

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC ACADEMIC POLICY		Number: AP0911.00
Title:	Honours, Distinction and Merit	
Baldrige Criteria:	3 Customers	
Chief Executive Approval:	Date of Approval: 15 August 2016	Effective Date: 15 August 2016
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Contact Authority:	Director: Quality	Status: CURRENT

Purpose To provide standardised grading systems across all degree and postgraduate programmes at Otago Polytechnic to ensure consistency of grade outcomes at qualification level.

Policy and procedures

1. Merit and distinction may only be awarded for bachelors degrees, graduate certificates, graduate diplomas, postgraduate certificates, postgraduate diplomas, and masters degrees.

NB: Existing (at 16/11/2015) Level 1 - 6 certificate and diplomas and Level 1 - 6 courses which have merit and distinction will continue to be able to award these until replaced by a New Zealand Certificate or a New Zealand Diploma.

2. No Distinction or Merit will be awarded for Doctoral programmes.
3. All deliveries of a degree, graduate certificate, graduate diploma, postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, and masters degree qualifications will have the same merit and distinction rules applied.
4. Where applicable degree* and postgraduate qualifications will award merit and distinction using the grading systems below.
*Degree programmes who do not offer merit and distinction must have sound justification approved by Academic Board.

- 4.1. The following grading system is to be used for **Merit and Distinction**

Distinction a credit weighted average in the "A grade range" (≥ 80%) over all courses within the last year of the qualification.

Merit a credit weighted average in the "B to B+ grade range" (70-79%) over all courses within the last year of the qualification.

Pass a credit weighted average in the "C to B- grade range" (≤ 69%) over all courses within the last year of the qualification.

- 4.2. The following grading system is to be used for **Bachelor's degrees with Honours:**

1st class pass: a credit weighted average in the "A grade range" (≥ 80%)

2nd class pass: a credit weighted average in the "B to B+ grade range" (70-79%)

Pass: a credit weighted average in the "C grade range" or B- (≤ 69%)

Related Policy, Forms and Documents AP0900 Assessment
AP0903 Grade Tables

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