



Measures of Academic Achievement Policy

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In developing this policy the University had regard to the provisions of section 40B(1)(b) of the Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT).

PURPOSE:

- 1.1. This policy outlines the University's methods used to measure academic achievement, the Grade Point Average (GPA) and the Weighted Average Mark (WAM).

SCOPE:

- 2.1. Information on the automatically calculated GPA and WAM which appears for each course of study on a student's record, and other GPAs and WAMs which may be manually calculated is included in this policy.
- 2.2. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) calculations are displayed for every course of study.
- 2.3. Cumulative Weighted Average Mark (WAM) calculations are displayed on every course of study commenced from 1 January 2013 onwards.

PRINCIPLE:

General principles of the measures of academic achievement at the University of Canberra

- 3.1. The purposes for measures of academic achievement are:
 - i. That they may be used by the University as an indicator to assist in determining academic merit of individual students at the University of Canberra.
 - ii. That they may be made available to students to provide an indicator of their academic progress.
 - iii. That they may be made available to other institutions where a GPA or WAM is required.
- 3.2. Other GPAs or WAMs can also be used as a measure of academic merit to assist with other activities, potentially with a calculation subject to the particular requirements of the activity but using the principles and procedures provided below. These may include:

- i. assessing the eligibility of an applicant for admission;
 - ii. awarding of a scholarship;
 - iii. determining the grade of honours;
 - iv. awarding of a prize or other merit award such as a University medal.
- 3.3. The measures of academic achievement are intended to apply to all courses of study offered by the University of Canberra (UC).
- 3.4. Each unit is weighted by its credit point value.
- 3.5. There is no weighting for the unit level at which the unit is taken.
- 3.6. Results with a grade of UP, WD (or W), WH (or DX), CNT/YL, CNT (or KNU), NAS and S will not be included.
- 3.7. Multiple attempts in the same unit and within the same course of study taken at different times should be included in any calculation each time the unit is attempted.
- 3.8. Students who commenced a course of study from 1 January 2013 onwards will receive a cumulative GPA and WAM, automatically calculated at the end of each teaching period. Students who commenced prior to this will receive a cumulative GPA only.
- 3.9. All units undertaken at the University of Canberra within a course of study will be included in the automatic calculations of a GPA and WAM, even if those units are not required for the completion of that course.
- 3.10. Unless a formal result, awarded by the University of Canberra, is recorded on the University's student record system, advanced standing obtained for prior studies or concurrent studies (e.g. cross-institutional or summer sessions) is excluded from any automated or manual calculations.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Who	Responsibilities

LEGISLATION:

Governing framework

- Courses at the University of Canberra will comply with the [Higher Education Standards Framework](#) and the [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\)](#).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Procedures

- Measures of Academic Achievement Procedure

DEFINITIONS:

Terms	Definitions
Advanced Standing (external credit)	Credit awarded to a course of study which reduces the overall length of that course, on the basis of study undertaken at another institution.
Advanced Standing (internal credit)	Credit awarded to a course of study which reduces the overall length of that course, on the basis of study undertaken within the University in a different course of study.
Course of study	An academic qualification undertaken by a student, which may or may not be conferred (elsewhere may be known as a degree).
Credit points	Each unit is assigned a number of credit points that indicates the size of the unit, its workload and its contribution to meeting the requirements of a course. Credit points are used for weighting of GPA and WAM calculations.
Cumulative GPA	A GPA which is automatically calculated for a course of study at the end of each teaching period.
Cumulative WAM	A WAM which is automatically calculated for a course of study at the end of each teaching period. Only calculated for courses of study which commenced from 1 January 2013.
GPA	A Grade Point Average, expressed as a number between 0 and 7 and calculated using formal grades, which gives an indicator of academic achievement within a course of study.
Formal Grade	The letter grade awarded to a student on the completion of a unit of study.
Formal Mark	The mark out of 100 awarded to a student on the completion of a unit of study. Recording of formal marks became compulsory for all units in Semester 2, 2012.
Unit	A unit is the basic module for teaching and assessment in the University (elsewhere may be known as a subject)
WAM	A Weighted Average Mark, expressed as a number between 0 and 100 and calculated using formal marks, which gives an indicator of academic achievement within a course of study.