

Richland County High School Senior Honor Recognition

The recognition of senior students (at graduation) is based on an established set of criteria. In order to receive recognition, the following entry criteria must be met:

1. Student obtained a grade point average of 4.75 or higher at the end of their senior year.
 2. Student had no Level III Acts of Misconduct (as outlined in the RCHS Student Handbook).
 3. Student completed the required amount of capstone experiences.
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Levels of Recognition

- **Summa Cum Laude** – Grade point average of 5.0 or higher (includes weighted courses), and the student successfully completed four (4) or more capstone experiences. Student recognition is done alphabetically (on stage) and not by rank. These students will be designated as Summa Cum Laude in the graduation program and awarded an honor sash.
 - **Magna Cum Laude** – Grade point average of 4.75 or above (includes weighted courses) and the student successfully completed three (3) or more of the capstone experiences. Student recognition is done alphabetically (on stage) and not by rank. These students will be designated as Magna Cum Laude in the graduation program and awarded an orange cord.
 - **Cum Laude** – Grade point average of 4.75 or above (includes weighted courses) and the student successfully completed two (2) capstone experiences. The students will be recognized as Cum Laude in the graduation program and as they receive their diploma.
 - **Richland County Honor Society** – Students who acquire a 4.75 grade point average after the third term of senior year and maintain this GPA throughout the remainder of their senior year will be considered for recognition. The complete criteria for the Richland County Honor Society is outlined in the RCHS Student Handbook. Receiving students will be designated as such in the graduation program and awarded gold honor cords and medals.
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Capstone Experiences

Students may select from nine (9) capstone experiences. Capstone parameters are outlined in the pages that follow.

- **English Distinction**
 - **Foreign Language Distinction**
 - **Mathematics Distinction**
 - **Science Distinction**
 - **Social Science Distinction**
 - **College Readiness Distinction**
 - **Career Pathway Distinction**
 - **Student Leadership Distinction**
 - **Community Service Distinction**
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English Distinction

Students may attain this capstone by completing two (2) English courses at a level above and beyond RCHS graduation requirements. Advanced offerings that meet this requirement include:

- 0112 DC Composition I
- 0117 DC Composition & Analysis
- 0123 DC Speech

Foreign Language Distinction

Students may attain this capstone by completing four (4) courses in a Foreign Language. The series of offerings that meet this requirement include:

- 0150 Spanish I
- 0155 Spanish II
- 0160 Spanish III
- 0165 Spanish IV

Mathematics Distinction

Students may attain this capstone by completing two (2) Math courses at a level above and beyond RCHS graduation requirements. Advanced offerings that meet this requirement include:

- 0215 Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry
- 0220 Calculus
- 0221 DC Calculus I
- 0222 DC Calculus II
- 0225 DC College Algebra
- 0230 DC Introduction to Statistics
- 0235 DC Finite Mathematics

Science Distinction

Students may attain this capstone by completing two (2) Science courses at a level above and beyond RCHS graduation requirements. Advanced offerings that meet this requirement include:

- 0304 DC Biology
- 0308 Biomedical Science
- 0310 DC General Chemistry I
- 0314 DC General Chemistry II
- 0326 Physics
- 0330 Anatomy / Physiology
- 0340 Dual Credit Anatomy & Physiology

Social Science Distinction

Students may attain this capstone by completing two (2) Social Science courses at a level above and beyond RCHS graduation requirements. Advanced offerings that meet this requirement include:

- 0414 DC United States History
- 0418 DC Contemporary United States History
- 0430 DC Psychology
- 0432 DC Sociology
- 0434 DC Human Growth & Development
- 0440 DC Intro to Ethics

College Readiness Distinction

One of the main goals of Richland County High School is that all students are College/Career Ready when they graduate. Some students are ready for college-level coursework while still in high school. In order to receive the College Readiness Distinction, a student must have successfully completed **sixteen (16) hours of Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) college credit** while in high school. These college credits must be transfer-level courses that lead toward a bachelor's degree. A listing of these courses and the dual-credit equivalent at Olney Central College can be found below. This list is subject to change as Illinois adds and removes courses.

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) Courses

<u>RCHS Course Name</u>	<u>IECC Course</u>	<u>Credit Hrs</u>
DC Composition I	ENG 1111 Composition I	3
DC Composition & Analysis	ENG 1121 Composition & Analysis	3
DC Speech	SPE 1101 Fundamentals of Effective Speaking	3
DC Calculus I	MTH 1171 Calculus & Analytic Geometry I	5
DC Calculus II	MTH 1172 Calculus and Analytic Geometry II	5
DC Finite Mathematics	MTH 1151 Finite Mathematics	3
DC Introduction to Statistics	MTH 1131 Introduction to Statistics	3
DC Biology	LSC 1101 General Biology I	4
DC General Chemistry I	CHM 1130 General Chemistry I	5
DC United States History	HIS 2101 U.S. History to 1877	3
DC Contemporary United States History	HIS 2102 U.S. History Since 1877	3
DC Psychology	PSY 1101 General Psychology I	3
DC Sociology	SOC 2101 Principles of Sociology	3
DC Human Growth & Development	PSY 2109 Human Growth & Development	3

Career Pathway Distinction

In order to earn the career pathway distinction capstone, a student must have selected a clear career pathway that has been approved by the Student Services Department and members of administration. There are multiple avenues available to obtain this capstone. Examples include:

- **Arts & Communication** - Complete one (1) of the three fine art options below:
 - **Art** - Completion of four (4) credits of the available visual arts courses from sections 0500 - 0548 and/or 0580-0596 of the curriculum guide.
 - **Band** - Four (4) years of enrollment in marching band or total enrollment in band for six (6) semesters. Curriculum Guide section 0560 - 0579.
 - **Chorus** - Four (4) years of enrollment in choir for all four (4) quarters **and** two (2) credit hours from section 0550 - 0557 of the curriculum guide.
- **Agriculture** - Four (4) credit hours in the pathway from section 0700
- **Business** - Four (4) credit hours in the pathway from section 0800
 - Must include CEO I & II
 - Excludes Office Aide
- **Family Consumer Science** - Four (4) credit hours in the pathway from section 0900
 - Excludes Tutoring
- **Trade & Industry** - Four (4) credit hours in the pathway from section 1000

Student Leadership Distinction

Students who serve in leadership positions may miss school and opportunities for classes as a result of these leadership positions. The learning opportunities gained often outweigh the missed school time. To receive the Student Leadership Distinction, a student must successfully complete one (1) term of office in a recognized student organization at the regional, district, or state level. Examples of leadership distinctions earned in prior years are listed below. This is not intended to be an exhaustive listing.

- Section FFA Officer
- State FFA Officer
- Eastern Area FBLA Officer
- State FBLA Officer

- IHSA Student Advisory Committee
- Regional Student Council Officer
- Illinois Student Advisory Committee

Community Service Distinction

At Richland County High School, community service is an invaluable experience that can enrich the high school career of our students. In order for our students to become well-rounded citizens, they should experience the importance of working with others to improve the community they live in. Community service provided through the school allows the student to gain direct experience with people to work towards a common goal that ultimately leads to the betterment of their community. It should foster a sense of belonging and allow the student to see the needs of their community firsthand. In order to receive the Community Service Distinction, a student must complete fifty (50) hours of approved community service during the student's junior and/or senior year of high school. Community service hours may begin in August of the junior year and must be completed by December of the senior year. Students must submit a "Student Request for Community Service" form (Attachment D2) to RCHS administration for approval before beginning their community service hours. Upon completion of the project, the student must submit all necessary documentation to be granted credit for the community service project/experience. The necessary documentation includes completion of the "Community Service Log / Verification Form" (Attachment D3) and a "Community Service Reflection Report" (Attachment D4) no later than the end of the second term of the senior year. This report can be in the form of a completed paper or presentation format (Slideshow / PowerPoint).

Attachment D1: Community Service Guidelines

1. Community service hours should be done in Richland County for a non-profit agency or approved group. Service may not be performed for family or relatives.
2. This program may begin at the beginning of the fifth semester of high school.
3. Service time must be done in at least one-hour increments.
4. No hours will be accepted for service done for an individual unless prior approval is granted.
5. Community service hours must occur outside the normally scheduled school day.
6. Services for which you are paid in either cash or benefits are ineligible.
7. Community service hours under this capstone should not be affiliated with any other organization under the school umbrella.
8. The student must submit a two-page double-spaced paper or a PowerPoint (Slides) presentation reflecting upon his/her community service hours. If the student selects the latter, it must be of adequate length and contain the necessary reflections from Attachment D4.
9. All completed documentation must be submitted by the last day of student attendance in the second term of their graduation year.
10. Successful completion of the 50 hours of community service and the reflection paper/presentation requirements will earn the Community Service Distinction.

Attachment D2: Student Request for Community Service Form

Richland County High School Student Request for Community Service

Student's Name: _____ Grade Level _____

Location/address of volunteer site or event: _____

Total hours requested: _____

What community service will be performed?

How many other people do you expect to participate with you? _____

Name of supervising adult: _____

Position or title of supervising adult: _____

Telephone number of supervising adult: _____

Is this person a family member or relative? _____

Reason for choosing this agency or organization: _____

For Office Use Only

Approved Denied Date: _____

Principal or Designee Signature: _____

Attachment D3: Community Service Log / Verification Form

Richland County High School Community Service Log /Verification Form

Date	Agency / Site	Agency Contact Information	Services Performed	Hours	Authorized Signature

Total Hours: _____ **Student Name (Printed):** _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

For Office Use Only

Approved / Denied Date: _____ **Principal or Designee Signature:** _____

ATTACHMENT D4: Community Service Reflection Report

This required report must contain at least three elements.

1. Discuss your responsibilities while performing the community service. Was this a project that you worked on alone, or did you organize and lead other people?
2. Describe the impact you believe you had on the community or individuals while performing this community service project. State specifically why you believe this.
3. Discuss what you learned and how this will impact your future endeavors.

This report must be double-spaced and two pages in length. If the student chooses to complete a PowerPoint or Slides presentation, it must be of adequate length and contain the necessary reflections from the three points above. This report must be submitted to RCHS administration along with the Community Service Log / Verification Form.

Richland County High School Senior Honor Recognition

Summa Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude	Richland County Honor Society
• <u>5.0</u> GPA • Completion of four (4) or more of the nine (9) capstone experiences listed below. <i>Each distinction listed below counts as one capstone.</i> ☐ English Distinction ☐ Foreign Language Distinction ☐ Math Distinction ☐ Science Distinction ☐ Social Science Distinction ☐ College Readiness Distinction* ☐ Career Pathway Distinction ☐ Student Leadership Distinction ☐ Community Service Distinction	• <u>4.75</u> GPA • Completion of three (3) or more of the nine (9) capstone experiences listed below. <i>Each distinction listed below counts as one capstone.</i> ☐ English Distinction ☐ Foreign Language Distinction ☐ Math Distinction ☐ Science Distinction ☐ Social Science Distinction ☐ College Readiness Distinction* ☐ Career Pathway Distinction ☐ Student Leadership Distinction ☐ Community Service Distinction	• <u>4.75</u> GPA • Completion of two (2) or more of the nine (9) capstone experiences listed below. <i>Each distinction listed below counts as one capstone.</i> ☐ English Distinction ☐ Foreign Language Distinction ☐ Math Distinction ☐ Science Distinction ☐ Social Science Distinction ☐ College Readiness Distinction* ☐ Career Pathway Distinction ☐ Student Leadership Distinction ☐ Community Service Distinction	• <u>4.75</u> GPA These students have acquired a 4.75 grade point average by the end of the third term of their senior year. This GPA must be maintained to the end of their senior year.
<i>These students will be recognized on stage during the graduation ceremony <u>and</u> be awarded honor stoles.</i>	<i>These students will be recognized during the graduation ceremony <u>and</u> be awarded orange honor cords.</i>	<i>These students will be recognized during the graduation ceremony.</i>	<i>These students will be recognized during the graduation ceremony. The students will wear honor cords and medals.</i>

