



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Steven Green
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: 29 April 2002

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2001-28(B) – Increasing the GPA requirements for the General Honors Program

The Faculty Senate, at its 24 April 2002 meeting, voted unanimously to approve changing the University of Miami GPA requirements for the General Honors Program from a 3.3 to a 3.5. We did so in light of a report from our Academic Standards Committee on raising the profile of the Honors Program to help enhance its reputation by making it smaller and more selective.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action, including, but not limited to, modifying the Undergraduate Bulletin as indicated on the attachment. Wherever this information appears on the website and elsewhere, changes should be made in parallel with those to the Bulletin.

SG/kl

- cc: Luis Glaser, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Benjiman Web, Director of the Honors Program
- Patricia Whitely, Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs
- Scott Ingold, Associate Dean of Enrollments and Registrar
- Perri Lee Roberts, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
- Larry Peterson, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee

GENERAL HONORS PROGRAM

Over the past three decades since its foundation, the Honors Program has grown. The program now offers approximately 200 courses and sections each semester at the introductory through advanced levels, in a wide variety of fields in all colleges and schools of the University. In general, Honors courses are small classes taught as seminars with emphasis on interactive learning and discussion.

ADMISSION TO GENERAL HONORS

Invitations to General Honors are extended to approximately 10% of the entering freshman class on the basis of their outstanding scholastic achievement in high school and their high scores on the college entrance examination. A student of any undergraduate school or college is eligible for consideration as a member of the Honors Program.

Freshmen and sophomores may be admitted to the Honors Program if they have achieved a ~~3.300~~ 3.500 or higher cumulative grade point average in their college courses. Transfer students may apply if they have a ~~3.300-~~ 3.500 or higher cumulative grade point average *and* have earned no more than 60 credits towards graduation. Inquiries should be made directly to the Honors Program office. All applicants should note that admission to the University of Miami must precede admission to the Honors Program.

RETENTION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION IN GENERAL HONORS

To remain in the Honors Program a student must maintain an overall academic average of ~~3.300~~ 3.500 and complete at least two Honors courses per academic year.

To graduate with General Honors, a student must satisfy at least 24 credits in General Honors courses and have an overall grade point average of ~~3.300~~ 3.500. Twelve of the 24 credits must be in courses at the 200 level or above. No more than 12 credits in the student's major may be counted toward the 24 credits in General Honors.

WITHDRAWAL, DISMISSAL, AND REINSTATEMENT IN GENERAL HONORS

Students may withdraw from the program at any time at their discretion. They should notify the Honors Office in writing of their intention to withdraw. Honors students' grade point averages and general performance are reviewed each academic year. Any student who fails to maintain the required cumulative grade point average or fails to take the required number of Honors credits will be excused from the program. Students may re-enter the program when their grade point average has been raised to a ~~3.300~~ 3.500; however, students must inform the Honors Office of the improved average and of their interest in re-entering the program.

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2001-28(B) – Increasing the GPA requirements for the General Honors Program

PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 5.2.02
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Provost

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: _____
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____