

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
AWARD OF UNIVERSITY MEDALS - RULES

Approved by Academic Board on 20 February 2008

Award in recognition of academic excellence

1. Each year Academic Board may award University Medals in recognition of the achievement of outstanding academic merit.

Eligibility

- 2.1 To be eligible for award of a University Medal a student must have qualified for a Bachelor's degree with first class honours and have shown outstanding academic merit throughout their work for the degree.
- 2.2 An award may be made to a candidate on qualifying for a second Bachelor's degree, provided that the candidate qualifies for such degree with first class honours and is otherwise eligible for the award.
- 2.3 Factors to be taken into account in determining outstanding academic merit include results achieved throughout the course, standard of the honours thesis, the length of time taken to complete the course, and other factors deemed relevant by the Faculty Board.
- 2.4 A student is rendered ineligible for the award of a University Medal if the student has been guilty of a breach of Statute 10 – Student Conduct and Discipline, or of the Academic Honesty Policy.

Recommendations by Faculty Board

3. Recommendations for the award shall be made by the respective Faculty Boards. At any time a Faculty Board may recommend more than one student from a School within the Faculty for an award.

Role of Academic Board

4. The Academic Board shall consider each recommendation made to it by a Faculty Board and, if approved, shall advise Senate of the names of the recipients of the award. It shall be the duty of the Academic Board to maintain, as far as possible, a uniformity of practice in relation to recommendations.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD OF UNIVERSITY MEDALS

Approved by Academic Board on 20 February 2008

1. General

- 1.1 University Medals may be awarded in recognition of the achievement of outstanding academic merit by the best performing first class honours graduates of the relevant year.
- 1.2 The Academic Board will each year determine a minimum Medals Score and may limit the number of University Medals awarded in any one year.

2. Criteria for Determination of Outstanding Academic Merit

- 2.1 Eligibility for the award of a University Medal is based on consideration of the academic achievement of students throughout their course of study leading to the award of the degree with first class honours. The major criterion to be taken into account in the assessment of outstanding academic merit is the Medals Score, calculated in accordance with clause 4 below.
- 2.2 A Faculty may put forward other factors which demonstrate outstanding academic merit, in support of a nomination.
- 2.3 A student who has failed¹ any unit will not be eligible for the award of a University Medal.

3. Procedures

- 3.1 Deans will be advised of the minimum Medals Score determined by the Academic Board by the commencement of second semester of the relevant year.
- 3.2 The Faculty Boards, at the end of January each year, will advise the University Medals Committee of Academic Board of the names of those students of outstanding academic merit recommended for a University Medal and the rationale for their selection. The Committee will make recommendations for the award of University Medals to the February meeting of Academic Board.

4. Medals Score

- 4.1 The Medals Score is the average of grades of result obtained by the student weighted by the credit point value of each unit, for units from the pass and honours course, selected as follows:
 - (a) all units comprising the final 80 cp of the pass degree and 80 cp from the honours year²; and

¹ whether a Fail (NN) or Fail Withdrawn (WN) grade is awarded

² In the case of on-course honours [eg Bachelor of Social Work (Hons)], all units in the final two years of the course are included in the calculation.

- (b) the student's highest graded units having a total credit point value of 80 cp selected from the first 160 cp undertaken towards the pass degree^{3,4}.

Numerical equivalents of grades for this purpose are as listed below:

High Distinction	7
Distinction	6
Credit	5
Pass	4
Pass Conceded	3
Fail	1
Withdrawn Fail	1.

- 4.2 A student who completes the final honours year only at this University will be eligible for the award of a University Medal. In such a case, the results of the honours year only will be included in the calculation of the Medals Score.
- 4.3 In the case of a course within a dual degree, results in units counted towards the relevant honours degree only will be taken into consideration.
- 4.4 Where a student has undertaken extra units beyond the requirements of the honours degree, results in any units not so required will be excluded from the calculation of the Medals Score.
- 4.5 Where the student has been granted credit towards the degree for studies while enrolled in another course at this University or at another institution, results gained in those studies will be included in the calculation of the Medals Score only if specified credit for individual units was granted under the relevant degree rules.
- 4.6 Results of PS (ungraded pass) will be excluded from the calculation of the Medals Score.

6. Presentation of University Medals

University Medals will be presented to students at the relevant graduation ceremony each year.

³ In identification of the highest graded 80 cp or the first 160 cp, the interpretation most favourable to the student will be adopted. For example, there may be situations in which “the first 160 cp” may not be interpreted easily, as units taken in semester in which 160 cp are completed may bring the total to more than 160 cp; in such a case, the interpretation most favourable to the student will be adopted in choosing the units making up the first 160 cp.

⁴ Where a student has completed fewer than 80 cp under this paragraph, results in all units undertaken will be counted.