



Faculty of Engineering

Honours Weighted Average Calculation (HWA)

The degree with honours is awarded for meritorious performance in all engineering undergraduate four, five and six-year single and double degree programs. No additional time is required. All units with a numerical mark are considered in the determination of an honours result, but greater weight is given to the units in the later years of the course.

The HWA calculation is based on academic achievement in units contributing to the award of an engineering degree. It is different from the University WAM and GPA. The award level is calculated on the basis of a weighted average grade. Target grades are as follows:

Students who commenced their course from 2014 and onwards:

These include those who transferred into an engineering course in 2014.

Honours level	Weighted grade
H1 First class honours	≥ 80.00%
H2A Second class honours (Division A)	≥ 70.00% to 79.99
H2B Second class honours (Division B)	≥ 65.00% to 69.99
P Pass grade	< 65%

Students who commenced their course of study prior to 2014:

These include students who commenced their Monash College Diploma prior to 2014 and students who commenced their 2+2 degree at the partner University prior to 2014.

Honours level	Weighted grade
H1 First class honours	≥ 75.00%
H2A Second class honours (Division A)	≥ 70.00% to 74.99%
H2B Second class honours (Division B)	≥ 65.00% to 69.99%
P Pass grade	< 65%

HWA Calculation:

The HWA calculation includes the weighting of each unit, that is, a level one unit is weighted by a factor of one, a level two unit is weighted by a factor of two, a level three unit is weighted by a factor of three and a level four unit is weighted by a factor of four. Any result obtained after repeating a unit is discounted by 10% before being factored in the HWA calculation.

The HWA is calculated by the formula:

$$\text{HWA} = \frac{[\sum(n*M*C)]}{[\sum(n*C)]}$$

Where:

n = unit level number

M = mark for any unit

C = credit points for any unit

The following points relate to the calculation of the HWA:

1. Where a unit is repeated, the most recent repeat attempt will be discounted by 10% in the HWA calculation.
 2. Non-engineering units:
 - a) Non-engineering unit that form part of the structure of a single engineering degree or that form part of the engineering component of a double degree will be counted in the calculation of the HWA.
 - b) Non-engineering units taken as a minor or a free elective as part of the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) are included in the HWA calculation at the unit level recorded in the student management system, irrespective of its placement in the course structure of the degree.
 3. The level of the unit used in the HWA calculation is the unit level recorded in the student management system irrespective of its placement in the course structure of the degree. The first digit in a unit code represents the level of the unit (e.g. MGC1010 = level 1, ENG2092 = level 2, CIV3203 = level 3, MEC4404 = level 4, ENG5001 = level 5).
 4. If a student fails an elective and, rather than repeat it, chooses to take an alternate elective, both results will be counted in the HWA calculation without penalty.
 5. Elective units:
 - a) A student with one or more elective(s) exceeding their minimum degree requirement will have the unit(s) counted towards the HWA.
 - b) If a student is given a special prescription to take a non-engineering unit to count for credit towards the degree, the unit will be counted towards the HWA.
 - c) If a student undertakes a unit on a non-award basis, the unit will not be counted towards the HWA.
 - d) If a student takes a 6 point elective in lieu of a 4 point requirement, the 6 point elective will be used in the HWA calculation even though the total completed points exceed the minimum requirement for the degree.
 6. Non-Monash units:
 - a) Units taken as part of an exchange, study abroad or cross-institutional program at another institution will not count in the HWA calculation.
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- b) Units taken on Intercampus Exchange at another Monash campus are treated in the same manner as units taken on the home campus.
 - c) Units taken at another institution for which credit has been granted will not be counted in the HWA calculation. The only exception to this is where units are taken by students in the Diploma of Engineering Part 2 at Monash College.
7. Where a student transfers between engineering degrees, all units credited towards the new degree will be counted in the HWA calculation.
 8. Where a student is awarded a 50 P in a last unit supplementary examination, it is the 50 P that counts in the HWA rather than the previous fail result.
 9. Where a student is given a special prescription to take a unit in lieu of another unit, both results will be counted in the HWA calculation without penalty.
 10. From 2014, all commencing students (including those who transferred into an engineering course) will be subject to the new HWA cut-offs. Exceptions to this are:
 - a) Students who commenced their Monash College Diploma prior to 2014.
 - b) Students who commenced their 2+2 degree at the partner University prior to 2014.

Supporting information

Definitions and acronyms: HWA (Honours Weighted Average), GPA (Grade Point Average), WAM (Weighted Average Mark).

Who needs to know this policy: Undergraduate engineering students, Associate Dean (Education), Academic staff, Department administrative staff and Student services staff

Approval body: Engineering Education Committee

Date effective: Semester 2, 2016

Review date: December 2017

Faculty use only

Version	Committee	Comments
1.3.	EEC2/16	The HWA calculation policy has been revised to reflect changes made to courses under 'course architecture'. Level 5 units undertaken in an engineering UG degree will be weighted at level 5 in HWA calculations.
1.2.	EEC2/14	Revised Honours levels for students commencing from 2014. Additional rules relating to savings of rights.
1.1.	EEC1/06	Original version amended and approved at EEC1/06 (item 5.8).
