

Earned Honors at MBS

By not pre-establishing the limits of a student's potential level of achievement, but rather by allowing any student to pursue honors credit, Earned Honors — now operating in selected classes — is a concrete application of the student-centered, growth-oriented academic philosophy of the School, encouraging intellectual risk-taking and independence of mind. Honors credit is granted at the end of the course to any student who meets the criteria listed below.

1. Major assessments in the selected courses are scaled to two levels, one "regular," one "honors."
2. At least three (3) of these scaled assessments must be given every semester.
3. Two-thirds (2/3) of all major assessments must be undertaken at the honors level by a student wishing to pursue honors credit (for example, if there are three scaled assessments in a semester, a student seeking honors must fulfill at least two of them at the honors level).
4. Students must average at least a B grade on "honors-level" assessments to earn honors credit.
5. Only major assessments, created using appropriate rubrics, fall into this determination. Minor assessments, such as purely objective tests, quizzes and homework assignments are not scaled and do not factor into honors determination, though of course they are part of the overall course grade.
6. Examples of appropriate assessments: thesis-driven critical essays based on course themes; projects entailing quantitative analysis; lab- or research-based assignments requiring a significant amount of synthesis and independent, critical thinking; creative projects requiring significant problem-solving, and others. All such assessments would be scaled to two levels and graded with appropriate rubrics.