

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SERVICE CENTRE

(Incorporated in Western Australia)

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2016 SCALING and ATAR INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to help you understand some of the outcomes from the 2016 marks adjustment (scaling) process.

In 2016 there were 65 courses examined, including 26 language courses using interstate syllabi.

The Marks Adjustment Process

The main steps in the marks adjustment process are:

The School Curriculum & Standards Authority moderates school assessments against exam results, then combines the moderated school assessment and exam results to produce combined marks for each course studied. The combined marks are standardised before the scaling process.

TISC and the School Curriculum & Standards Authority jointly scale the course results.

Full details of the marks adjustment process are at

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/misc/marks-adjustment-process-2016.pdf>

Once the scaling process has been completed, the average of all scaled scores across all courses is 60.

A comparison of average scaled scores from 2015 ATAR and 2016 Stage 3 courses shows the 2016 averages are similar to 2015.

ATAR

12,460 school leavers achieved an ATAR in 2016 compared to 12,500 in 2015.

Sixteen school leavers achieved the maximum ATAR of 99.95.

Methodology

The ATAR reports students' rank position relative to all other students. It takes into account the number of students who sit the WACE examinations in any year and also the number of people of Year 12 school leaving age in the total population.

In 2016, the Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres (of which TISC is a member) adopted a revised method to calculate the ATAR.

The revised methodology produces a slightly different distribution curve to the method used previously. In WA it results in a larger number of students achieving ATARs above 60 than the previous approach. As a result, the median ATAR has risen from 78.95 in 2015 to 80.95 in 2016.

A technical explanation of how the ATAR is calculated is available at: <http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/ter-frequency/atar-technical-specification.pdf>.

University Competence in English Requirement

Competence in English for university admission is normally achieved by a scaled score of 50 in an English course.

The following is the percentage of students achieving a scaled score of 50.

Literature ATAR	90.6%
English ATAR	72.6%
EALD ATAR	75.2%

For a number of years, the universities have also considered students' standardised exam or standardised moderated school assessments in determining competence in English, for those students whose scaled score was less than 50. In 2016, as result of changes in reporting of Year 12 results, universities considered students' raw written examination mark or moderated school assessment to determine competence in English. Currently the standardised mark required is at least 55 for Murdoch and 60 for UWA and Curtin.

Overall, 94% of students who have applied for university have achieved university competence in English for at least one university. 76% have achieved competence in English for all four universities.

Students who have sat the WACE examination in one of the three English ATAR courses (English, Literature or EALD), and have satisfied other admission requirements for a particular university but have not achieved competence in English for that university, are usually invited via their Universities Admission Advice Letter (UAAL) to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) early in January to demonstrate their competence in English.

Mathematics

The scaling process producing the following means for the three new Mathematics subjects in 2016:

Mathematics Applications	55.5
Mathematics Methods	65.6
Mathematics Specialist	68.6

As expected, Mathematics Applications scaled down slightly, while Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist both scaled upwards.

Further information

More information on the marks adjustment process, 2016 scaled scores and ATAR distributions and courses used is available at www.tisc.edu.au, under *Resources>Statistics*