Physics and Chemistry/Physics

Rules for Department Honors Recommendations

The Physics and Chemistry/Physics honors recommendations are determined by the following procedure.

- Consider all courses counting toward the concentration according to the rules in the Fields of Concentration. Any course that can count *must* count. In particular, this includes all courses in related fields (Computer Science, Engineering, Math, Statistics, etc) that are designated for a secondary degree, even if they are not marked as "concentration" on the student record (due to the rule on double counting).
- Drop the lowest grade. A student with at least 17 letter-graded concentration courses can drop the lowest two grades. A student with at least 22 can drop the lowest three grades.
- A student who has written a thesis can substitute the 90r/thesis grade for the remaining lowest grade, if this improves the average.
- Full courses count as two half courses.
- Courses taken as P/F or SAT/UNS are not included. Courses taken at other schools (abroad, MIT, etc.) are not included.

Assign a numerical value for each grade as follows:

A	**=**	**1**	**C**	**=**	**-1**
A-	**=**	**2/3**	**C-**	**=**	**-1 1/3**
B+	**=**	**1/3**	**D+**	**=**	**-1 2/3**
B	**=**	**0**	**D**	**=**	**-2**
B-	**=**	**-1/3**	**D-**	**=**	**-2 1/3**
C+	**=**	**-2/3**	**E**	**=**	**-3**

Calculate the average score, and determine the degree of honors recommended according to:

- **Highest Honors** = greater than or equal to **.93 (.95 starting May 2019)**
- **High Honors** = greater than or equal to **.66**
- **Honors** = greater than or equal to **.17**

Note that these limits are only guidelines. The Honors Committee will carefully review the courses taken by a student whose score is close to any of the numerical cutoffs before making a recommendation for a given level of honors. *All* Highest Honors recommendations require evidence from research experience and/or level of courses taken that the student has gone well beyond the minimum requirements for the concentration.