

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SERVICE CENTRE

(Incorporated in Western Australia)

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2017 SCALING and ATAR INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to help you understand some of the outcomes from the 2017 marks adjustment (scaling) process.

In 2017 there were 79 courses examined, including 28 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.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 2017 and 2016 courses shows this year's averages are similar to last year's.

ATAR

12,170 school leavers achieved an ATAR in 2017 compared to 12,247 in 2016.

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.

Students' best four scaled scores are added together to form a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate. Students who have scaled scores in a Language Other Than English (LOTE), Mathematics Methods or Mathematics Specialist have 10% of those scaled scores added to their aggregate.

The highest aggregate possible in 2017 was 430.

Once aggregates for all eligible students have been calculated, a formula based on the proportion of students taking at least four ATAR courses within the total school-leaving age population in Western Australia determines how many students are assigned to each ATAR band.

A technical explanation of how the ATAR is calculated is available at:
<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/misc/average-marks-scaling-2015.pdf>

The median ATAR for WA school leavers in 2017 is 81.25.

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	90.3%
English ATAR	72.8%
EALD ATAR	75.0%

For students whose scaled score was less than 50, universities will consider English/Literature/EALD ATAR written exam or moderated school assessments slightly higher than 50 to concede competence in English. The threshold required for this concession is at least 55 for Murdoch and 60 for UWA and Curtin.

Overall, 92% of students who have applied for university have achieved university competence in English for at least one university. 75% 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 invited via their Universities Admission Advice Letter (UAAL) to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) early in January as a further chance to demonstrate their competence in English for university entry in Semester 1, 2018.

Mathematics

The scaling process producing the following means for the three new Mathematics subjects in 2017:

Mathematics Applications	56.9
Mathematics Methods	65.7
Mathematics Specialist	68.2

As expected, Mathematics Applications scaled down slightly, while Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist both scaled upwards. This outcome was very similar to that achieved in 2016.

Tertiary Entrance Aggregate bonuses for students completing Mathematics Methods and/or Mathematics Applications were introduced this year.

Further information

More information on the marks adjustment process, 2017 scaled scores and ATAR distributions and courses used is available at www.tisc.edu.au, under *Resources>Statistics*