



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GUIDELINES

Section 2.6	Academic Student Credit Requirements, Credentialing and Degrees	
Title:	Transcript Designation Guidelines	
Number (Current Format)	Number (Prior Format)	Date Last Revised
2.6.2.B	10.6	02/2022
Reference:	BOR Policy 2.8.1 – Grades & Use of Grade Point Averages (GPA)	
Related Form(s):		

1. Policy Overview & Background

During the merge of the six university databases (2003), a common Regental transcript was developed. This unified approach compelled system-level review, consideration, and approval of university-specific transcript comments. The Academic Affairs Council was identified as the logical entity to authorize usage of such comments. Any university interested in creating a new comment must submit a formal request, including rationale and intended use. Any university interest in creating a new comment must submit a formal request, including rationale and intended use. The System Vice-President for Academic Affairs will coordinate the evaluation process and then apprise the impacted university of deliberative outcomes.

2. Transcript Designations

2.1. Black Hills State University

2.1.1. University Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who complete the 4-year, supplemental Honors curriculum.

Eligibility criteria:

- Eighteen credits of honors-level general education courses
- Two semesters of non-English language
- Six credits of honors colloquia/seminars
- Three credits of capstone research
- Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
- Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.2. International University Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who complete the 4-year, supplemental Honors curriculum and who complete and international research or study-abroad experience.

Eligibility criteria:

- Eighteen credits of honors-level general education courses

- Two semesters of non-English language
- Six credits of honors colloquia/seminars
- Three credits of capstone research
- Significant international experience involving studying, teaching, researching, and/or serving
- Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
- Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.3. Research Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who wish to pursue Honors-caliber work later in their academic careers.

Eligibility criteria:

- Six credits of Honors colloquia/seminars
- Three credits of capstone research
- Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
- Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.4. Graduated Posthumously: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

2.2. Dakota State University

2.2.1. Center of Excellence Graduate: Designation for students who pursue honors course work in conjunction with the Center of Excellence.

Eligibility criteria:

- Minor in CEX
- Service learning project
- Formal approval conferred by the Center of Excellence Administrators

2.3. Northern State University

2.3.1. Graduated in Honoribus: Designation for students who complete the Honors Program

Eligibility criteria:

- Approved enrollment in the Honors Program
- Eighteen credits of honors course work
- Honors thesis/project
- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation

2.4. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

2.4.1. Graduated Posthumously: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduate requirements.

2.5. South Dakota State University

2.5.1. Honors College:

Eligibility Criteria:

- Twenty-four credits of honors course work including:
 - Minimum of three credits honors colloquium/topics
 - Minimum of two credits honors capstone research
 - Honors course work, experiential learning, or honors enrichment course work
- GPA (cumulative) of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation

2.5.2. Graduated Posthumously: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

2.6. University of South Dakota

2.6.1. University Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who enter as first-time freshmen and continue with the program throughout the entirety of their undergraduate work.

Eligibility criteria:

- Honors Core Curriculum
- Two honors seminars
- Honors thesis with defense
- GPA of 3.25 or higher at the time of graduation

2.6.2. Thesis Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who pursue honors work later in their academic careers or who transfer and pursue honors work.

Eligibility criteria:

- Two honors seminars
- Honors thesis with defense

2.6.3. USDSM Alumni Student Scholars: Designation for students enrolled in the MD program at Sanford School of Medicine.

Eligibility criteria:

- Selection for Alumni Student Scholarship Program (an early acceptance program offered by the Sanford School of Medicine; four first-time freshmen at USD are chosen each year).
 - Graduate of a South Dakota high school
 - ACT composite score of 28 or higher (or SAT combined score of 1240 or higher)
 - Expressed interest in establishing a primary care practice in the state of South Dakota

- Baccalaureate degree earned at USD:
 - Any major
 - Honors Curriculum
 - Sanford School of Medicine admission requirements
 - Graduation within four years of full-time undergraduate study
 - GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation
- MD or MD/PhD degree earned at Sanford School of Medicine

2.6.4. Scholarship Pathway Scholar: Designation for students enrolled in the MD program at USD’s Sanford School of Medicine.

Eligibility criteria:

- Completion of an elective track in education, research, or service

2.6.5. Sterling Honor Graduate: Designation for students enrolled in the JD program at USD’s School of Law.

Eligibility criteria:

- Academic ranking in the top 10% of the graduating class

2.6.6. Graduated Posthumously: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

SOURCE:

AAC November 2017; November 2018 (Clerical); AAC February 2022.