

Bachelor Honours Degree (80) - Awards and Programs Schedule

Schedule of the [Awards and Graduation Policy](#).

Section 1 - Introduction

(1) As a higher education provider authorised to self-accredit, the University of Newcastle (University) is responsible under the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 \(Cth\)](#) for ensuring that programs comply with the Provider Course Accreditation Standards. This Schedule provides the detailed principles and criteria that underpin the self-accreditation process for each Bachelor Honours Degree (80) award that may be delivered and conferred by the University.

(2) This Schedule supports the implementation of the [Awards and Graduation Policy](#) and [Governance Rule](#). The [Governance Rule](#) describes each type of qualification offered by the University and provides descriptions of the role of Academic Senate in approving and monitoring programs.

(3) Within the Schedule the general program principles and structures have been tabulated and the approved programs that are offered under it will be listed in [Bachelor Honours Degree \(80\) - Approved AQF Compliant Programs](#) covered by this Schedule. For the specific descriptions and requirements of an approved program, refer to the relevant Program Handbook.

(4) In the event of an inconsistency between subordinate policy documents and any Rule(s) or Schedule to the Rule(s), the Rule(s) made by Council prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 2 - Principles and Program Structures

Model: Bachelor Honours Degree (80)

(5) This table describes an AQF level 8 program leading to the award of Bachelor Honours Degree (80) under the [Governance Rule](#).

Volume of learning	The volume of learning required for a Bachelor Honours Degree (80) is typically 80 units of study that will be completed in one (1) year of full-time study or equivalent.
Purpose	The Bachelor Honours Degree qualifies individuals to apply a body of knowledge in a specific context to undertake professional work and as a pathway for research and further learning.
Maximum Time	Maximum time to complete a Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree (80 units) will be three years from date of admission, inclusive of periods of leave, exclusion or academic suspension. Approved variations are included in the Bachelor Honours Degree (80) - Approved AQF Compliant Programs covered by this Schedule.

Principles and Structure	PART A - Requirements for the Program Structure of Bachelor Honours Degree Graduates of this program will have completed a volume of learning equivalent to 80 units of study that it: i) can commence at the discretion of the relevant School; ii) include a minimum of 30 units research component that is: a) usually at the 4000 level; and b) includes a minimum 10 units of research methodology or research training usually at the 4000 level; iii) is designed so that students receive progressive marks, or feedback, for all course assessment items throughout the program; and iv) does not permit the granting of credit for courses completed as part of a Bachelor degree (level 7) or other qualifications at a level lower than AQF level 8, except where it can be demonstrated that the research methodology has been completed at 3000 level. PART B - Special Requirements i) All distinguishable components of the program are to be identified either as courses or within courses. If they are courses, they must have course codes, unit value, a course outline and assessment criteria. ii) All distinguishable components within courses or the program must be given a mark and students informed of their progressive mark; and iii) All component/course marks must contribute to the class of honours.
Admission and selection criteria	The admission and selection criteria for each program will be determined by the College and approved by Academic Senate in accordance with the criteria listed below: PART A - General Admission Criteria College admission and selection criteria must: i) be appropriate for this AQF Level and its required learning outcomes; ii) take into account external benchmarks; iii) ensure that students have adequate prior knowledge and skills to complete the program successfully; iv) include special admission procedures to support access and equity targets; and v) establish English language entry requirements to ensure that students are sufficiently competent in the English language to participate effectively in the program and achieve the learning outcomes (Please see English Language Proficiency Policy). PART B - Additional Admission Criteria The College Board will ensure that successful applicants to a Bachelor Honours Degree (80) will have also satisfied the selection criteria prescribed by Academic Senate ensuring that successful applicants have: i) qualified for the award of a Bachelor degree (level 7); and ii) completed the requirements of an approved major in the field of study, to be their focus in the Honours program; and iii) achieved the approved GPA listed in the handbook for the program with a minimum of: a) Cumulative GPA of 5.0 or higher in the Bachelor degree; or b) GPA of 5.0 or higher in the approved major; or c) GPA of 5.0 or higher in 60 units of approved courses at the 3000 level; and iv) met any supplementary criteria listed in the handbook (such as presentation of portfolio, interview, auditions); and v) had a written application approved by the relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor (or nominee) responsible for the program.
Major	Bachelor Honours Degrees (80) may offer a major that is a sequence of courses in a discipline that has been approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee. Each major: i) must have at least 60 unique units; and ii) be a minimum of 80 units.
Additional Requirements	This section is intentionally blank.
Graduate Learning Outcomes	Graduate learning outcomes underpin the design of all academic programs offered by the University. Graduate learning outcomes will be developed for each program in accordance with Academic Senate policy and as prescribed by AQF including: i) fundamental skills, such as literacy and numeracy appropriate to the Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree (80), including English language proficiency; ii) people skills, such as working with others and communication skills; iii) thinking skills, such as learning to learn, decision making and problem solving; and iv) personal skills such as self direction and acting with integrity.

i Knowledge	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will have discipline specific: i) coherent and advanced knowledge of the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines; and ii) knowledge of research principles and methods.
ii Skills	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will have discipline specific: i) cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge to identify and provide solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence; ii) cognitive and technical skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of a body of knowledge and theoretical concepts with advanced understanding in some areas; iii) cognitive skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding; iv) technical skills to design and use research in a project; and v) communication skills to present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.
iii Application of Knowledge and Skills	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will demonstrate the discipline specific application of knowledge and skills: i) with initiative and judgement in professional practice and/or scholarship; ii) to adapt knowledge and skills in diverse contexts; iii) with responsibility and accountability for own learning and practice and in collaboration with others within broad parameters; and iv) to plan and execute project work and/or a piece of research and scholarship with some independence.
Qualification for the Award	Completion of the prescribed courses leading to a Bachelors Honours Degree totalling a volume of learning that is typically equivalent to four (4) years, ensuring that the learning outcomes have been achieved for the level. A class of Honours may be awarded as Class I, II/I, II/II, III.
Grading of the Award	The class of Honours awarded for Bachelor Honours Degrees (80) will be determined in accordance with the Awards and Graduation Policy .
Qualification Title	Bachelor of (Field of Study/ Discipline) (Honours)
Pathways - General	The University supports student mobility and the elimination of unfair and unnecessary barriers to our qualifications. Approved entry pathways and admission criteria are described in Admission and Selection Criteria, above.
Pathways - Credit and Advanced Standing	Credit will not be granted except in accordance with the AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy (especially clause 2.1.9). No credit permitted for work completed in Level 7 Bachelor Degree (240 or 320 units).
Pathways - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is possible for both formal and informal prior learning. RPL may be used for admission purposes or to grant advanced standing. RPL will be evaluated on a case by case basis and must be current and relevant to the program's learning outcomes. (Please see Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy).
Pathways - combined degrees	A combined degree may be formally approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC) and listed in Bachelor Honours Degree (80) - Approved AQF Compliant Programs or determined on a case by case application in accordance with the Combined Degree Principles described in the Program Design and Management Manual .
Pathways - nested or integrated qualifications	Nested qualifications are qualifications that include articulated arrangements from a lower level qualification to a higher qualification to enable multiple entry and exit points. These are purposely designed qualifications that enable explicit articulation pathways and encompass more than one AQF level and/or qualification type. A Bachelor Honours Degree (80 units) cannot be nested (or integrated).
Pathways Exit	There are no approved Exit Degrees from Bachelor Honours Degree (80).
Pathways - Graduate	Graduates of this program may seek admission to a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters Degree (Coursework), Masters Degree (Extended), Masters Degree (Research), Doctoral Degree (Research).
Professional Accreditation	This section is intentionally blank.
Additional Information	Program information about Bachelor Honours Degrees will clearly identify how the research component is to be assessed and marking finalised.

Section 3 - Notes

(6) Other Information about Programs – may be added here.

(7) 1. $2N+2$ where N is equal to the notional duration identified by the Volume of learning.

Section 4 - Relaxing Provision

(8) To provide for exceptional circumstances arising in any case, the President of Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor or relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor may relax any provision of this Schedule provided that the relaxation:

- a. does not compromise compliance with external obligations (including but not limited to contractual, legislative or accreditation requirements);
- b. does not override a decision made under a formal delegation of authority;
- c. does not replace a decision that is subject to a formal delegation of authority; and
- d. gives due consideration to the principles of procedural fairness.

Section 5 - Reporting

(9) The President of the Academic Senate will report all applications of the relaxing provision of this Schedule to the Academic Senate.

Section 6 - Appendices

(10) [Bachelor Honours Degree \(80\) - Approved AQF Compliant Programs](#)

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	12th November 2025
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Approval Authority	President Academic Senate
Approval Date	11th November 2025
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Responsible Executive	Belinda Yourn Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Enquiries Contact	John Radvan Senior Manager, Academic Governance & Compliance Student Central

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"Council" - The governing authority of the University established under section 8A of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

"Graduate" - (Noun) Has the same meaning as in section 3(2) of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

"University" - The University of Newcastle, a body corporate established under sections 4 and 5 of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

"Class" - When referring to a class attended by Students, a class is any teaching and learning activity of a course. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Advanced standing" - A form of credit for any previous learning as defined by the Australian Qualifications Framework.

"Applicant" - Where referring to a student, an applicant is an individual seeking entry to a program or course offered by the University or its partner organisation/s. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Assessment item" - Any form of work used to measure student learning outcomes and to determine the final result for a student in a course.

"Award" - When referring to a University qualification, this term means an academic qualification approved by Academic Senate that is conferred when a student has met the relevant program requirements. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Bachelor Honours" - Refers to AQF level 8 Bachelor Honours programs. These may be a one year 'end-on' and following a level 7 (240 unit) Bachelor program or be embedded in a 320 unit, level 8, program.

"Course" - When referring to a course offered by the University, a course is a set of learning activities or learning opportunities with defined, assessed and recorded learning outcomes. A course will be identified by an alphanumeric course code and course title. Course types include core courses, compulsory courses, directed courses, capstone courses and electives. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Credit" - When referring to course credit, credit is the recognition of equivalence in content and learning outcomes between different types of learning and/or qualifications. Credit can reduce the amount of learning required to achieve

a qualification. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Cumulative GPA" - The Grade Point Average calculated over all units undertaken within the program as per the Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation Guideline.

"Student" - A person formally enrolled in a course or active in a program offered by the University or affiliated entity.

"Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)" - Means an assessment of an individual's prior learning to determine where credit will be granted. RPL includes formal, informal, and non-formal learning.

"Volume of learning" - Identifies the notional duration of all activities required for the achievement of the learning outcomes specified for a particular AQF qualification type. It is expressed in equivalent full-time years.

"GPA" - The Grade Point Average calculated over a set of courses or specified number of courses at a particular level as per the Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation Guideline.

"Learning outcome" - In accordance with the AQF definitions, the expression of a set of knowledge, skills and the application of the knowledge and skills a person has acquired and is able to demonstrate as a result of learning.

"Program" - When referring to learning, a program is a sequence of approved learning, usually leading to an Award. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Progressive marks, or feedback" - Students will be provided progressive results on their progress throughout the program by their Course Coordinator, supervisor or program convenor.

"Research" - As defined in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, or any replacing Code or document.

"School" - An organisational unit forming part of a College or Division, responsible for offering a particular course.

"Unit" - When referring to an academic unit, unit means the proportional amount of academic credit allotted to a course. This term is used to define the requirements for a program award of the University and indicate a student's enrolment load. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Unit value" - The unit value for the course: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70 or 80 units.

"Major" - When referring to a program major, this is a sequence of courses approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee, which students may be required to complete as part of their undergraduate program (except undergraduate Diplomas). Each major will contain at least 80 units with at least 60 unique units. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"College" - An organisational unit established within the University by the Council.

"College Board" - The principal governance committee of the College.