

Award of Bachelor Degrees with Distinction or High Distinction Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency for the award of Distinction or High Distinction to high achieving students for professional bachelor qualifications for four or more years.		
Audience:	Staff, Students		
Contact Officer:	Secretary to Academic Council	Phone:	See Campus Directory

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy in Policy and Procedure Manager™ [the electronic policy management system (EPMS)] to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

Preamble:

The implementation of the *Coursework Regulations* from 1 January 2011 removed the award of Merit Honours at Murdoch, to be replaced with the award of degree with Distinction or High Distinction for professional bachelor qualifications of four or more years. Schools used different methods for determining the award of Merit Honours prior to 2011, and the award of Distinction or High Distinction during 2011.

Objectives:

1. To ensure, from 2012 onwards, a consistent approach for the recognition of high performance with the award of Distinction or High Distinction for professional bachelor qualifications of four or more years.

Policy:

1. Eligible students are those who have completed a four (or more) year professional bachelor qualification at Murdoch University for which Academic Council has approved the award of degree with Distinction or High Distinction.
2. Calculation of performance will be on a percentage basis (rather than GPA) weighted for each unit's credit points (i.e. mark x credit point for each eligible unit, summed and divided by total credit points). Ungraded passes will be eliminated from the calculation. (Refer to Attachment 1)
3. Murdoch University units only will be included in the calculation. Cross-institutional units are excluded.
4. All required and specified elective units will be included in the calculation. Units will not be weighted by year level other than by the point value of units.
5. The cut off for the award of Distinction or High Distinction will mirror the percentage ranges used for unit grades: 70 – 79 = D, 80 – 100 = HD.
6. Where a professional course also provides for graduation with a research honours, students are not eligible for the award of both honours and an award by Distinction or High Distinction.
7. Award of Distinction or High Distinction will be recorded on the student's Academic Transcript and Testamur.

Supporting Procedures:

There are no supporting procedures.

Supporting Guidelines:

There are no supporting guidelines.

Supporting Standards:

There are no supporting standards.

Performance Indicators:

There are no performance indicators.

Definitions:

The definition of these terms appears in the "Dictionary of Terms". Please refer to the "Dictionary of Terms" in Policy and Procedure Manager™ to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

There are no key terms.

Related Documents:

[Coursework Regulations: Effective from 1 January 2018](#)

[Honours Policy](#)

References:

There are no references.

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Academic Council
Responsible Officer(s):	Secretary to Academic Council

Revision History:

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Approved by AC	12/03/2019		12/03/2022	AC/16/2019(ii)
Attachment 1 amended	06/07/2018			AC/58/2018(iii)
Attachment 1 amended	24/01/2018		10/08/2014	AC/13/2018
Attachment 1 amended	16/12/2015			
Approved	10/08/2011		10/08/2014	AC/121/2011(ii)

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Approved	27/01/2011		27/01/2014	AC/3/2011(i)