

Recognition of Academic Excellence Policy

Policy ID: 2-209

Approved by: Executive Director of Academic Excellence

Executive(s) Responsible: Vice President Academic, Vice President Administration

Administrator(s) Responsible: Registrar

Revision Date: July 5th, 2024

Effective Date: October 1st, 2024

Next Review Date: July 2025

Background and Scope

Students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement deserve recognition for their efforts. Recording the issuance of these awards officially on issued credentials provides students verifiable documentation which they can use after graduation in pursuit of employment or further study. The Ontario Institute of Health and Innovation (OIHI) recognizes the need for a transparent and robust approach to determining and issuing awards for academic achievement.

This policy applies to all staff at OIHI involved in the issuance of academic awards. More specifically, this policy and associated procedure concern the activities of the registrar.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy outlines any academic awards issued by OIHI and clarifies their internal logic for the sake of transparency and accountability.

Definitions

Academic Excellence: A term for outstanding or exceptional performance in a course of study. In this context this term is most used to refer to students who consistently earn high grades in their courses

Cumulative Grade Average (CGA): CGA represents the weighted average of all grades achieved in all completed courses up to the time of calculation. It is calculated similarly to the semester grade but includes all semesters.

Policy Statement

1. OIHI must issue an academic award to the top performing students within a graduating cohort.
2. Students who earn a cumulative grade average of 92% or higher upon completion of their program of study are awarded with a recognition of this achievement.

- 2.1. The threshold of 92% represents a conversion of a 3.7/4.0 grade point average. This threshold was chosen as a common benchmark for high academic performance in postsecondary education.
3. The award for academic performance at OIHI appears on a student’s diploma as “Excellence in Academic Performance Award”
 - 3.1. The registrar’s office is responsible for overseeing the issuance and recording of awards for academic performance on student diplomas.
 - 3.2. Students must be in good financial standing with no outstanding sanctions, academic or otherwise, before academic awards are recorded on their diploma.
4. Academic awards should be issued at or before the time of credential conferral to ensure students have access to this documentation when pursuing employment or further education upon graduation.
5. New or modified academic awards may be developed but must be added to this policy during its next review.

Related Legislation

- Ministry of Colleges and Universities (2021). Requirements for The Approval of Private Institutions Providing Postsecondary Education Programs in Ontario for Ontario Student Grants and Ontario Student Loans and for The Administration of the Ontario Student Assistance Program by Approved Private Institutions (The “Performance Requirements”).
- Ministry of Colleges and Universities (2023). 2023-24 OSAP Student Activity Update: Withdrawal and academic progress.

Document History

Date	Approval/Review/Key Change(s)
July 5th, 2024	Drafted in collaboration between Academic Excellence and the Registrar
September 26th, 2024	Updated and rebranding approved by VP Academic