QUT Grading System

**5.2.3 QUT grading scale**

The University awards numeric grades on a 7-point scale which are used for the calculation of a grade point average (GPA). Some units, generally those incorporating professional competencies that require minimum specified levels of achievement, may report final grades as “S” (Satisfactory) or “U” (Unsatisfactory). When determining the final grades, a unit may only have one grading scale applied (i.e. a 7-point scale or a S (Satisfactory) / U (Unsatisfactory) scale) which must apply to all students enrolled in the unit.

Other nomenclature and descriptors for final grading include

* succinct qualitative descriptor
* generic description of standard to inform grading
* standard percentage ranges where numeric references are used.

Standard percentage ranges apply unless an exception has been approved as part of the curriculum development and approval process or by a delegated authority (C/4.1).

The process for the allocation and release of results is specified in E/6.5.

**(a) Academic results**

Academic results are normally allocated and determined by academic processes, including appropriate moderation (C/5.1.7).

***Pass Grades***

7 - High Distinction

Work provides evidence of an exceptional level of achievement of unit learning outcomes, such as

* thorough and well reasoned critical analysis and evaluation of concepts, theories and practice from the field of study
* creative and insightful application of well integrated theoretical and practical knowledge to professional contexts.

Percentage range: 85%-100%.

6 - Distinction

Work provides evidence of a very high level of achievement of unit learning outcomes, such as

•thorough critical analysis and evaluation of concepts, theories and practice from the field of study

•insightful application of integrated theoretical and practical knowledge to professional contexts.

Percentage range: 75%-84%.

5 – Credit

Work provides evidence of a high level of achievement of unit learning outcomes, such as

•critical analysis and evaluation of key concepts, theories and practice from the field of study

•effective application of theoretical and practical knowledge to professional contexts.

Percentage range: 65%-74%.

4 – Pass

Work provides evidence of an acceptable level of achievement of unit learning outcomes, such as

•adequate analysis and evaluation of key concepts, theories and practice from the field of study

•sound application of fundamental theoretical and practical knowledge to professional contexts.

Percentage range: 50%-64%.

S - Satisfactory (where approved for use)

Work provides evidence of an acceptable level of achievement of unit learning outcomes and professional competencies (where applicable).

***Fail Grades***

3 – Marginal Fail

Work provides evidence of limited and/or disconnected learning which fails to demonstrate that unit learning outcomes have been achieved. Students who receive a grade of 3 in a unit may be eligible to apply for supplementary assessment (E/6.4).

Percentage range: 40%-49%.

2 – Fail

Work provides evidence of minimal learning in relation to unit learning outcomes.

Percentage range: 25-39%.

1 - Low Fail

Work provides little or no evidence of learning in relation to unit learning outcomes.

Percentage range: less than 25%.

U - Unsatisfactory (where approved for use)

Work fails to provide evidence of the achievement of unit learning outcomes and/or professional competencies (where applicable) at an acceptable level.

***Unfinalised Results***

A - Result Unfinalised - the result will be issued when available.

**(b) Administrative results**

Administrative results are normally allocated automatically by QUT’s assessment and student management systems.

***Finalised Results***

E - Exempt – specified advanced standing is granted (E/4.2.2).

K - Withdrawn Fail – student cancels their enrolment in the unit after the published withdrawal date for the relevant teaching period (E/4.3.6).

***Unfinalised Results***

SA - Supplementary Assessment - supplementary assessment granted.

DA - Deferred Assessment - deferred assessment granted.

T - Assessment Continues - studies extend over more than one teaching period.

**5.2.4 Grading system – awards with distinction**

Awards with distinction may be awarded in undergraduate courses (associate degrees, or bachelor degrees excluding those awarded with honours), or postgraduate courses (graduate diplomas or masters degrees) as designated in the accredited curriculum, to recognise meritorious achievement.

The following grade point averages (GPA) are used in determining eligibility for awards with distinction

•GPA of 5.5 for undergraduate courses, and

•GPA of 6.0 for postgraduate courses.

In exceptional cases, faculty academic boards may recommend to University Academic Board a relaxation of the GPA requirement for a particular graduand. Such a recommendation must be accompanied by an appropriate rationale.

To be eligible for an award with distinction a graduand must have completed at least 50% of the total credit points required for the course at QUT. Eligibility for awards with distinction for double degrees is based on consideration of the separate component degree. For either degree, only the units associated specifically with that component are taken into account in the GPA calculations used to determine eligibility.

**5.2.5 Grading system – awards with honours and bachelor honours degrees**

To recognise meritorious achievement, honours are awarded in the following courses:

For bachelor degrees of 384 credit points or more, which commenced prior to 2012 and where approved by University Academic Board, the following levels of honours are awarded:

•Honours I (First Class Honours): GPA of 6.00 - 7.00

•Honours IIA (Second Class Honours, Division A): GPA of 5.50 - 5.99

•Honours IIB (Second Class Honours, Division B): GPA of 5.00 - 5.49.

To be eligible for an award with honours a graduand must have completed at least 50% of the total credit points required for the course at QUT. The GPA is the basis for the award of level of honours and is calculated across the entire course. Students who do not attain a GPA for a second class honours or higher remain with a bachelor degree without honours. These awards will not be available to commencing students beyond 2014.

For all bachelor honours qualifications the level of honours awarded is determined by the GPA calculated only on the designated honours component. For a one year bachelor honours degree the GPA is calculated across the entire course. For a four year bachelor honours cluster qualification, the GPA is calculated on the 96 credit points specified as the honours component consistent with the AQF qualification type descriptor approved as part of the curriculum development and approval process or by a delegated authority (C/4.1).

For all bachelor honours qualifications, the following levels of honours are awarded:

•Honours I (First Class Honours): GPA of 6.50-7.00

•Honours IIA (Second Class Honours, Division A): GPA of 5.50-6.49

•Honours IIB (Second Class Honours, Division B): GPA of 4.50-5.49

•Honours III (Third Class Honours): GPA of less than 4.50.

In exceptional cases faculty academic boards may recommend to University Academic Board a relaxation of the GPA requirement for a particular graduand. Such a recommendation must be accompanied by an appropriate rationale.

Eligibility for awards with honours for double degrees is based on consideration of the separate component degree. For either degree, only the units associated specifically with that component are taken into account in the GPA calculations used to determine the level of the award with honours.

**5.2.6 Grade point average**

The grade point average (GPA) is a simple numerical index which summarises the student's academic performance in a course and over the duration of the student's enrolment in the course. The GPA is reported on the Statement of Academic Record.

Two values of the GPA are given: the GPA for the semester and the GPA in the course.

GPA = sum of (credit points of unit X numeric value of grade for that unit)

sum of credit points of unit(s)

The GPA calculation includes all attempts at units which are awarded a numeric grade or the result "K" (Withdrawn-Fail) which is converted to a 1.

The following are not included in the GPA calculation

•unfinalised results

•final grades of "S" (Satisfactory) or "U" (Unsatisfactory)

•units undertaken at another institution

•units where the status recorded is "E" (Exempt).

The GPA calculation for bachelor honours cluster qualifications is specified in C/5.2.5.