GRADUATION HONORS

Honors and Prizes

Graduation with School Latin Honors
Diplomas with honors are determined by grades in all work at
Northwestern University and are awarded to the top 25 percent of the
students in each school who complete graduation requirements. Spring
quarter graduates in the highest 5 percent of the school’s class are
awarded degrees summa cum laude; those in the next 8 percent, magna
cum laude; and those in the next 12 percent, cum laude. Graduation
honors are not announced before Spring Commencement, and the GPA
cutoffs for each level of honors based on the stated percentages are
not made public. Students who complete degrees in the summer, fall,
or winter quarter are awarded school honors based on the GPA cutoffs
established by the prior spring quarter’s graduating class.

Graduation with Departmental Honors
Departmental honors may be granted to graduating seniors who have
done outstanding work in a department in connection with a research
project or work of an integrative nature. Students are nominated for
these honors by their departments. The faculty of the school concerned
makes the final awards. See the school sections of this catalog for more
information on departmental honors.

Honorary Organizations and Prizes
Students who qualify by reason of superior scholarship or other
outstanding achievement are eligible for membership in certain honorary
societies. Some of these recognize outstanding performance within one
of the undergraduate schools, while others recognize distinction in a
specific field of study, certain extracurricular options, or other endeavors.

In addition, several prizes established through gifts and endowments
are awarded each year to undergraduate students. Some are all-
University prizes, and others are available only to students in the
school, department, or program that administers the awards. Prizes
may recognize past achievements or provide students with funding for
research projects or creative activities.