Undergraduate Graduation/Commencement

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Undergraduate residence requirement
A minimum of 30 semester credits in residence at UW-L is required for graduation. The last 24 credits to be applied toward a degree must be earned as resident credits. The appropriate academic dean may give permission for seniors to earn not more than the last ten credits at another institution. A request to earn more than the last ten credits at another institution must be submitted to and approved by the faculty through an appeal by petition to the Committee on Academic Policies and Standards (CAPS).

1 Resident credit means credit registered for and earned through UW-L.

Four-year graduation agreement
Entering first years are offered the opportunity to participate in an agreement that ensures graduation within four years of initial enrollment. If a student satisfies all of the conditions of the agreement, but degree completion is delayed because the university did not fulfill its requirements of the agreement, then UW-L relieves the student of tuition for the required course(s) remaining after the four-year time period. Not all UW-L academic programs are included as part of this formal agreement. More information about the conditions of the four-year agreement is available from the dean’s office in each college. The agreement must be signed within the first seven weeks of the student’s initial enrollment when a student meet with a four-year agreement adviser.

Graduation fee
Upon completion of 95 semester credits toward the bachelors degree, a student is billed a graduation fee. This is a one-time fee assessed regardless of whether or not the student chooses to attend the commencement ceremony. Students earning a second degree are also assessed the graduation fee.

Commencement honors
Commencement honors determine which students may wear an honor cord, also known as a fourragère, during commencement exercises. Commencement honors are noted beside students’ names in commencement programs.

Calculations for commencement honors and highest honors are based on grade point averages earned at the end of the last term in residence prior to the term of graduation. To be eligible as a baccalaureate candidate, a student must have earned no fewer than 45 semester credits in residence at UW-L prior to the beginning date of the term in which the student intends to graduate and 30 credits as an associate candidate. A student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 to wear the honor cord or at least 3.75 to wear the cord designating highest honors. Only resident credits are used in the GPA calculation. Commencement honors are calculated for baccalaureate and associate degree candidates only.

Graduation honors
Graduation honors are posted on permanent academic records if students have earned no fewer than 60 semester credits in residence for a baccalaureate degree and 30 credits in residence for an associate degree at UW-L. A student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 for graduation with honors or at least 3.75 for graduation with highest honors at the end of the student’s last term in residence. Only resident credits are used in the GPA calculation. Graduation honors are calculated for baccalaureate and associate degree candidates only.

Mailing diplomas
Diplomas are mailed approximately six weeks after the ending date of the semester of graduation, to the current legal (home) address on the university computer system unless the Office of Records and Registration has been notified differently. All indebtedness to the university must be cleared before a diploma will be released.