



Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades

Abstract: This resolution requests Cornell University ceases the practice of reporting median grades on official transcripts.

Sponsored by: Jahmal Wallen '24, Niles Hite '26, Marwa Bakri '24, Aissatou Barry '24, Imani Rezaka '24, Ebreez Elbishir '24, Tamara Frith '24, Tokunda Chikuvire '26, Jennifer Sarprong '24, Himma Aklilu '25, Amara Chiedu '24, Samuel Tadmiri '24, Milan Broughton '24, Rachel Richards '24, Kayla Drew '25, Aissata Maiga '25, Jackson Thoby '25, Angelo Del Toro '24, Jaida Enekwe '25, Devin Gordon '24, Hector Hurtado '24, Muhamadou Jobarteh '25, Kenneth González '24, Pryor Simon '24, Ukana Basse '25, Asara Milton '24, Devyn Bryant '25, Justice Hoff '24, Shanzai Ikhlas '24, Micheal Abaseber '26, Aden Belay '24, Delina Selam '25, Leule Ashenafi '26, Lydia Yilekal '26, Venezia Ayalew '26, Cyan Crayton '25, Anatasia Assenso '25, Maia Lee '24, Delesa McCruter '25, Ebenezer Eshetu '24, Nayomi Asghedom '25, Patrick Kuehl '24, Nicholas Maggard '26.

Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 10/11/2023, 10-0-0

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 10/12/2023

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, Cornell University introduced the calculation and inclusion of median grades on undergraduate student records in 2008, in response to a student assembly resolution.

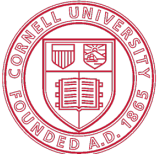
Whereas, Prior to 2008, median grades were calculated and posted on the Office of the University Registrar's (OUR) website, but this practice ceased when median grades began printing on transcripts.

Whereas, Students typically discover the practice of reporting median grades only upon ordering official transcripts.

Whereas, Cornell University is 1 of 4 out of 65 Association of American Universities (AAU) that include median grades on official transcripts, which contradicts the practices of the majority of peer institutions.

Whereas, The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), in its 2020 Academic Records and Transcript Guide, does not list calculating or posting median grades on transcripts as a recommended component.

Whereas, Including median grades on transcripts can negatively impact student mental health, foster unhealthy competition, and undermine the university's commitment to holistic education and individual growth.



Cornell University
Student Assembly

33 **Be it therefore resolved,** Cornell University shall immediately discontinue the practice of including
34 median grades on official transcripts.

35 **Be it further resolved,** The OUR shall revise its policies and procedures to eliminate the posting of
36 median grades on official transcripts.

37 **Be it further resolved,** The Registrar's website shall be updated to reflect the removal of median
38 grades from official transcripts, providing clear information to students regarding this change.

39 **Be it finally resolved,** The university will consider providing additional developer resources to the
40 OUR to investigate the possibility of retroactively removing median grades from official transcripts.

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42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43 Jahmal Wallen '24

44 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*

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46 Niles Hite '26

47 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

48 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee, Student Assembly*