

Academic Honors

Aquinas Scholars

The Aquinas Scholars Program is the honors program of the undergraduate program. 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.

Deans' Honor Lists

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 a Dean's Honor List if there are no grades of D or F or marks of I or R. (Evening program students must have taken at least eight credits in a semester and under the same requirements.)

The list is made public and the student receives a letter of commendation from the appropriate dean's office. Freshmen and first-semester sophomores will be listed by the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Second-semester sophomores, and juniors and seniors will appear on lists depending on their major – from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the School of Education, the School of Engineering, or the School of Social Work.

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. In the case of transfer credits, the St. Thomas grade point average must also satisfy the minimum requirement, with a minimum of twelve St. Thomas credits taken for letter grade. 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 (although course-related fees are to be paid); and attendance as guests of the university at special academic functions.

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 Curricula section of this catalog.

Biology – *Gamma Tau* chapter of *Beta Beta Beta*
Communication – Beta Chi chapter of *Lambda Pi Eta*
Drama – *Pi Epsilon Delta*
Economics – *Omicron Delta Epsilon*
English – *Sigma Tau Delta*
Foreign Language – *Alpha Mu Gamma*
Geography – *Mu Alpha Pi*
History – *Pi Alpha Theta*
Political Science – *Chi Theta* chapter of *Pi Sigma Alpha*
Psychology – *Psi Chi*
Religious Studies and Theology – *Theta Alpha Kappa*
Social Work – *Beta Epsilon* chapter of *Alpha Delta Mu*
Sociology and Criminal Justice – *Iota* chapter of *Alpha Kappa Delta*

Latin Honors

Three types of academic honors are conferred upon graduates of the undergraduate program.

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 Director of Undergraduate Academic Affairs 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 divisions or schools of the undergraduate program.

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 Director of Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

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 or schools of the undergraduate program 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*.



Academic Counseling

Academic counselors register all new undergraduate students and counsel students with special registration problems.

Counselors also work with students who are experiencing academic difficulties.

The staff assists the students with their educational goals, helps students evaluate their achievement, and offers encouragement and support.

The Office of Academic Counseling serves as a resource for faculty advisers and their advisees.

Faculty Advisers

Full-time faculty members serve as advisers to all students. Faculty advisers assist students in their freshman and sophomore years in planning their class schedules each semester.

Major field advisers guide their advisees' progress toward a degree by reviewing grade reports and degree evaluations, and helping students solve academic problems.

Academic Development Program

The Academic Development Program (ADP) is a team-taught combination of courses designed to help incoming freshmen develop proficiency in reading, writing, library and learning skills necessary for college success.

Students are invited to participate in this program if high school records and entrance exams (such as the ACT) indicate weakness in the areas of reading and writing.

Participants in the program register for twelve or sixteen credits in fall semester: ENGL 110 Intensive Writing; a companion course covering one of the core curriculum requirements; and one or two additional courses of the student's choice.

ADP students are required to participate in seminars offered by the Academic Support Center.

Mathematics Resource Center

The Mathematics Resource Center (MaRC) provides a variety of resources including a tutoring staff, placement testing, self-study/review programs, math CDs, and general mathematics advising. Also available from the MaRC is a list of private tutors, whose rates are subject to individual negotiations.

Students must satisfy all prerequisites in order to enroll in a math course. Most entry-level math courses require an appropriate Math Placement Code (MPC) derived from an ACT math score or from a UST Math Placement Exam, which may be taken in the MaRC during regular hours by appointment.

Students whose MPC is NONE can prepare for Math 100 or Math 101 by taking the Basic Math Skills self-study review course (MATH 005). The course has a nominal registration fee.

Consult the Website for more information and the link to practice problems for the Math Placement Exam or for the Calculus II Readiness Assessment:

www.stthomas.edu/mathematics/MaRC

Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center (ASC) provides academic support through tutoring and referral services, individual assistance in study skills improvement, test