The Academic Standing and Honors Committee deals with the students at both ends of the spectrum in terms of academic performance.

The main job of the Honors part of the Committee is to study the dossiers of those students likely to satisfy the requirements for Summa Honors. Due to the short time between the deadline for submission of grades and the effective date of graduation, a substantial number of students are considered that in the end fail to satisfy the requirements. The Committee makes recommendations to the Faculty who decides by vote whether the honor should be awarded. To this effect, the Committee met before the November February and May graduations. A total of 158 dossiers were examined. Of those, 113 met the required 3.75 GPA and minimum of six grades of A- or better in the major and 94 of them were granted Summa. Additional criteria considered in the discussion of these candidates are overall breadth in the program (usually demonstrated by obtaining a grade of A- or better in each of the distribution areas) and depth in the major (as shown by department votes and letters of recommendation as well as transcript).

The function of the Academic Standing part of the Committee is to identify those students who are having academic difficulty and make sure that they are carefully monitored so that the origin of their problems can be dealt with. In the most extreme cases, this may mean to require the students to withdraw from Tufts for a specified number of semesters. The transcripts of all students placed in probation are reexamined at the end of the following semester. If no progress has been made (at least four grades of C- or better and no F’s) students are normally moved to the next stage of probation. This happens in approximately half of all cases.

The function of this aspect of the Committee is considerably facilitated by the class deans who put a substantial amount of work in identifying the causes of each student’s troubles and meeting with them as needed both before and after the action of the Committee. The remaining members of the committee are grateful to the class deans for their efficient dedication.

Respectfully submitted

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A.S.H C. Chair