

BENEFITS OF THE HONORS SYSTEM

Many schools in Wisconsin are making the change to using the Honors system, and therefore colleges and universities have already been exposed to it. The Honors system encourages post-secondary educational institutions to review the whole of the student's application when submitted, which may include ACT testing, letters of recommendation, personal essays, coursework, activities and community service. Fewer institutions are considering class rank and many are placing rank as a lower significant indicator for determining the likelihood of college success. This change in philosophy gives our students a better opportunity to demonstrate their well-roundedness.

In addition to students being encouraged to be better in all areas, the Honors system can help eliminate the increased pressure felt by educators from students and/or parents to inflate and/or change grades. Students are more likely to take intellectual and academic risks, which may provide opportunities to better prepare them for the future.



HONORS CLASSES

(1 point per each full credit completed)

AP English I & II
AP U.S. History I & II
AP Calculus I & II
AP Statistics I & II
AP Chemistry I & II
AP Studio Art 2D
AP Studio Art 3D
AP Studio Art Drawing

Honors English 9
Honors English 10
Honors American Literature
Honors Chemistry
Honors Biology
Honors Physics First
Accounting I
Accounting II
Business Law (0.5 point)
Advanced Art
Anatomy & Physiology
20th Century-American History (0.5 point)
Chamber Choir (0.5 credit)
Jazz Ensemble
Pre Calculus I & II
Advanced Ceramics (0.5 point)
Construction Tech I & II
Foundations of Early Childhood (0.5 point)
Spanish III, IV & V

Honors & AP course expectations include college-level reading, writing, critical thinking, problem-solving, independent working, research, and collaboration skills.



***Hayward High
School Honors
System***

***Hayward Community School
District***

OVERVIEW OF THE HONORS SYSTEM

The Honors system is a point-based system in which students are recognized for their rigorous coursework. In addition, it encourages students to take more challenging classes. Honor points, earned by a student successfully completing a designated course, are used as a multiplier to determine a student's final distinction at graduation. Unweighted GPAs will still be provided to students, but class rank will no longer be recognized on student transcripts.

HOW TO CALCULATE HONORS SCORE

Add up the total number of honor points earned through honor courses. Multiply your honor points by your GPA to determine your honor distinction.

- A minimum 3.0 GPA (cumulative) is required to earn an Honor distinction. Any GPA below 3.0 is not eligible. Rounding does not apply.
- Students must successfully complete an honors course to earn a point.
- To be considered for Honors standing, students must have a GPA of 3.0 at the end of the first semester of their senior year.
- Second semester senior year honors courses are included. GPA is considered final after the first semester of the senior year is complete.

WHY THE HONORS SYSTEM?

Class rank is not an accurate representation of student achievement, especially when comparing students to each other. Each class has a different level of achievement, some filled with high achievers with excellent GPAs, and others with few achievers. Put simply, the same students in two different grades could have vastly different ranks.

Without class rank, HHS can eliminate the competition that comes with the designations of Valedictorian and Salutatorian and students can instead focus on their own personal accomplishments.

Some classes are harder than others; if a student takes many AP classes, the GPA can't be accurately compared to a student who only took entry-level courses. Adding weighted grades does not solve this problem, as it encourages high achieving students to take weighted courses in order to boost the GPA instead of exploring specialized non-AP classes that better align with their career plans. In some cases, students will avoid challenging courses to maintain or boost their GPA.

Students will be honored with distinctions by color corded sashes and cords at graduation based on their honor level.

GPA X HONOR POINTS = GRADUATION RECOGNITION

Highest Honors

55+ Score / Gold Sashes
Black and Gold Cords

High Honors

45 - 54.99 Score / Gold Cords

Honors

20-44.99 Score / Silver Cords

Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship

Hayward High School believes excellence in education should be determined by such factors as the rigor of course work and nationally recognized test scores. The Academic Excellence Scholarship will be awarded to the student with the highest cumulative GPA through 7 semesters.

If a tie exists the procedures are as follows:

- 1) Highest ACT composite score. (*The final eligible ACT score would be the December score of a senior year.*)

If a tie still exists:

- 2) The second tiebreaker will be the highest subscore on the ACT Test.
- 3) If still tied, the second, third, & fourth subscores will be used.

- 4) In the event there is still a tie, a coin flip will determine the scholar.