This award honors the important contributions of the thirteenth president of King, Robert Todd Lapsley Liston, who served for 25 years and led the institution into a new era of academic excellence. Beginning in 1986, the award is presented each year to a traditional undergraduate major graduating with the highest grade-point average. In the case of a tie, more than one award will be given: the award will be made on a strictly quantitative basis without consideration for a particular degree (BS, BA, BSN, etc.) or major.

For any course taken on a Pass/Fail basis, the letter grade that was assigned will be used to calculate a candidate’s grade-point average. Seventy-five percent of all course work must be taken at King to qualify for the award. Students who have been found responsible for an academic honesty violation of the King Honor Code are not eligible to receive the award.

Any August graduate, who attains a grade point average equal to or greater than the Liston award recipient of the previous May graduation, will become a recipient of the Liston award. The graduate will have their name inscribed on the R.T.L. Liston award plaque and will receive a medallion comparable to any other Liston award recipient. Such a graduate will not walk across the stage to receive the award. However, the graduate may elect to delay his or her graduation until the following May in order to receive the award at commencement, but then the graduate will be competing with the next year’s cohort and will not necessarily have the highest GPA.

December graduates will be competing for the award with the cohort that graduates the following May.