

Program and course policy guidance materials: Weighted average mark (WAM)

Overview

1. In bachelor honours degrees, a weighted average mark (WAM) is an average of a student's numerical marks in a set of courses, weighted by the course credit points' value.
2. The formula for calculating WAM for students and additional information on how WAM works for students is available on the [WAM webpage](#).
3. The WAM rules in this section apply to all bachelor honours (embedded honours and one-year honours) programs created after 1 January 2016.
4. For bachelor honours programs that already exist as of 1 January 2016, the WAM rules also apply to students in those programs who start their enrolment after 1 January 2016. In this context, the start of enrolment in a program is "The start date of the very first class the student enrolls in the honours program."
5. A WAM-marked course counts as a WAM course if a student takes that course while enrolled in an honours program or enrolled in a program that is GPA-linked to an honours program.
6. A WAM-marked course will count towards the WAM calculation for all programs it is taken as part of.
7. The WAM course attributes are determined on a per-course ID basis.
8. Only newly created courses can be designated as WAM, and they must be designated as such at the point of course creation and before any student enrolls in that course.
9. If a new WAM course is to be created and that course is to be included in existing honours programs, every one of the honours programs' program design team must be notified that this new course is WAM.
10. Once a course is designated a WAM course, it must remain a WAM course.
11. Designating a WAM course is also a declaration that the course contributes to the most advanced program learning outcomes of an honours program. Typically, these courses are structured in year 3 or later.
12. If a school or college believes that a course is no longer suitable as a WAM course because it no longer represents part of the most advanced program learning outcomes, then a new course must be created.
13. If an existing course is not currently designated as a WAM course, it cannot be declared as a WAM course in the future.

Composition of WAM courses in honours programs

14. Single-degree embedded honours programs must have at least 96 credit points of designated WAM courses. Both core courses and program option courses count toward this minimum limit.
15. Double-degree embedded honours program where both degree components are honours degrees must have at least 96 credit points of courses per degree component except where it is agreed that a course contributes to the honours-level program learning outcomes for each component degree.
 - 15.1. Each of the component degrees' WAM courses, and the other courses belonging to each degree component, must be stated specifically in the program guide.
16. In a one-year bachelor honours program all courses will count towards a student's WAM, whether they have been designated as a WAM course or not.

17. Students should be made aware that a course is a designated WAM course when they enrol in that course through Enrolment Online.
18. WAM is used to calculate the honours level awarded in an honours program.
19. A student in an honours program cannot opt out of receiving the WAM calculation.
 - 19.1. The exception to WAM being used to calculate honours is the rare situation where a student started the honours program before 2016 but was given incorrect advice causing them to be included in a category that would be affected by the WAM.
20. There are occasional exceptions in some unusual program transfers before and after 2016 that might justify a student honours level to be determined by the pre-2016 system of GPA.
21. If a student started in a bachelor program (whether pass or honours) before 2016; and the program was converted to a different bachelor honours program in 2016 or later, only their 2016 and later results in that honours program count toward their WAM.
22. If a student started in a bachelor program (whether pass or honours) after 2016; and the program was converted to a different bachelor honours program in 2016 or later; and the old and new programs are GPA-linked, all results in both GPA-linked programs count toward their WAM.

Supporting resources

Related policy: [Program and course policy](#)

Related policy processes: *Program and course approval processes*

Accountability

Approved: 14 April 2018

Approval authority: Academic Registrar

Operational responsibility: Program and Course Administration, ARG

Contact: cpa@rmit.edu.au

Document reference: POL/2018/00012