



PPEC Academic Lettering Policy

I. **PURPOSE:** To establish a criterion based academic honor system which recognizes high academic achievement.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Students at Pikes Peak Early College are expected to seek excellence in everything they do. Our vision is to prepare all students. In the pursuit of that vision, we wish to push and challenge all students to achieve the highest levels of academic and personal achievement. Our blended learning environment provides the necessary rigor to allow the student to excel and meet the highest academic standards. A student's PPEC diploma represents the pursuit of academic excellence. A student's transcript reflects their personal achievement and rigorous course selection. Our school has established an academic honors system to commend and recognize students for their academic excellence and success. In order to realize these goals, the system must: reflect high academic achievement; be honest, transparent, and fair; be criterion referenced; and reflect high expectations for all students across all courses and programs.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Criterion Referenced" is a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based.

B. "Cumulative Grade Point Average" is a calculation of the average of all of a student's grades for all semesters and courses completed to a given academic term.

C. "Eligible Student" means any Pikes Peak Early College student, including all transfer students.

D. "Grade Point Average (GPA)" is the student's numerical average for all courses taken. It is computed by adding the total number of the letter grade point values and dividing it by the number of credits completed.

E. "Grade Weighting" is the assignment of a greater numerical value to the letter grade numerical point value to reward a student completing any of the following courses:

- Advanced Placement (AP) and taking the national assessment;
- College Courses (CE)
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses that qualify for college credit and student takes the required assessment for college credit.

F. Term – a period of time equaling one semester at the end of which grades are recorded on a student's transcript.

G. "Term Grade Point Average" is the student's numerical average for a given semester. It is computed by adding the total number of the letter grade point values and dividing it by the number of credits for a given semester.



IV. HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS RECOGNITION

- A. We will use the Laude Latin model to recognize academic excellence for recognition at commencement. Eligible students will work to compete against the criterion for academic honors, rather than each other.
- B. An eligible student's final cumulative, weighted GPA at the end of the second semester of senior year will be used to determine the level of honor on a high school transcript and for academic recognition at commencement.
- C. The three levels of honors to be awarded to eligible students who have acquired academic excellence are:
1. Summa Cum Laude: With Highest Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0+ or above
 2. Magna Cum Laude: With Great Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.8 – 3.9
 3. Cum Laude: With Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.5 – 3.7
- D. The weighted cumulative GPA will be used to calculate all academic honors. In the event that a miscalculation occurs, honors may be awarded after the fact; however, honors mistakenly awarded will not be retracted.
- E. Honor Rolls
1. Each semester, the Honor Roll will be calculated based on the weighted term GPA.
 2. Students with a term GPA of 3.67+ and above will be listed on the A Honor Roll.
 3. Students with a term GPA of 3.00 to 3.66 will be listed on the B Honor Roll.
- F. Academic Lettering
- Earning an Academic Letter is another way that Pikes Peak Early College students can be recognized for their achievements. An eligible student must earn an overall 3.75+ GPA during each of the specified grading periods (terms):
1. Seniors: Final semester of junior year and first semester of senior year.
 2. Juniors: Final semester of sophomore year and first semester of junior year.
 3. Sophomores: Final semester of freshman year and first semester of the sophomore year.
 4. Freshmen: First semester of the freshmen year.