

Appendix A

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

School Honours Guidelines

(BDM, ENG, ID)

2023

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Introduction

Completing Honours demonstrates the students have achieved high academic standards and a particular Honours level is normally required for further research study such as the PhD. To apply for a PhD at Western Sydney University your bachelor's degree needs to be Honours Class 1 or Class 2 Division 1.

The University's Curriculum Structure Procedures and [Honours Procedures](#) describe the framework and processes for all Honours programs, both end-on and embedded, at:

<http://policies.uws.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00156>

The School Honours Guidelines contain procedural information specific to the Honours degrees in the School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment, and on specific procedural variations as may be appropriate to each discipline in the school.

The School Honours Guidelines (BDM, ENG, ID) apply to the following disciplines in the school: Building Design Management, Engineering and Industrial Design. For Construction Management (CM) discipline, please refer to The School Honours Guidelines (CM).

Honours Programs

The School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment currently offers the following embedded Honours Programs.

Table 1. Honours Programs

Discipline	Abbreviation	Honours Program Code and Name	Discipline Honours Coordinator
Building Design Management	BDM	3727 Bachelor of Building Design Management 6031 Bachelor of Building Design Management	Mary Hardie (Deputy: Brendan Kirkland)
Engineering	ENG	3740 Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) 3800 Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)/Bachelor of Business 3771 Bachelor of Engineering Advanced (Honours)	Pan Hu
Industrial Design	ID	3731 Bachelor of Industrial Design (Honours)	Sasha Alexander

Components of Honours Programs

Honours programs will have two compulsory components - the Research Training Component and the Significant Research Component. The honours program may also have a third component - the Optional Coursework Component. The components in different Honours programs are listed below.

Table 2. Components of Honours Programs

Honours Program	Research Training Component	Significant Research Component
3727, 6031	BLDG 4014 Building Design Project 1 (Honours)	BLDG 4015 Building Design Project 2 (Honours)
3740, 3800	ENGR4025 Final Year Project 1	ENGR4026 Final Year Project 2
3771	ENGR4037 Advanced Engineering Thesis 1	ENGR4036 Advanced Engineering Thesis 2
3731	ENGR4027 Industrial Design Applied Research Project	ENGR 4030 Industrial Design Research Thesis (Honours)

The compulsory Research Training Component may include training in the ethical conduct of research - for example, supervised preparation, or contribution to the preparation, of applications for consideration by the University's Biosafety and Radiation Safety Committee, Animal Care and Ethics Committee, Human Research Ethics Committee or Human Research Ethics Panel, depending on the nature of the study. Where ethics approval is required, data collection must not commence until this is granted.

Applications and Admissions

Admission to embedded Honours programs included in these Guidelines is automatic when students are eligible and enrolled in the specific Honours subjects in their disciplines. Students will need to achieve a certain GPA and/or complete sufficient subjects to enrol in an Honours subject, as listed in Table 3.

Applications will be considered by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators to determine eligibility against Honours policy admission criteria; the Dean of the School then approves or declines admission and advises the Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations.

The general requirements for an Honours Program are provided in the Honours Procedures. The specific requirements for the Honours subjects in different disciplines are detailed below. Students can contact the relevant Discipline Honours Coordinator if they have questions about these criteria.

Table 3. Eligibility Criteria to Enrol into Honours Subjects

Program / Subject	GPA and/or CP requirements	Prerequisite subjects and other requirements
3727/ BLDG4014 6031/ BLDG4014	CP \geq 220, and GPA \geq 5.000	
3727/ BLDG4015 6031/ BLDG4015	CP \geq 220, and GPA \geq 5.000	Corequisite: BLDG4014
3740/ENGR4025 3800/ENGR4025	CP \geq 200	Corequisite: ENGR3017
3740/ENGR4026 3800/ENGR4026	CP \geq 220	Prerequisite: ENGR4025
3771/ ENGR4037		
3771/ ENGR4036		Prerequisite: ENGR4037
3731/ ENGR4027	CP \geq 200	
3731/ ENGR4030	CP \geq 200	

Appointment of a Principal and/or Co-Supervisors

Honours candidates will have a principal supervisor but may have co-supervisors.

The principal supervisor will hold qualifications at AQF Level 9, or above, and have a record of research or scholarly attainment in a relevant field, to satisfy the Higher Education Threshold Standard of "equivalent professional experience". The principal supervisor must hold an academic position (including an adjunct position) at Western Sydney University during the period of supervision.

Professional staff or staff at a lower AQF Level may also be appointed as principal supervisors based on equivalent research and professional experience. The Discipline DAP (Director of Academic Program) will have oversight of such appointments.

The appointment of the supervisors will be facilitated by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators and agreed by the students and the supervisors. Students should contact the nominated supervisors and confirm their Honours project topics within the time specified by the Discipline Honours Coordinators.

Student Co-Design

Honours projects are normally developed by the supervisors, but a student can also propose their own project to supervisors. If a supervisor agrees, the student can work on the proposed project under the supervisor's supervision.

Industry Co-Design

Honours projects can be co-designed with industry partners, and students can also have co-supervisors from industry. This is based on the agreement between the principal supervisor in the university, the

student and the industry co-supervisor(s). The agreement will be approved by the Discipline Honours Coordinator. The principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring the student meets the Honours requirements by conducting the co-designed and/or co-supervised project.

Procedures for dealing with supervision issues

Where a student is experiencing supervision problems, they will in the first instance, approach their supervisor and/or co-supervisor, then if required, the School Discipline Honours Coordinator. Students may approach the Discipline DAP if the School Discipline Honours Coordinator is involved in supervision or supervision problems. If issues cannot be resolved with the Discipline DAP and the Discipline Honours Coordinator, students can contact the Director, Honours and HDR. Refer to the Honours Procedures.

Progression

The supervisory panel and the School Discipline Honours Coordinators will monitor Honours candidates to ensure that they are enrolled and progressing in the subjects required to graduate with an Honours award.

The timeframe for the examination process for Honours reports and other assessments is restricted to ensure all Honours candidates are allocated an equitable amount of time to complete candidature requirements and to ensure that all candidates' assessments are processed in time for publication and graduation purposes. Dates for assessment submission will be set by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators and announced in the corresponding learning guides or vUWS site.

Procedure for applying for an extension of submission date

Extension applications should be approved by the supervisory panel and the Discipline Honours Coordinator, who is normally the Subject Coordinator of the related subject. Supervisors should be aware and advise students as appropriate, that late submissions may delay the enrolment of the second Honours subject in an Honours program consisting of two subjects and the graduation of students. Refer also to the [Honours Procedures](#).

Examination Procedures

Appointment of Examiners

Where an honours program requires formal examinations the [Examinations Policy](#) and [Examination Procedures](#) will apply.

The significant research component will be examined by two suitably qualified examiners, who may be external to the University or internal to the University in schools or programs where an independent moderation process is used to assure quality and consistency of internal examination. The moderation process is described in “Examination and Arbitration” below. At least one examiner must hold a qualification at or above honours and have a record of research or scholarly attainment in a relevant field. A professional examiner from a related industry can be the second examiner.

Examiners will not be supervisors or co-supervisors and may remain anonymous to the student. Refer also to the [Honours Procedures](#).

The Discipline Honours Coordinators will recommend examiners for the significant research component who are approved by the Dean, Deputy Dean or nominee of the school.

Examination and Arbitration

Two examiners will make independent determinations on the significant research component, and will each award a mark out of 100, which will be averaged to give a total score.

Where there is a mark discrepancy of 10 or more marks between significant research component examiners or a difference in the examiner-recommended "grade", the Discipline School Honours Coordinator may take one or more of the following actions:

- Invite the examiners to confer with each other and/or with the School Research and Higher Degrees Committee with a view to presenting a consolidated recommendation, if the examiners agree to reveal their names to each other.
- Appoint an experienced marker as a third examiner who will act as an arbiter; following review of the significant research component and the other examiners' reports the arbiter determines the mark and grade on the basis of the published criteria and standards for the significant research component; this is the final examination result for recommendation to the School Academic Committee.

The final result will be made available to students. Refer to the Honours Procedures.

Award Levels

Honours levels are awarded as follows: First Class (highest), Second Class, and Third Class. Second Class Honours has two divisions of performance identified: Division 1 (highest) and Division 2.

The criteria for determining the levels of Honours are approved by the School Academic Committee and endorsed by the Education Committee of Academic Senate in the academic year prior to student

commencement of Honours study. The criteria themselves have been developed after careful consideration and benchmarking with three other universities (see Appendix C).

The School Discipline Honours Coordinator considers examiners’ reports, marks, and other information and recommends the level of award to the School Academic Committee, which approves the Honours award outcome.

After each teaching session in which Honours awards are made, the School Discipline Honours Coordinators sends a written report to the Director, HDR and Honours, and the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching), including a summary of the approved Honours results, any significant variability, anomalies and trends, any extensions on assessment submission dates, and any recommendations about assessment policies and practices.

The Director, HDR and Honours, and the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) will send a written report to the Assessment Committee of Academic Senate based on the reports submitted by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators.

The Discipline Honours Coordinators will explain the Honours class levels to the students when students enrol in the first Honours subject.

Calculation of Honours Award Levels

The Honours Award Level is calculated using all assessable components of the Honours Program. In general, the Honours level for these degrees is determined by the achievement in the Honours subjects and the overall program Weighted Average Mark (WAM), which is described in this section.

The WAM is calculated over all subjects that a student has attempted. The following will not be counted in the WAM calculation.

- A. A grade of Satisfactory (S);
- B. Withdrawn without Academic Penalty (W);
- C. Advanced Standing – Unspecified (L);
- D. Aegrotat Pass (Z);
- E. Advanced Standing – Specified (K)
- F. Grade applied with GPA Neutral Scheme

Where a student has repeated a subject, all marks will be counted towards the WAM calculation. The formula for calculating the WAM is given below.

$$WAM = \frac{\sum(\text{Mark of a subject attempted} \times \text{Credit Points of the subject} \times \text{Weighting of the subject})}{\sum(\text{Credit Points of the subject} \times \text{Weighting of the subject})}$$

The weighting of a subject is given below:

Subject	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5 (other than Honours Subjects)	Honours Subjects listed in table 2
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WAM Weighting	1	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	5
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The Honours level will be determined by the achievement in the Honours subjects and the overall program WAM:

Table 4. Honours level calculation

Honours Class	Honours component mark	Program WAM
First Class	≥ 80	≥ 75
Second Class Division 1	≥ 75	≥ 70
Second Class Division 2	≥ 65	≥ 65
Third Class	≥ 50	< 65

The highest Honours level meeting both requirements (Honours component mark and program WAM) will be awarded. Honours component mark is calculated using the method shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Honours Component Mark Calculation

Honours Program	Honours Component Mark Calculation
3727 / 6031	BLDG4015
3740, 3800	Average mark of ENGR4025 and ENGR4026
3771	Average mark of ENGR4037 and ENGR4036
3731	Average mark of ENGR4027 and ENGR4030

Review of Grade

The [Review of Grade Policy](#) and procedures will apply to all subjects, including the significant research component, in the honours program. The review outcome may affect the level of Honours awarded.

Appeals that relate to more than one subject must be made separately.

Appeal Against Level of Honours

Appeals not related to individual subject marks but against the level of Honours awarded can be made in accordance with the [Academic Appeal Procedures](#) with the only grounds for appeal being those arising from procedural irregularity.

Committees

SoEDBE Honours Guidelines Establishment Committee

- **Kejun Dong**, Director, HDR and Honours
- **Mary Hardie**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (BDM)
- **Brendan Kirkland**, Director of Academic Program (BDM)
- **Peng Zhang**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (CM)
- **Pan Hu**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (ENG)
- **Sasha Alexander**, Director of Academic Program (ID)

SoEDBE Honours Guidelines Advisory Committee

- **Surendra Shrestha**, Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching
- **Sepani Senaratne**, Director of Academic Program (CM)
- **Fidelis Mashiri**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - Civil, Construction and Sustainability)
- **Khoa Le**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - Electrical)
- **Ming Zhao**, Director of Academic Program (ENG – Mechanical, Advanced Manufacturing, Materials, Robotics and Mechatronics)
- **Leigh Sheppard**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - UNSW-WSU Collaborative Program)

Appendix B

Benchmarking for Honours Classification

This document presents benchmarking carried out to develop the School's Honours guidelines for Bachelor of Building Design Management, Bachelor of Industrial Design and Bachelor of Engineering programs at WSU. The main purpose of the benchmarking exercise was to assign the levels of Honours for WSU graduates from the abovementioned programs. Three institutions in the Sydney catchment were used for benchmarking – (i) The University of New South Wales, (ii) University of Technology Sydney and (iii) The University of Sydney.

1. The University of New South Wales -Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/engineering/student-life/academic-information/bachelor-of-engineering-honours-program-rules->

Class 1: Honours WAM of at least 80 and thesis course mark of at least 65

Class 2 Division 1: Honours WAM of at least 75 and thesis course mark of at least 65

Class 2 Division 2: Honours WAM of at least 65 and thesis course mark of at least 65

The purpose of the Faculty WAM is to assist the Faculty in making a recommendation for honours at the end of a student Bachelor of Engineering degree.

A student Faculty WAM is not calculated until the student have completed all degree requirements, including Industrial Training. The Faculty WAM is calculated automatically from the results in a student program, there are *no* choices to be made, either by the student or staff.

Courses will be weighted according to the following:

General Education	Level 1 Courses	Level 2 Courses	Level 3 Courses	Level 4 Courses
1	1	2	3	4

Honours WAM calculation notes

- The Faculty WAM will not be the same as the overall WAM shown on your academic transcript on myUNSW, as the courses in your transcript are all assigned a weighting of 1.
- For dual degrees, only the courses which count towards the Bachelor of Engineering degree are included in the Faculty WAM calculation.

- In the event of failure(s) in a course, the first mark obtained is used in the Faculty WAM calculation.
- Academic Withdrawal (AW) grades will count as 00FL (Fail) for the purposes of calculating the Faculty WAM.
- The Faculty WAM is calculated to one decimal place and is not rounded up or down for the purposes of awarding honours.
- Courses completed at another institution either prior to or during enrolment at UNSW are not used. E.g. cross-institutional, exchange programs or courses for which transfer credit was granted.
- The year in the degree when a course is actually taken is irrelevant.

2. University of Technology Sydney

<https://handbook.uts.edu.au/courses/c09066.html>

Depending on individual performance, calculated on the basis of the weighted average mark (WAM), the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) may be awarded with first or second class honours, which does not require an additional honours year.

First Class Honours: WAM greater than or equal to 75.

Second Class Honours, Division 1: WAM greater than or equal to 70 and less than 75.

Second Class Honours, Division 2: WAM greater than or equal to 65 and less than 70.

Honours (no level): WAM less than 65.

Levels of award for degrees offered by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology are determined on the basis of the weighted average mark (WAM). The WAM is the average of all marks achieved in the course, weighted according to the credit-point value of each subject. The WAM is calculated by:

1. multiplying the mark attained in a subject by the subject's credit point value
2. repeating step 1 for each subject attempted in the course (including any fails), then adding these figures together, and
3. dividing the total calculated in step 2 by the number of credit points attempted in the course.

All graded subjects, including any credited from a different UTS course are included. Ungraded pass/fail subjects and subjects credited from other institutions are not included in the calculation.

3. The University of Sydney - Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/engineering/engineering_honours/engineering_honours_resolutions.html

The Bachelor of Engineering Honours degree is awarded in classes ranging from First Class to Third Class as set out in the Coursework Policy. The class of Honours awarded is based on a candidate's EIHWM. Third class honours is awarded to all students who have met graduation requirements with EIHWM below the cutoff for Honours Class II (Division 2).

Level of Honours Awarded

- (1) The grade of honours is determined by the Engineering Integrated Honours Weighted Average Mark (EIHWM) which is calculated by the formula:

$$\text{EIHWM} = \frac{\sum W_i \times \text{CP}_i \times M_i}{\sum W_i \times \text{CP}_i}$$

where

W_i is the weighting given by 0 for 1000 level units of study, 2 for 2000 level units, 3 for 3000 level units and 4 for 4000 level or above units. Units listed as Thesis units of study in the Engineering Projects Table are given a double weighting of 8.

CP_i is the number of credit points for the unit of study.

M_i is the mark achieved for the unit of study.

When calculating the EIHWM:

- a) All attempts at units of study where a numerical mark is awarded are included.
- b) Units where no numerical mark is awarded are not included in the calculation, such as:
 - i. units of study assessed on a pass/fail basis;
 - ii. units of study with a grade of DC or DF;
 - iii. and credited units of study from other institutions.
- c) For combined degree students, units of study taken as part of the second degree are included in the calculation.

Appendix C

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

School Honours Guidelines

(CM)

2023

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Introduction

Completing Honours demonstrates the students have achieved high academic standards and a particular Honours level is normally required for further research study such as the PhD. To apply for a PhD at Western Sydney University your bachelor's degree needs to be Honours Class 1 or Class 2.

The University's Curriculum Structure Procedures and [Honours Procedures](#) describe the framework and processes for all Honours programs, both end-on and embedded, at:

<http://policies.uws.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00156>

The School Honours Guidelines (CM) contain procedural information specific to the Honours degrees in Construction Management of the School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment.

Honours Programs

The School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment currently offers the following embedded Honours Programs in Construction Management.

Table 1. Honours Programs

Discipline	Abbreviation	Honours Program Code and Name	Discipline Honours Coordinator
Construction Management	CM	3762 Bachelor of Construction Management (Honours)	Peng Zhang

Components of Honours Programs

Honours programs will have two compulsory components - the Research Training Component and the Significant Research Component. The honours program may also have a third component - the Optional Coursework Component. The components in different Honours programs are listed below.

Table 2. Components of Honours Programs

Honours Program	Research Training Component	Significant Research Component
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3762	BLDG4010 Construction Research Methods	BLDG4011 Construction Thesis, or CIVL4020 Construction Research Project
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The compulsory Research Training Component may include training in the ethical conduct of research - for example, supervised preparation, or contribution to the preparation, of applications for consideration by the University's Biosafety and Radiation Safety Committee, Animal Care and Ethics Committee, Human Research Ethics Committee or Human Research Ethics Panel, depending upon the nature of the study. Where ethics approval is required, data collection must not commence until this is granted.

Applications and Admissions

Admission to embedded Honours programs included in these Guidelines is automatic when students are eligible and enrolled in the specific Honours subjects in their disciplines. Students will need to achieve a certain GPA and/or complete sufficient subjects to enrol in an Honours subject, as listed in Table 3.

Applications will be considered by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators to determine eligibility against Honours policy admission criteria; the Dean of the School then approves or declines admission and advises the Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations.

The general requirements for an Honours Program are provided in the Honours Procedures. The specific requirements for the Honours subjects in different disciplines are detailed below. Students can contact the relevant Discipline Honours Coordinator if they have questions about these criteria.

Table 3. Eligibility Criteria to Enrol into Honours Subjects

Program / Subject	GPA and/or CP requirements	Prerequisite subjects and other requirements
3762/ BLDG4010	CP \geq 220	
3762/ BLDG4011	GPA \geq 5.000	a Distinction grade or above for BLDG4010
3762/ CIVL4020		Prerequisite: BLDG4010

Appointment of a Principal and/or Co-Supervisors

Honours candidates will have a principal supervisor but may have co-supervisors.

The principal supervisor will hold qualifications at AQF Level 9, or above, and have a record of research or scholarly attainment in a relevant field, to satisfy the Higher Education Threshold Standard of "equivalent professional experience". The principal supervisor must hold an academic position (including an adjunct position) at Western Sydney University during the period of supervision.

Professional staff or staff at a lower AQF Level may also be appointed as principal supervisors based on equivalent research and professional experience. The Discipline DAP (Director of Academic Program) will have oversight of such appointments.

The appointment of the supervisors will be facilitated by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators and agreed by the students and the supervisors. Students should contact the nominated supervisors and confirm their Honours project topics within the time specified by the Discipline Honours Coordinators.

Student Co-Design

Honours projects are normally developed by the supervisors, but a student can also propose their own project to supervisors. If a supervisor agrees, the student can work on the proposed project under the supervisor's supervision.

Industry Co-Design

Honours projects can be co-designed by industrial collaborators, and students can also have co-supervisors from industry. This is based on the agreement between the principal supervisor in the university, the student and the industry co-supervisor(s). The agreement will be approved by the Discipline Honours Coordinator. The principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring the student meets the Honours requirement by conducting the co-designed and/or co-supervised project.

Procedures for dealing with supervision issues

Where a student is experiencing supervision problems, they will in the first instance, approach their supervisor and/or co-supervisor, then if required, the School Discipline Honours Coordinator. Students may approach the Discipline (DAP) if the School Discipline Honours Coordinator is involved in supervision or supervision problems. If issues cannot be solved with the Discipline DAP and the Discipline Honours Coordinator, students can contact the Director, Honours and HDR. Refer to the Honours Procedures.

Progression

The supervisory panel and the School Discipline Honours Coordinators will monitor Honours candidates to ensure that they are enrolled and progressing in the subjects required to graduate with an Honours award.

The timeframe for the examination process for Honours reports and other assessments is restricted to ensure all Honours candidates are allocated an equitable amount of time to complete candidature requirements and to ensure that all candidates' assessments are processed in time for publication and graduation purposes. Dates for assessment submission will be set by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators and announced in the corresponding learning guides or vUWS site.

Procedure for applying for an extension of submission date

Extension applications should be approved by the supervisory panel and the Discipline Honours Coordinator, who is normally the Subject Coordinator of the related subject. Supervisors should be aware and advise students as appropriate, that late submissions may delay the enrolment of the second Honours subject in an Honours program consisting of two subjects and the graduation of students. Refer also to the [Honours Procedures](#).

Examination Procedures

Appointment of Examiners

Where an honours program requires formal examinations the [Examinations Policy](#) and [Examination Procedures](#) will apply.

The significant research component will be examined by two suitably qualified examiners, who may be external to the University or internal to the University in schools or programs where an independent moderation process is used to assure quality and consistency of internal examination. The moderation process is described in “Examination and Arbitration” below. At least one examiner must hold a qualification at or above honours and have a record of research or scholarly attainment in a relevant field. A professional examiner from a related industry can be the second examiner.

Examiners will not be supervisors or co-supervisors and may remain anonymous to the student. Refer also to the [Honours Procedures](#).

The Discipline Honours Coordinators will recommend examiners for the significant research component who are approved by the Dean, Deputy Dean or nominee of the school.

Examination and Arbitration

Two examiners will make independent determinations on the significant research component, and will each award a mark out of 100, which will be averaged to give a total score.

Where there is a mark discrepancy of 10 or more marks between significant research component examiners or a difference in the examiner-recommended "grade", the Discipline School Honours Coordinator may take one or more of the following actions:

- Invite the examiners to confer with each other and/or with the School Research and Higher Degrees Committee with a view to presenting a consolidated recommendation, if the examiners agree to reveal their names to each other;

- Appoint an experienced marker as a third examiner who will act as an arbiter; following review of the significant research component and the other examiners' reports the arbiter determines the mark and grade on the basis of the published criteria and standards for the significant research component; this is the final examination result for recommendation to the School Academic Committee.

The final result will be available to students. Refer to the Honours Procedures.

Award Levels

Honours levels are awarded as follows: First Class (highest), Second Class, and Third Class. Second Class Honours has two divisions of performance identified: Division 1 (highest) and Division 2.

The criteria for determining the levels of Honours are approved by School Academic Committee and endorsed by Education Committee of the Academic Senate in the academic year prior to student commencement of Honours study.

The School Discipline Honours Coordinator considers examiners' reports, marks, and other information and recommends the level of award to the School Academic Committee, which approves the Honours award outcome.

After each teaching session in which Honours awards are made, the School Discipline Honours Coordinators send a written report to the Director (HDR and Honours) and the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching), including a summary of the approved Honours results, any significant variability, anomalies and trends, any extensions on assessment submission dates, and any recommendations about assessment policies and practices.

The Director (HDR and Honours) and the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) will send a written report to the School Assessment Committee based on the reports submitted by the School Discipline Honours Coordinators.

The Discipline Honours Coordinators will explain the Honours class levels to the students when students enrol in the first Honours subject.

Calculation of Honours Award Levels

For most programs, the Honours Award Level is calculated from the assessable components of the Honours Program. In general, the Honours level for these degrees is determined by the achievement in the Honours subjects and the overall program Weighted Average Mark (WAM), which is described in this section.

In Honours Program 3762, there are two inquiry based pathways; one focussing on industry practice based research (project path) and the other on academic based research (thesis path). Students who have achieved GPA of 5.000 or more are invited to undertake BLDG4011 (thesis path) with individual supervision, which will enable them to get higher honours classes and further continue with HDR research. Other students in the program are required to undertake CIVIL4020 (project path). The 'project path' is designed to be less academically rigorous and students are directed to undertake industry-oriented research with group supervision, leading to a 'project report' as opposed to a 'thesis' as the final submission. Due to this variation, students who have completed CIVL4020 will always be awarded Honours level of Third Class.

Students need to be aware of selecting the project path that they will not qualify for higher level Honours. This will result in these students being ineligible for direct HDR admission.

The WAM is calculated over all subjects that a student has attempted. The following will not be counted in the WAM calculation.

- A. A grade of Satisfactory (S);
- B. Withdrawn without Academic Penalty (W);
- C. Advanced Standing – Unspecified (L);
- D. Aegrotat Pass (Z);
- E. Advanced Standing – Specified (K)
- F. Grade applied with GPA Neutral Scheme

Where a student has repeated a subject, all marks will be counted towards the WAM calculation. The formula for calculating the WAM is given below.

$$WAM = \frac{\sum(\text{Mark of a subject attempted} \times \text{Credit Points of the subject} \times \text{Weighting of the subject})}{\sum(\text{Credit Points of the subject} \times \text{Weighting of the subject})}$$

The weighting of a subject is given below:

Subject	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5 (other than Honours Subjects)	Honours Subjects listed in table 2
WAM Weighting	1	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	5

The Honours level will be determined by the achievement in the Honours subjects and the overall program WAM:

Table 4. Honours level calculation.

Honours Class	Honours component mark	Program WAM
First Class	≥ 80	≥ 75
Second Class Division 1	≥ 75	≥ 70
Second Class Division 2	≥ 65	≥ 65
Third Class	≥ 50	< 65

The highest Honours level meeting both requirements (Honours component mark and program WAM) will be awarded.

Table 5. Honours Component Mark Calculation.

Honours Program	Honours Component Mark Calculation
3762	BLDG4011

Review of Grade

The [Review of Grade Policy](#) and procedures will apply to all subjects, including the significant research component, in the honours program. The review may affect the level of Honours awarded.

Appeals that relate to more than one subject must be made separately.

Appeal Against Level of Honours

Appeals not related to individual subject marks but against the level of Honours awarded can be made in accordance with the [Academic Appeal Procedures](#) with the only grounds for appeal being those arising from procedural irregularity.

Committees

SoEDBE Honours Guidelines Establishment Committee

- **Kejun Dong**, Director, HDR and Honours
- **Mary Hardie**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (BDM)
- **Brendan Kirkland**, Director of Academic Program (BDM)
- **Peng Zhang**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (CM)
- **Pan Hu**, Academic Program Advisor for Honours (ENG)
- **Sasha Alexander**, Director of Academic Program (ID)

SoEDBE Honours Guidelines Advisory Committee

- **Surendra Shrestha**, Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching
- **Sepani Senaratne**, Director of Academic Program (CM)
- **Fidelis Mashiri**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - Civil, Construction and Sustainability)
- **Khoa Le**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - Electrical)
- **Ming Zhao**, Director of Academic Program (ENG – Mechanical, Advanced Manufacturing, Materials, Robotics and Mechatronics)
- **Leigh Sheppard**, Director of Academic Program (ENG - UNSW-WSU Collaborative Program)

Appendix D

Rationale for Different Pathways to Bachelor of Construction Management (Honours)

1. Two Distinct Pathways, Learning Outcomes and Benchmarking

In Honours Program 3762, there are two inquiry-based pathways (thesis and project pathways), introduced to address the Australian Institute of Building (AIB) accreditation requirement that all BCM students who complete four years degree should be given an honours qualification at AQF 8. As embedded Honours, the Research Training subject is BLDG4010 Construction Research Methods, and the Significant Research Component or Equivalent is a written thesis for BLDG4011 Construction Thesis students or a final report for CIVL4020 Construction Research Project students. The two pathways vary in several ways as explained below, suggesting that thesis pathway is more academically challenging and warrants higher honours classes, in comparison to project pathway. The students are informed of the two pathways and the ramifications of choosing a pathway at various stages of the program.

Project pathway focuses on industry practice-based research and thesis pathway on academic based research. At present, students with more than 5.000 GPA are invited to undertake BLDG4011 (thesis path) with individual supervision and a 15,000 words thesis as the final assessment, which will enable them to get higher honours classes and the possibility to continue further with HDR research. Students who qualify to undertake thesis pathway, but intentionally choose project pathway are made aware that they will not be eligible for higher Honours classes excluding them from potential direct entry into HDR programs. These students choose this pathway due to their interest in industry practice. Other students including those who intentionally selected project as opposed to thesis, are required to undertake CIVIL4020 (project path). The 'project path' is designed to be less academically rigorous and students are directed to undertake industry-oriented research with group supervision, leading to a 5,000 words 'project report' as the final submission. Due to this variation, students who have completed CIVL4020 will always be awarded Honours Class 3. It is noted that the learning outcomes of the two pathways are significantly different – these are listed below.

CIVL4020 Construction Research Project learning outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate an ability to undertake self-motivated research under appropriate guidance.
- 2 Prepare a project proposal identifying an industry problem and expected outcomes.
- 3 Conduct industry research using appropriate research methods.
- 4 Produce valuable outcomes to address the identified industry problem.
- 5 Communicate research results at a professional level through academic writing and an oral presentation.

BLDG4011 Construction Thesis learning outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate an ability to undertake self-motivated research under appropriate guidance.

- 2 Focus on literature reviews using feedback from initial submissions.
- 3 Conduct systematic data collection based on the finalised research design.
- 4 Rigorously analyse data and discuss research findings to reach conclusions related to the research problem.
- 5 Communicate research results at a professional level through academic writing and an oral presentation

The table below lists the CM programs offered by other Australian Universities. We are the largest CM program in Australia with an annual intake of approximately 500 students. Since the new program 3762 with all students getting an honours qualification was only introduced in 2020, we do not yet have a full cohort doing research subjects in their final year.

Table – Australian Universities offering Bachelor of Construction Management Degree

University	Program	Info
Bond University	Bachelor - Construction Management and Quantity Surveying	2 years (6 semesters) non-Hons program)
Curtin University	Bachelor of Applied Science - Construction Management and Economics	4 year program, but not all students will receive Hons. It has Hons stream and non Hons stream, like our old 2607 program)
Deakin University	Bachelor - Construction Management (Honours)	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
Queensland University of Technology	Bachelor - Urban Development (Honours) (Quantity Surveying & Cost Engineering) Bachelor of Urban Development (Honours) (Construction Management)	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
RMIT University	Bachelor of Applied Science - Construction Management (Honours) Bachelor of Construction Management (Honours)	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
University of New South Wales	Bachelor - Construction Management and Property (Major)	1 year Add-on, only one pathway Entry Requirements: WAM 65
University of Newcastle	Bachelor - Bachelor of Construction Management (Building) (Honours)	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
University of South Australia	Bachelor - Bachelor of Construction Management (Honours) (BS / QS/ CM Option)	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
University of Southern Queensland	BSc Hons - Construction	4 years Embedded Hons - only one pathway
University of Technology, Sydney	Bachelor - Construction Project Management	4 years non-Hons

2. Process for Selection of Pathways and Student Advice

The Senate Education Committee raised the concern of equity to students choosing the project pathways. It is noted that the students are informed, repeatedly, before choosing a pathway. They are also advised of the ramifications of selecting this pathway; i.e., not qualifying for higher Honours levels, resulting in non-qualification of automatic HDR candidature, industry reputation, etc. The students choose the project pathway well-informed and based on their own interests and the ability to work on industry-based topics.

The School has diligently developed and implemented the process to inform the students of the two pathways. The students are informed of the two pathways at various phases of their WSU journey. The following list provides the time when the students are advised.

- During Orientation week – this is when they begin their WSU journey
- 4 weeks before the Autumn semester starts – this is after completion of 3 years of study
- First 3 weeks of the Autumn semester – during the final year of their study
- 2 weeks before Spring semester starts – during the final year of their study
- First 2 weeks of Spring semester – during the final year of their study

Information provided to the students during these information sessions include:

- Basic information about the two streams (includes Honours classes & HDR)
- Assessment and workload
- Supervision and timetable
- Topic selection
- Other information

The detailed documents and communications are provided on the vUWS site.

It is worth highlighting that the project pathway provides more industry experience to students/. Some students prefer this option and are not keen to pursue HDR study. Project pathway students are required to undertake industry based practical research projects and produce an individual final report to address technical, managerial or economic problems in the construction industry. Some students prefer to do this instead of writing a thesis and pursuing HDR career. For example, in 2022, 18 out of 31 (58%) students who qualified to undertake individual thesis enrolled in the project s. In 2023 the proportion is similar, 65 out of 138 (47%). The information below provides subject. Answers to some specific questions the Education Committee may be interested in are listed below.

- What are the numbers and proportion of students who qualified to do individual thesis but chose not to do it?
2022: 18 out of 31 (58%)
2023: 65 out of 138 (47%) – GPA 5+ is used to pre-divided the BLDG4010 CRM students to two groups (project and thesis) at the beginning of the first semester. 138 students achieve GPA 5+, but only 65 decided to go for thesis stream.
- What are the number and proportion of students who had received project marks that would have qualified them to get Honours Class – 1, 2-1 & 2-2?

In 2022, 11 out of 52 (21%) students would have qualified to get higher Honours classes, had they chosen the thesis option. It is important to note that the mark they'd have received for individual thesis might have been lower, hence they may or may not have qualified for higher Honours classes.

- **Accrediting Body Advice**

The Australian Institute of Building (AIB) during the accreditation visit recommended that WSU CM program be of 4-yr duration and recognised as an Honours degree. The following advice was provided by the Director of Academic Program (DAP) based on the accreditation report.

“Generally all programs of 4-year duration are expected to be AQF8 Honours. This is not only a university expectation, but AIB shares this, too. AIB actually only accredits 4-year programs. Additionally, the requirement for a NSW Builder’s licence also is 4-years.”

- How many students have undertaken individual thesis pathway in the past?
2022: 14
2023: 73 (based on pre-allocation)

- How many students undertook team project pathway in the past?
2022: 52
2023: 178

- Are the learning outcomes of the two pathways different? If yes, what are the differences?

The answer is yes. The following are the learning outcomes for the two pathways

CIVL4020 Construction Research Project learning outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate an ability to undertake self-motivated research under appropriate guidance.
- 2 Prepare a project proposal identifying an industry problem and expected outcomes.
- 3 Conduct industry research using appropriate research methods.
- 4 Produce valuable outcomes to address the identified industry problem.
- 5 Communicate research results at a professional level through academic writing and an oral presentation

BLDG4011 Construction Thesis learning outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate an ability to undertake self-motivated research under appropriate guidance.
- 2 Focus on literature reviews using feedback from initial submissions.
- 3 Conduct systematic data collection based on the finalised research design.
- 4 Rigorously analyse data and discuss research findings to reach conclusions related to the research problem.
- 5 Communicate research results at a professional level through academic writing and an oral presentation

It is important to note that thesis stream students are required to submit a 15,000 words thesis at the end of the Spring semester whereas those on the project stream are required to submit 5000-word project report.

3. Process Implemented

The following Q&As are elaboration on what has already been provided above.

- What process has been followed to inform the students of the two pathways? When are the students informed of the two pathways?
 1. Orientation week
 2. 4 weeks before the Autumn semester starts
 3. First 3 weeks of the Autumn semester
 4. 2 weeks before Spring semester starts
 5. First 2 weeks of Spring semester

- What information is provided to the students during these information sessions?
 1. Basic information about the two streams
 2. Assessment and workload
 3. Supervision and timetable
 4. Topic selection
 5. Other information

- Are the students informed of the ramifications of the decision they make? If yes, what type of information is provided?

Yes.

 1. Hons class
 2. Assessment and workload
 3. Supervision and timetable