

Review of University Medals 2015

Approved recommendations

Recommendation 1:

- That the purpose of the ANU University Medal be to recognise students who have obtained First Class Honours (or Masters Advanced Equivalent) and demonstrated exceptional academic excellence across their studies.

Recommendation 2

- That each College establish a College Medals Committee which will make recommendations on Medal candidates to the University Medals Committee. The College Medals Committee could be the College Education Committee, College Honours Committee or a College Committee that has their terms of reference approved by the DVCA. Only those candidates who have achieved the minimum academic requirements for a medal (recommendation 5) are eligible to be ranked. College nominees must have undertaken honours within the nominating College.

Recommendation 3

- That a central administrative division advise College Medals Committees on graduating students who have achieved the minimum academic level required for the award of a Medal.

Recommendation 4

- That the University establish a University Medals Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience), Dean of Students and an academic staff representative from each College. The University Medals Committee will consider College recommendations for the award of University Medals and ensure parity of academic achievement by Medal recipients. The University Medals Committee will endorse Medal recipients and make recommendations to a Deputy Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Recommendation 5

- That candidates for University Medals from 2015 onwards achieve as a minimum requirement First Class Honours (or Masters Advanced equivalent) and a GPA of 6.5 in their relevant degree. In the case of double degree students who have undertaken honours in both degrees will have the better of their two degrees considered or if they have only undertaken honours in one degree, the degree that the student has undertaken honours in will be considered.

Recommendation 6

- That a student found guilty of academic or general misconduct, including plagiarism, be ineligible for the award of a University Medal.

Recommendation 7

- That the results of all courses undertaken as part of the relevant program be considered in evaluating Medal candidates. This includes all courses undertaken as part of double degrees where Medal candidates are enrolled in double degrees. Grades obtained in the first year of an undergraduate program may be excluded from the calculation of the GPA where omission would advantage the Medal candidate. Students who record a single fail grade in the first year of their undergraduate studies remain eligible to receive a University Medal. Students who record more than one fail grade over the course of their relevant program, including first year, are ineligible for the University Medal.

Recommendation 8

- That courses undertaken at other universities which contribute towards the ANU award be included in the evaluation of Medal candidates. Students who transfer to ANU from other universities (including articulation students) may be asked for a transcript from their previous university by the secretariat of the University Medals Committee. Students who complete an Honours year only at ANU be eligible for the University Medal. These students will be evaluated on the performance in the Honours year and their record at the previous University.

Recommendation 9

- That students undertaking a discrete one year full time equivalent Honours program be evaluated for a medal on the following basis:
 - 50% weighting for the 48 units comprising the Honours program; and
 - 50% weighting for all other courses within the undergraduate program (144 or more units of credit)

Recommendation 10

- That the University Medal naming practice be modified to delete the discipline name (“University Medal” rather than the current “University Medal in [Discipline]”) to remove the misconception that the Medal recognises only the achievement in a specified discipline area. An individual student can only receive one University Medal for an Australian Qualifications Framework level.

Recommendation 11

- That each College have a nominal cap of Medals as a guide set at 3% of the College Honours cohort with the College cap to be rounded up to the nearest whole number. If the cap of 3% is exceeded, these applications will be presented to a sub-committee of one of the DVCs and four level E2/E3 professors at ANU. This sub-committee will review and provide a recommendation to the University Medals Committee. Each College will have a default minimum allowance of one Medal per graduating Honours cohort, noting that all nominees must demonstrate exceptional academic excellence. In making recommendations the College Medals committees will rank all eligible candidates.
All students ranked by Colleges must meet the minimum academic requirement of First Class Honours and a GPA of 6.5 (recommendation 5).

Only in exceptional circumstances will more than one Medal be awarded in a single academic field each year.

Double degree students who have undertaken honours in both degrees will have the better of their two degrees considered or if they have only undertaken honours in one degree, the degree that the student has undertaken honours in will be considered.

Recommendation 12

- That the University Medals Committee provide an annual report to the Coursework Awards and Admissions Committee (CAAC) on the medals awarded in the previous year, including the distribution by gender and by College.

Recommendation 13

- That the following timeline be adopted for the awarding of medals

Timing	Action
Two weeks after census	Colleges notified of their Medal cap and receive a list of students with the potential to meet Medal eligibility requirements

Immediately following confirmation of results	College Medal Committee receives advice from Student administration on students meeting eligibility requirements. College Medal Committee ranks Medal nominees and provides rankings to University Medals Committee
Within seven working days of finalisation of results	University Medals Committee meets to consider College nominations and whether to use its discretion to award any nominees below the line
Beginning of each year	University Medals Committee meets to consider the Medal cap for the year and recommend any adjustments to the Medals award process.

I recommend that we codify all of the above in a policy and procedure.