

## **Graduating with Honors at Illinois Tech**

To UGSC on October 10, 2017

by Golzar Shobeiri (Vice President of Academic Affairs, SGA)

### **Current System**

The cumulative GPA requirements for those levels are:

- Cum laude – 3.5-3.799
- Magna cum laude – 3.8-3.899
- Summa cum laude – 3.9-4.0

### **Proposed System**

The cumulative GPA requirements for those levels would be:

- Cum laude – 3.5-3.699
- Magna cum laude – 3.7-3.849
- Summa cum laude – 3.85-4.0

### **Discussion**

60 credit hours at Illinois Tech is less than two years at the institution; therefore, this number is a perfect amount for both transfer and incoming freshmen to have a fair chance to get honors when graduating.

Making Magna and Summa cum laude larger will allow students who started their Illinois Tech career in the wrong major and did not do so good a chance to earn the highest honors. Also, increasing the range will allow students who had an unfortunate event happen to them (sickness, personal, family emergency) a chance to work up from that semester. This will not change the number of students earning honors; it would just be the title that would change.

The following example is a real student.

*Example: Student starts off as a Biology major in the beginning of freshman year and earns a low GPA. This causes them to change their major to Psychology the following semester. They then earn a 4.0 GPA almost every semester after that.*

This student will not be able to earn Summa cum laude because they would earn a 3.87 at the end of their senior year. It is not fair for a student who worked so hard during their time at Illinois Tech but earned a bad GPA during their first semester.

This new system will take place at the next undergraduate bulletin year.

Student Government Association Senate Vote

Yes: 21; No: 0; Abstain: 1