

Assessment criteria

Written work will be assessed according to:

- * Knowledge and understanding of the field
- * Selection, structuring and ordering of material
- * Accuracy of facts
- * Critical ability and capacity for clear logical reasoning
- * Evidence of originality
- * Quality and clarity of written English
- * Effective use of illustrations
- * General presentation

The supervisor will also report on their student's aptitude for research, including:

- * Motivation and application
- * Planning and organization
- * Technical competence
- * Curiosity and alertness to practical problems

Grant proposal

The assessment of the grant proposal is based on the written proposal that you submit. It is not based on your performance in the first meeting with your examiners. Examiners should assign a grade and a mark to the proposal based on the scheme below.

Students will be told a grade (First (low or high), Second (low or high), Third) but not a specific mark for their proposal.

Thesis

Supervisor(s) input on thesis / student: *It is a College of Science requirement that supervisor(s) are consulted by the examination panel about how their student compares against the listed criteria, before the final mark is decided. Supervisors must be invited by the Chair of the Examination Panel to attend the meeting of examiners in order to comment, but then they must leave the room for the panel to decide the final mark.*

Examiners should assign a grade and a mark to the proposal based on the scheme below.

Students will be told the overall grade and mark for the combined assessment following the examiners meeting.

Honours Marking Procedures and Policies

Below are the standard grading criteria set out by the ANU College of Science for all science honours at ANU. BoZo uses these criteria but we distribute the marks based on more simple categories, with a several point spread between them, so as to make the marking easier and the meaning of the mark more clear. The BoZo-specific marks and what they mean are in boxes below. We use this scheme for both the honours proposal and the thesis. Note that borderline marks/grades (50, 60, 70, 80) should be avoided if possible to make a clear distinction about the student's work.

Grading criteria set out by the ANU College of Science

The following criteria are used to assess the quality of theses and to assign grades. Departments will ask the supervisors to comment on whether the students have demonstrated some of these characteristics, while the judgement on other characteristics will rely purely on the thesis.

[Honours III 50–59](#)

[Honours IIB 60–69](#)

[Honours IIA 70–79](#)

[Honours I 80–89](#)

[High Honours I 90–100](#)

Honours III 50–59:

- The student has demonstrated some knowledge of the relevant background literature, but with serious gaps, and limited understanding.
- The student applied relevant techniques and carried out research work, but needed considerable assistance and showed limited understanding of the procedures employed.
- The student presented their results, though in a somewhat muddled and/or incomplete way.

Specific grades and marks used in BoZo	
50	Borderline III
53	Low III
58	High III

Honours IIB 60–69:

As for Honours III, but in addition:

- The student has demonstrated a reasonable knowledge of the relevant background literature, with only a few gaps, albeit in a somewhat uncritical way.
- The student demonstrated that they had learned many of the relevant skills (which might include laboratory techniques, computer programming and statistical analysis).
- The student presented their results in an appropriate format, and communicated them effectively.

Specific grades and marks used in BoZo	
60	Borderline IIB
63	Low IIB
68	High IIB

Honours IIA 70–79%:

As for Honours IIB, but in addition:

- The student has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the relevant background literature, though still with limited critical appreciation.
- The student demonstrated reasonable technical mastery of all the relevant skills.
- The student worked hard, efficiently and carefully.
- The student presented their results and/or data clearly and succinctly.

Specific grades and marks used in BoZo	
70	Borderline IIA
73	Low IIA
78	High IIA

Honours I 80–89%:

As for Honours IIA, but in addition:

- The student has critically analysed the relevant background literature rather than merely summarising it.
- The thesis demonstrates a clear appreciation of how their work fits in to the larger field of research.
- The student demonstrated considerable technical mastery of all the relevant skills.
- They showed some appreciation of the limitations of the experimental design or techniques used and have outlined future research directions that are feasible.
- The student put forward their own useful and valid ideas relating to the project.
- The student further demonstrated the ability to see, and take, the logical next step without excessive 'prodding', the ability to act independently of the supervisor's immediate direction and presence, but the maturity to know when the supervisor's help is necessary.
- The student demonstrated the persistence and ability to carry on under difficulty.
- They picked up new concepts and skills rapidly.
- They showed the ability to work effectively in the presence of others.

High honours I >90:

As above, but in addition:

- The student obtained concepts and procedures independently from the literature and at least discussed a use for them in the study.
- The student demonstrated impressive technical mastery of all the relevant skills.
- They demonstrate a good understanding not only of the techniques they employed, but other alternative techniques and the reasons for choosing between them.
- They have outlined possible future directions which are not merely feasible but which show considerable originality.
- The student not only put forward useful and valid ideas relating to the project, but also demonstrated the ability to critically evaluate and act upon such ideas.

Specific grades and marks used in BoZo	
80	Borderline First
83	Low (Good) First
88	High (Excellent) First
93	Outstanding First
98	Near Perfect First

Minimum requirements for the Faculty of Science Honours assessment processes

- There should be at least two examiners on the examining panel, for every thesis
- The examining panel should not include a supervisor (except in cases where the Dean has approved the inclusion of a supervisor as failure to do so could affect the expertise of the assessment)
- At least one examiner should not be a specialist in the topic of the thesis
- Students must have had written descriptors of the marking criteria that will be used to assess their thesis
- There must be a clear and objective link between the written descriptors and the grades assigned
- Examiners must use the Faculty grade descriptors in providing a mark
- The examining panel will construct a brief written report on each thesis
- The examining panel will attempt to arrive at a consensus grade recommendation for the thesis
- Supervisors will be duly consulted by the examining panel or the examiners. The final recommendation on a grade by the panel should be made without the supervisor present (except in cases where the Dean has approved the inclusion of a supervisor as failure to do so could affect the expertise of the assessment)
- Final marks for an overall honours grade and the components are arrived at in a meeting with all examiners present
- Special consideration of individual student circumstances is undertaken and documented according to University and Faculty policy
[http://www.anu.edu.au/cabs/rules/746examinations\(faculties\)02.pdf](http://www.anu.edu.au/cabs/rules/746examinations(faculties)02.pdf) <http://www.anu.edu.au/science/exams/examrules.html>
- There should be some feedback to the student on the progress of the thesis by the mid point of their project.