

HIGH ACHIEVER PROGRAM AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROGRAM SCALING REPORT 2016

18 December 2016

BACKGROUND

- A collaboration between the University of Tasmania and the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards & Certification (TASC) allows results from High Achiever Program (HAP) units, and some University College Program (UCP) units, to be counted towards the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) in Tasmania.
- Subject scaling will be applied to relevant HAP and UCP units studied in 2016 and beyond.
- The scaling process is determined by TASC and is applied to all accredited senior secondary courses at TASC level 3 or 4 and to approved* University of Tasmania units at Foundation level and above.
- This scaling report provides background about the established scaling process for TASC level 3 or 4, and demonstrates how the same process is applied to subject scaling for HAP and UCP units.
- The report *Scaling for ATAR calculations - Tasmania: 2005-2013* identifies the fundamental assumptions of scaling and the extent to which the data support these assumptions.

HAP AND UCP SCALING OVERVIEW

- By applying rigorous statistical techniques, scaling aligns results from different units, subjects, studies or courses onto a common scale.
- TASC Level 3 and 4 subjects are scaled using information for these subjects for all TASC students.
- HAP and UCP units are scaled using information for these units, concurrently with TASC subjects, for TASC students and university students. This method allows for more reliable subject score values for each HAP and UCP unit than would be possible if based solely on information from TASC students only.
- Scaled Subject Scores for each HAP and UCP units are not published to protect privacy due to the small numbers of TASC students who may be undertaking particular HAP and UCP subjects.
- The scaling process has been externally reviewed and validated.

TASC SCALING COMMITTEE

- The Scaling Committee met on December 15 and 16, 2016 to review the scaling process and outcomes. The Scaling Committee included representatives from the University of Tasmania, TASC and each school sector, with expertise in curriculum, assessment, and educational measurement.
- The core principles of the Scaling Committee are to ensure equitable outcomes for TASC students.

OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES

An overview of outcomes of scaling of HAP and UCP results for TASC students in 2016 is shown in Figure 1. The dots represent assessment results.

- University of Tasmania marks in the range 90-100 scaled to TASC Subject Scores in the range 23.0 to 26.0 for most cases. These subject scores are similar to the highest range of scale values assigned for TASC courses for Exceptional Achievement Awards.

- University of Tasmania marks in the range 50-60 scaled to TASC Subject Scores in the range 4.0 to 8.0. These subject scores are similar to the highest range of scale values assigned for TASC courses for Commendable Achievement Awards.

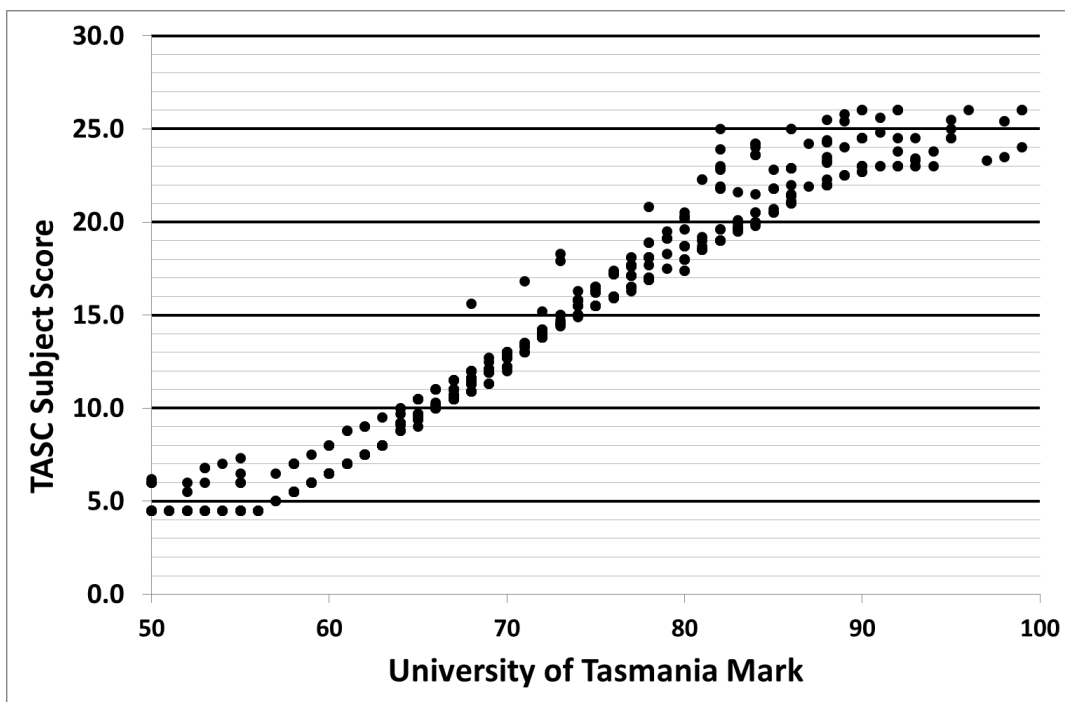


Figure 1. Distribution of TASC Subject Scores by University of Tasmania Mark, TASC students 2016.

- Modelling work undertaken for data from 2013, 2014 and 2015 was used to inform Scaling Committee considerations. Final scaled Subject Scores agreed by the Committee showed strong comparability with subject scores from previous years, ensuring year to year equity.

A summary of the ranges of Subject Scores is also presented in Table 1.

	PASS	CREDIT	DISTINCTION	HIGH DISTINCTION	
	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100
Minimum	4.5	6.5	12.0	17.4	22.7
Maximum	7.5	15.6	20.8	26.0	26.0
Mean	5.3	9.5	15.3	21.3	24.2

Table 1. TASC Subject Scores for each University of Tasmania result category.

RELATED INFORMATION

- <http://www.utas.edu.au/access-participation-and-partnerships/ucp>
- <http://www.utas.edu.au/access-participation-and-partnerships/hap>