

Students

Progress

Laude System

Laude Overview

This system is a point-based system that combines a student's GPA and designated advanced coursework to arrive at a Grade Point Average Calculation. Under this system, advanced courses will be identified by the WHS Faculty and approved by the Board of Education. Advanced courses include, but are not limited to: Advanced Placement, Youth Options, articulated courses, Capstone courses, and other courses designated as Dual Credit, Advanced Standing or Honors.

Our Laude System

Beginning with the Class of 2021, the Laude System will replace the present class rank system. Class rank will not be routinely provided to colleges for admissions purposes. The transcript will report the student's cumulative grade point average with an accompanying Grade Point Average Calculation (GPAC) and distinction. A cover letter will be provided to the colleges explaining our Laude System.

Laude Recognition Process

Students will be eligible for the Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Cum Laude recognition by multiplying their cumulative grade point average times the total number of advanced classes successfully completed by the end of the winter trimester of their senior year. *Please note that the number of Laude Courses that will be included in the Grade Point Average Calculation will be capped at 36.*

Grade Point Average Calculation (GPAC)

The GPAC involves multiplying the student's cumulative GPA in all coursework by the number of advanced classes as illustrated below:

$\text{GPA} \times \#\text{Advanced Classes} = \text{Grade Point Average Calculation}$ (ie. $3.25 \text{ GPA} \times 20 = 65.0 \text{ GPAC}$)

The following special provisions apply when determining the Grade Point Average Calculation:

1. Grades received by students for courses taken at a Wisconsin technical college or university for dual credit or high school credit and pre-approved commensurate with procedures identified in the Watertown High School Student Handbook shall be included in determining the student's GPAC.
2. Grades received by students for courses taken at other public schools or approved alternative programs shall be included in determining the student's GPAC.
3. Grades received by students for courses taken at private or parochial or through home-based private educational program instruction shall be used in determining GPAC as approved by the principal as (s)he reviews each course and grade as compared to the course content and academic standards of Watertown High School.
4. Grades earned by a student in another country or through study abroad shall not be used to determine GPAC.

5. A passing grade for a pass/fail course will reflect a credit on the transcript but will not be used to determine GPAC. A failing grade for a pass/fail course will count in the GPAC.
6. High school subjects taken by middle school students may be used in determining the GPAC per Policy #5235 - High School Credit for Courses taken by Middle School Students.
7. If a student retakes a course, regardless of whether it is during the academic year or over the summer, the previous grade will remain on the transcript, the new grade added, and both grades used to calculate the GPAC.
8. GPAC shall be updated at the end of each trimester. Grade Point Average will be computed according to the following grade point values:
A+ or A = 4.000, A- = 3.667, B+ = 3.333, B = 3.000, B- = 2.667, C+ = 2.333, C = 2.000, C- = 1.667, D+ = 1.333, D = 1.000, D- = 0.667, and F = 0.000.

To Qualify for Cum Laude or Higher

A student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and have earned a minimum of 60 honor points. *Please note that the number of Laude Courses that will be included in the Laude Score will be capped at 36.*

Under the Laude system, students must meet the two criteria above. Once a student meets these requirements, they can earn one of the following distinctions:

- Cum Laude (with honor/distinction) 60-79 honor points
- Magna Cum Laude (with great honor/distinction) 80-99 honor points
- Summa Cum Laude (with highest honor/distinction) 100 + honor points or more

Top Ten, Valedictorian, & Salutatorian

Special recognitions such as the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Top Ten will be determined using the Grade Point Average Calculation (GPAC) at the end of the winter trimester of one's senior year.

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