits, they just need to meet the GPA breakdown for honors.

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K-1. Graduation with Honors. Candidates for baccalaureate degrees are graduated with honors if they satisfy ONE of the following conditions:

1) Their cumulative UI grade-point averages are as specified in K-1-a, K-1-b, or K-1-c and they have earned at least 56 credits in University of Idaho courses OR
2) Both their cumulative UI grade-point averages AND their grade-point average from all sources (the overall GPA on Banner) are as specified in K-1-a, K-1-b, or K-1-c, and they have earned at least 32 credits in University of Idaho courses.

No credits earned through independent study, bypassed courses, credit by examination, College Level Examination Program, or technical competence may be counted among the 56 or 32 credits. With prior approval by the student’s academic dean, credits earned in special programs, such as study abroad and student exchange programs may be counted. Candidates for the degree of Juris Doctor are graduated with honors under the same conditions, except that at least 88 credits in law courses are required and the grade-point average considered is based exclusively on the student’s record in the College of Law. Honors are not awarded with degrees earned through the College of Graduate Studies.

K-1-a. Candidates whose grade-point averages would place them within the top 3 percent of graduates from their respective college over the preceding five years are graduated summa cum laude (with highest distinction).

K-1-b. Candidates whose grade-point averages would place them within the top 6 percent (but below the top 3 percent) of graduates from their respective colleges over the preceding five years are graduated magna cum laude (with great distinction).

K-1-c. Candidates whose grade-point averages would place them within the top 10 percent (but below the top 6 percent) of graduates from their respective colleges over the preceding five years are graduated cum laude (with distinction).