

Faculty of Engineering Honours Calculation Rules

Class of Honours

In the Bachelor of Engineering degree programs, a class of honours is awarded for meritorious performance over the degree program with special attention paid to a candidate's performance in the final year courses and thesis.

The class of honours is based on a weighted average mark (WAM) calculated for each candidate and on the mark awarded for the thesis course.*

- Honours Class 1: If WAM greater than or equal to 80 and thesis course mark greater than or equal to 65
- Honours Class 2 Division 1: else WAM greater than or equal to 75 and thesis course mark greater than or equal to 65
- Honours Class 2 Division 2: else WAM greater than or equal to 65 and thesis course mark greater than or equal to 65

Each School Assessment Committee is responsible for making recommendations on borderline cases, and for monitoring and reporting on the class of honours in the School.

Principles for calculation of honours WAM

The general principles guiding the Honour's WAM calculations are:

- The calculation should be transparent and straightforward.
- Marks in later years are a better indicator of a candidate's performance and potential.
- The formulation should have minimal effect on a candidate's choice of elective courses.
- The calculation should be able to be automated.

Courses used in calculation of honours WAM

Generally, results for all courses undertaken as part of the BE degree are included in WAM calculations, but courses taken as part of another degree in a joint or combined-degree program are not included. Specifically, the rules are:

- Include
 - Advanced Standing courses
 - Internal substituted courses
 - External (exchange) thesis provided it is assessed internally
- Exclude
 - Any additional courses
 - Externally assessed courses either prior to or during enrolment at UNSW, whether cross-institutional, exchange, transfer or advanced standing
 - Courses graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory or courses not finalized/completed.

Calculation of honours WAM

The formula to calculate the Honour's WAM for a sequence of n courses with weights w_i , units of credit u_i and marks m_i is:

$$WAM = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i u_i m_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i u_i}$$

- First attempt counts
- Honours WAM to be calculated to one decimal place

Course weights w_i

- Each course has a fixed weight according to:

General Education	Level 1 courses	Level 2 courses	Level 3 courses	Level 4 courses
1	1	2	3	4

- The stage in the degree when a course is actually taken is irrelevant.

* NOTE: The thesis course component should be weighted as at least a 12 UOC Level 4 course. If the thesis project is run across two semesters in two courses (Thesis A and B), the total weighting for each component is to be decided by the school with the total weighting equaling the total UOC of the two courses.

For example, the thesis course component may be divided into Thesis A and Thesis B, each worth 6 UOC. Thesis A may be graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and Thesis B may have a mark awarded. In this case, the weights might be allocated as $w = 0$ and $w = 12$, respectively.