

# Honors Certification

## Awarded by the Smeal College of Business

Special recognition of exemplary academic achievement will be awarded by the OMBA office at the Smeal College of Business. This *Honors Certificate* is designated as Gold/Silver, as defined below, and will include academic performance of all courses taken to fulfill requirements of the OMBA degree upon graduation. *Honors Certificates* will be awarded to students in each graduating class. Students who qualify for this distinction will be notified by the OMBA office via email prior to graduation.

### Honors Certificate for OMBA degree

<b>HONORS DISTINCTION</b>	<b>GPA</b>
Gold	3.8 – 4.0
Silver	3.5 – 3.799

*Honors Certification will not appear on official student transcripts or on graduation documentation, and should be noted as a Smeal College of Business recognition only.*

### OMBA Academic Performance

- Students in the Online MBA (OMBA) must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in order to graduate.
- Students must earn a “C” or better in all core and concentration courses in order to count towards the 48 required credits for graduation.
- If students earn a “D” or below in any course, these credits will not be counted towards degree completion, and students must re-enroll in the course, and earn a C or better. All grades remain on the official student transcript and will be included for calculation of cumulative GPA.
- In the case that a student repeats a course, due to an earned “D” (or below), they cannot take a class more than two times, and may be dismissed from the program if they do not earn a C or better on their second enrollment in the course.
- Official grades can be accessed at any time via LionPATH Student Center.

## Performance Improvement

- OMBA students will receive a warning letter if their cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 at any point *after the first semester*, and will be asked to meet with an Academic Advisor.
- OMBA students who earn a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or below in any single semester, with a minimum of six credit hours, will receive a warning letter and will be asked to meet with an Academic Advisor.
- Warning letters will be sent, via email, by the OMBA office. Students must meet with an Academic Advisor within *one month* of notification to begin an improvement plan.
- Students who do not meet with an Academic Advisor as defined may experience an academic hold on their account until an improvement plan is in place with the OMBA office. *It is the student's responsibility to register for all planned classes and review for correctness of course information.*

## Dismissal

- Students who do not regain a 3.0 or above by the end of 3 semesters of part-time enrollment, or by 2 semesters of full-time enrollment may be dismissed from the OMBA program.
- If students earn a “D” or lower in any two courses, after receiving a warning letter, they may be dismissed from the OMBA program.
- If students earn a “D” or below twice in the same course, they may be dismissed from the OMBA program.

## Reinstatement

- OMBA students will be removed from performance improvement status when their cumulative GPA is 3.0 or above.

## Academic Advising

The OMBA Academic Advising staff will work with students to create individual course plans and improvement plans, and to make informed choices regarding course sequencing and selection of concentration courses. Student advising meetings will take place shortly after acceptance into the OMBA program. Students may make an appointment with an Academic Advisor at any time to review questions or concerns about their academic plan.

Visit [Penn State's Academic Performance Policy](#) page for additional information: