

Academic Honors

Aquinas Scholars

The Aquinas Scholars Program is the honors program of the College. It is designed to assist students in developing their intellectual talents, character and interests while pursuing an education of considerable depth and breadth.

See the Academic Information section of this catalog for a description of the program.

Dean's Honor List

A student who attains a grade point average of 3.50 or more at the end of a semester in which he or she has taken at least twelve credits for regular grades (A, B, C) will be placed on the Dean's Honor List if there are no grades of D or F or marks of I or R. The list is made public and the student receives a letter of commendation.

Delta Epsilon Sigma

Delta Epsilon Sigma, a national honor society for students enrolled in Catholic colleges and universities, was established at St. Thomas in 1941. Students become eligible for membership in their junior year. St. Thomas students are accepted into the national organization of Delta Epsilon Sigma after they have been accepted into the University of St. Thomas Alpha Sigma chapter and are nominated for membership in the national organization.

Senior candidates must have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.50, while junior candidates must have a cumulative 3.75 grade point average. Graduate students are eligible for membership upon completion of one-half of their master's degree requirements. Alumni are eligible if they have been graduated with honors or have received a graduate degree.

Student members receive the *Delta Epsilon Sigma Journal* published by the national society three times each year. In addition, student members may submit articles for publication to the Journal, and apply for senior year and graduate school scholarships. Induction ceremonies are held at the beginning of fall and spring semesters each year.

Members enjoy the following privileges: no restriction on class loads; no tuition charges for courses above the normal 16-credit semester load; attendance as guests of the university at special academic functions; and, at the instructor's option, exemption from final examinations for St. Thomas courses at the end of the semester or term in which the student graduates.

Department Honor Societies

A number of departments offer membership in an honor society for the particular discipline. Each of these is explained in more detail in the description of the department's offerings in the *Departments and Curricula* section of this catalog.

Biology Honor Society

Beta Beta Beta, the national biology honor society,

chartered the Gamma Tau chapter at St. Thomas in 1990.

Communication Honor Society

Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Honor Society, chartered the St. Thomas Beta Chi chapter in 1994.

Drama Honor Society

Pi Epsilon Delta was chartered in 1942.

Economics Honor Society

Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international fraternity in economics, was organized at St. Thomas in 1967.

English Honor Society

Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honor society, formed a chapter at St. Thomas in 1988.

National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society

Alpha Mu Gamma, the National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society, was organized at St. Thomas in 1980.

Geography Honor Society

A St. Thomas chapter of the national geography honor society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, was established in 1995.

History Honor Society

A campus chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in history, was established at St. Thomas in 1950.

Philosophy Honor Society

Phi Sigma Tau is a society which serves students having a personal interest in philosophy.

Political Science Honor Society

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, established the Chi Theta chapter at St. Thomas in 1999.

National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

Theta Alpha Kappa is devoted to encouraging and rewarding excellence in theology and the study of religion.

Social Work Honor Society

Beta Epsilon, the campus chapter of Alpha Delta Mu National Social Work Honor Society, was established at the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine in 1980.

Sociology Honor Society

The Iota Chapter of Minnesota of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society, was chartered at the University of St. Thomas in 1991.

Latin Honors

Three types of academic honors are conferred upon graduates of the undergraduate College. The following criteria apply to students who matriculated at St. Thomas from fall semester 1998 onward.

All students considered for graduation with Latin honors have a minimum of 52 credits taken for letter grade (A, B, C, D) at the University of St. Thomas.

All students eligible for Latin honors who have applied for graduation will be informed by the Office of the Academic Dean before mid-term of their final semester that they are eligible for this honor.

Cum Laude

A student whose overall cumulative grade point average *and* St. Thomas grade point average are *both* between 3.500 and 3.699 receives the baccalaureate degree *cum laude*.

Magna Cum Laude

A student whose overall cumulative grade point average *and* St. Thomas grade point average are *both* between 3.700 and 3.899 receives the baccalaureate degree *magna cum laude*.

Summa Cum Laude

A student whose overall cumulative grade point average *and* St. Thomas grade point average are *both* 3.900 or higher and who is judged to be outstanding by members of an Honors Oral Examination Committee receives the baccalaureate degree *summa cum laude*.

The student has the responsibility to arrange a summa examination, in consultation with the chair of the major department or director of the interdisciplinary program.

The chair/director, in consultation with the student, shall then appoint an oral examination committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom shall be from the student's major department or program. The examiners shall represent at least three departments and at least two academic divi-

sions of the College.

The faculty member from the student's major department or program shall act as chair of the examination committee. A student with multiple majors shall designate one of the majors as the major department or program for purposes of this examination.

The examination should have a central theme so that continuity can be maintained throughout the questioning. The student, in consultation with the chair of the committee, takes the initiative in determining this theme, and conveying it to the other examiners.

Further details concerning the examination will be sent to eligible students and the chairs of their departments by the Office of the Academic Dean.

If a student's performance is judged not outstanding by the examination committee, the chair of the committee shall, with the concurrence of the student, reconvene the examination committee at a later time for the purpose of re-examination. The examination committee for the re-examination will consist of the original members. Should the candidate's performance be judged not outstanding at this second examination, or should the student choose not to be re-examined, the student will graduate *magna cum laude*.

If the candidate for *summa cum laude* is also a candidate for departmental honors that involve an oral defense of an honors thesis, this defense may be substituted for the *summa* honors examination, provided that the examination committee represents at least three departments and two academic divisions of the undergraduate College and that the student's performance is judged to be outstanding by the members of the committee following the same guidelines as set forth for the *summa* honors oral examination.

If the student who is eligible for graduation *summa cum laude* chooses not to take the Honors Oral Examination, the student will be graduated *magna cum laude*.