

ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
Graduation and Commencement Honors Policy

Preamble

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) confers degrees through a process of graduation twice during the academic year. In addition to this official conferral of degrees, ECSU conducts a public commencement ceremony to celebrate this occasion at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters.

I. Graduation Honors Policy

Degrees with distinction are awarded to graduating seniors in the following categories:

Cum Laude for GPA 3.25 through 3.59

Magna Cum Laude for GPA 3.60 through 3.79

Summa Cum Laude for GPA 3.80 through 4.00

To be eligible for degrees with distinction, a student must have earned at least 50 semester hours in residence at Elizabeth City State University. The student must also have the required overall average in all course work attempted.

Any decision about Graduation Honors not stated above is to be addressed by the Academic Standards and Credits Committee.

II. Commencement Honors Policy

- A. Announced Degrees with Distinction.** At the time of the public commencement ceremony, final grades are not available and the final review of student records has not been completed. Therefore, the degrees of distinction announced during the public commencement ceremony and indicated in the printed commencement materials will be assigned according to the student's cumulative GPA at the end of the previous semester (Spring semester for Fall semester commencement ceremony; Fall semester for Spring semester commencement ceremony).
- B. Bearer of the Mace.** During each public commencement ceremony, the student who entered ECSU as a first-time freshman and has the highest cumulative GPA in the graduating class for the prospective commencement exercise will be recognized as the Bearer of the Mace. Because final grades are not available at the time of the public commencement ceremony, the honor will be determined based upon the

student's cumulative GPA at the end of the previous semester. To meet the requirements for this ceremonial honor, the student must:

1. Complete all courses at ECSU with the exception of credits received from AP or IB exams, college credits received while enrolled in high school, transient study credits, study abroad and credits received through UNC Online.
2. Have met all of the requirements for graduation OR been enrolled in all courses remaining for degree completion during the semester of the commencement ceremony.
3. Attend the public commencement ceremony unless absence is approved by the Office of Academic Affairs.

C. Bearer of the Shield. During each public commencement ceremony, the student who entered ECSU as a transfer student and has the highest cumulative GPA in the graduating class for the prospective commencement exercise will be recognized as the Bearer of the Shield. Because final grades are not available at the time of the public commencement ceremony, the honor will be determined based upon the student's cumulative GPA at the end of the previous semester. To meet the requirements for this ceremonial honor, the student must:

1. Have at least a 3.0 average in all transferrable courses to ECSU, including credits received from transient study, study abroad, and UNC Online.
2. Have completed and earned at least 50 semester hours "in residency" at Elizabeth City State University with an overall average of 3.5 or above in all course work attempted at the University.
3. Have met all of the requirements for graduation OR been enrolled in all courses remaining for degree completion during the semester of the commencement ceremony.
4. Attend the public commencement ceremony unless absence is approved by the Office of Academic Affairs.