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PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

POLICY STATEMENT

Each award period, the President will recognize five students College-wide who have demonstrated academic excellence. The recipients of the awards will include one student in a Certificate Level Program, one student in a Diploma Level program, one student in the Adult Basic Education program, one student in the University Studies program, and one student in a Bachelor Degree program. These students will be awarded the President’s Award for Academic Excellence.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

This award honours the five students with the most outstanding achievement in a Diploma program, in a Certificate program, in the Adult Basic Education program, in the University Studies, and in a Bachelor Degree program.

Definitions:

Award Period: The Award Period is defined as the 12 months following May 1st of the year preceding the one in which the award is made.

Award Grade Method: Vocational, career or other programs in which course performance is assessed on a direct pass/fail assessment or written testing or mandatory practical components that require mastery for successful completion would be assessed using the award grade method.

Divisional Awards Committee: Membership includes faculty and/or staff from each Division. The Committee ensures the President’s Awards for Academic Excellence are administered according to the policy. This Committee may set minimum criteria higher than that stated in this policy.

Guidelines:

1. Awards

Five awards will be given annually, one in each of the five program areas.

1.1 Diploma Programs Award

Diploma programs are post-secondary education programs that are a minimum of two years. Students eligible for this award will have studied full-time, as defined by the program area and have achieved a minimum average of 90% over the entire length of the program. The President's Award for Academic Excellence will be given to the student who achieves the highest academic standing upon completion of a diploma.

1.2 Certificate Programs Award

Certificate programs are programs of studies of less than two (2) years but normally more than six (6) months in duration. Students eligible for this award will have studied full-time, as defined by the program area and have a minimum average of 90% over the entire length of the program. The President's Award for Academic Excellence will be given to the student who achieves the highest academic standing upon completion of a certificate.

1.3 Adult Basic Education Program Award

This award will be given to a student who has achieved a major academic accomplishment during the award period. Nominations will be made by faculty, with the final recommendation being made by the appropriate Dean.

1.4 University Studies Award

Students will have studied full-time, defined for purposes of this policy as completion of a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits, over two consecutive academic semesters during the award period in order to be eligible for the President's Award for Academic Excellence. This award will be given to the student who achieves the highest academic standing, with a minimum average of 90%. Students registered in University Studies are eligible for this award.

1.5 Bachelor Degree Programs Award

Completion of a Bachelor Degree program is required in order to be eligible for the President's Award for Academic Excellence. This award will be given to the student who achieves the highest academic standing, with a minimum average of 90%. Students registered in the NIC/VIU B.Sc.N. and the NIC B.B.A. are eligible for this award.

2. Calculation of Eligibility

Programs wishing to present students for consideration for the President's Award for Academic Excellence will choose to calculate eligibility based on the Grade method, the Award Grade method, or a combination of the two methods. Once established, calculation of eligibility criteria may be changed by department agreement, only on a year-in-advance notice basis.

2.1 Grade Method

Assessment of excellence in programs of study based on a simple calculation of grades will be used by post-secondary education programs that are primarily academic in nature.

2.2 Award Grade Method

The grade method may not be applicable to those vocational, career or other programs in which course performance is assessed on a direct pass/fail assessment or written testing or mandatory practical components that require mastery for successful completion. These programs may elect to use either the alternative award grade method, or a combination of the award grade and the grade method, for identifying excellence.

The award grade method balances successful completion of courses required for the program/year with assessment of additional student performance attributes appropriate to each program/year. The portion of the total award grade determined by passing the required courses in the program or the credit marks for tests/exams for those courses and the portion determined by other criteria shall be recommended by the department.

3. Decision-Making Process

3.1 Divisional Awards Committee

Every Division shall have a Divisional Awards Committee that will review the awards applications, including the awards grade forms, to confirm students meet the policy guidelines and confirm academic marks are within the appropriate range.

It is the responsibility of each Division to inform students of the award availability and the criteria for receiving the award. Each Department in all Divisions of the College shall recommend which of their programs will be eligible. The eligibility shall be approved by the Divisional Awards Committee of the Division offering the program.

Each Divisional Awards Committee will nominate the top person in their Division for each of the awards for which their Division has a program. These nominations are to be forwarded to the Senior Educational Team.

3.2 Senior Educational Team

The Senior Educational Team will review the nominations from each of the Divisional Awards Committees. The Senior Educational Team will provide to the President a rank order list of the nominees for each of the five awards.

3.3 President

The President will decide the winners of each of the five (5) awards.

4. Award Details

Students honoured shall be individually presented with a letter of achievement and congratulations from the President, together with the appropriate award.

The President's Award for Academic Excellence will generally be awarded only once a year in June.

Candidates for the President's Award for Academic Excellence must be selected and presented to the Student and Educational Services and Planning Division in a timely fashion.

Cross Reference:

See also Deans' Honour Roll Awards Policy #3-21