

How will colleges work with the laude system?

The student transcript reports the student's cumulative grade point average with an accompanying Laude point score. The corresponding distinction (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude) will be included on the transcript along with an explanation in the memo line on the bottom.

How will the Laude System affect college admission, since class rank is often used as criteria?

Increasingly, college admissions administrators say that while class rank remains a factor in the admissions decision-making process, it is not as important as academic preparation for college.

Colleges consistently report that a student's strength of curriculum/course rigor weighs heavily in admissions decisions, while less emphasis is placed on traditional class rank.

According to a report by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, 55% of the nation's high schools no longer report class rank.

Additional Information

Wisconsin Academic Excellence

Scholarships : Refer to language spelled out in Board Policy 461.

Graduation speakers : All Summa Cum Laude students are eligible to be one of the two graduation speakers delivering a commencement address. However, students may withdraw their names from consideration. The remaining pool of Summa Cum Laude student names will be placed on a ballot and voted on by the MHS faculty.

The Class President delivers the welcome speech and is eligible for a commencement address provided they are Summa Cum Laude.

South Central Conference Top 10 Honors :

The Top 10 Honors are determined by the Laude System. Summa Cum Laude seniors who have earned the top 10 highest Laude point totals and are in good standing are in consideration for top 10 honors designation.



Mauston High School



Laude System



The Laude Philosophy

The laude system assesses true academic excellence, taking into account the difficulty and rigor in a student's high school experience.

This system encourages students to challenge themselves academically, rather than avoid courses in order to "protect" their grade point average, which happens under a ranking system.

However, this practice may result in students who are underprepared for college coursework and leads to an unwillingness to take intellectual and academic risk.

We believe that these unintended consequences will negatively affect our students as they continue with their education beyond high school.

Class rank compares student's performance to that of his or her peers. Since not every student takes identical classes during their high school career, the validity of class rank is inaccurate. A student's ranking is dependent upon other's academic performance in courses that may not be as competitive as others.

This class rank system does not distinguish between an A in a pre-college course and an A in a low-level math course. Under this system, both A's are given the same weight in the GPA calculation.

Laude Pt. System Class of 2025 and Forward

Laude is a point-based system that combines a student's GPA with points that are assigned to designated courses based upon their rigor.

Under the Laude system students must meet the following criteria; a minimum 3.2 C.G.P.A at the end of 7 semesters and earn a minimum of 26 Laude points. Laude points are only awarded by earning a passing grade in a Laude-designated course.

Laude honor points are calculated by multiplying the student's cumulative GPA by the number of credits accumulated in Laude courses.

Once a student meets these requirements they earn one of the following distinctions:

Cum Laude (with honor/distinction), 26-33.99 honor points.

Magna Cum Laude (with great honor/distinction) 34-41.99 honor points

Summa Cum Laude (with highest honor/distinction) / 42 honor points or more

Laude Calculation:

Multiply total Laude points by cumulative GPA. The Laude designation will be finalized at the end of the 3rd quarter.



Laude Courses

- Advanced Placement Course (1 or .5)
- Transcribed/Dual College Credit Courses (WTC, CAPP, PIE, Distance Learning College courses)
- Statistics (.5)
- Trigonometry (.5)
- Pre- Calculus (.5)
- Physics (1)
- Anatomy/ Physiology I (.5)
- Anatomy/ Physiology 2 (.5)
- Environmental Science (1)
- Biotechnology (1)
- Science Research (.5 per Semester)
- Interpretive Historical Writing (.5)
- Accounting 2,3,4. (1 Each)
- IMPACT—Hospitality & Digital Media (1 each)
- Super Mileage Car (.5)
- Construction Tech II - Grade 12 full year (1)
- Spanish 3, 4, 5 (1 Each)
- Any World Languages 3, 4 (1 Each)
- British Literature (.5)
- World Literature (.5)
- Shakespeare (.5)
- College Prep Writing (1)
- 2 semesters of Yearbook (1)
- 5 Art classes other than Yearbook (1)
- Participation in 7 semesters of a single Music performance group (1)

Please note: this is not a complete list, but a snapshot for Academic and Career Planning purposes. See your counselor for more information.