

Recognition of Academic Excellence Policy

Section 1 - Policy Statement

(1) This Policy provides the framework for the recognition of academic excellence including the awarding of University Medals at Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Section 2 - Policy Scope

(2) This Policy applies to all Bachelor and Bachelor Honours degrees.

Section 3 - Recognition of Academic Excellence

(3) ACU recognises academic excellence by awarding the University Honours Medal and University Medal. The Academic Board will award up to one University Honours Medal and one University Medal per Faculty each year.

(4) The University calculates a Medal Score to identify students who have achieved academic excellence in the previous year.

(5) Each year, the Academic Board will determine the minimum Medals Score for the following year, based on the recommendation of the Academic Registrar.

(6) Students who achieve the minimum Medals Score but are not recipients of the University Honours Medal or University Medal will be named an Executive Dean's Awardee for Academic Excellence.

(7) Each Faculty Board will nominate suitably qualified candidates for consideration by the Academic Registrar in accordance with the [Recognition of Academic Excellence Procedure](#).

(8) The Academic Registrar, following consultation with the Chair, Academic Board, may recommend to the Academic Board that, in exceptional circumstances where two eligible students from the same Faculty, with the same Medals Score, cannot be meaningfully separated, a second University Honours Medal, or University Medal, be awarded.

(9) The Academic Registrar may recommend to Academic Board that no award will be made in a particular year if no suitably qualified candidates have been nominated by the Faculties.

Section 4 - Eligibility

(10) To be eligible for the award of a University Honours Medal, a student must:

- a. have qualified for either an end-on Bachelor Honours degree or a Bachelor degree with embedded honours
- b. achieved the minimum Medals Score calculated in accordance with the [Recognition of Academic Excellence Procedure](#), and

c. have qualified for with First Class Honours.

(11) To be eligible for the award of a University Medal a student must:

- a. have qualified for a Bachelor degree, and
- b. have achieved the minimum Medals Score calculated in accordance with the [Recognition of Academic Excellence Procedure](#).

(12) Where two or more students are eligible under clauses (10) and (11), the Academic Registrar will refer the matter to the Chair, Academic Board who will use the Medals Score and the following factors to determine the recommended recipient:

- a. The standard of the honours thesis (if applicable);
- b. The distribution of results achieved;
- c. The consistency of performance or continuous improvement throughout the course;
- d. The length of time taken to complete the course, with due regard to mitigating circumstances; and
- e. Other factors deemed relevant by the Faculty Board.

(13) An award may be made to a candidate on qualifying for a subsequent Bachelor or a Bachelor Honours degree.

(14) A student will be ineligible for the award of a university medal if they have had a misconduct finding under the [Student Conduct Policy](#), or the [Student Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy](#).

Section 5 - Role of Faculty Board

(15) Recommendations for award of a medal must be made to the Academic Registrar by the respective Faculty Boards in accordance with the [Recognition of Academic Excellence Procedure](#).

Section 6 - Role of the Academic Registrar

(16) Recommendations for award of a medal must be made to Academic Board by the Academic Registrar in accordance with the [Recognition of Academic Excellence Procedure](#).

(17) The Academic Registrar is responsible for maintaining consistency of practice in regard to the awarding of medals.

Section 7 - Role of Academic Board

(18) The Academic Board will consider each recommendation made to it by the Academic Registrar and, if approved, advise Senate of the names of the recipients of the award.

Section 8 - Revisions to this Policy

(19) The revision table includes revisions up until this document was migrated into the current policy platform. Any later changes will show in the Status and Details tab.

Date	Major, Minor or Editorial	Description of Revision(s)
October 2018	Major	Revision of Policy and procedures in line with Academic Board Schedule of Review following benchmarking and consultation.
December 2020	Major	Revision of policy and procedures in line with recommendations of the external review of academic governance.
October 2022	Major	Revision of policy and procedures following a review of the medals score calculation.

Section 9 - Associated Information

(20) For related legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines and any supporting resources please refer to the Associated Information tab.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	19th December 2023
Review Date	1st October 2027
Approval Authority	
Approval Date	19th December 2023
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Responsible Executive	Andrew O'Neil Chair, Academic Board
Responsible Manager	Gerard Goodwin-Moore National Manager, Student Policy and Appeals
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