

HIGHER ACHIEVER PROGRAM AND UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM SCALING REPORT 2017

BACKGROUND

- A collaboration between the [University of Tasmania](#) and the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) allows results from the University of Tasmania's [High Achiever Program \(HAP\) units](#) and some [University Connections Program \(UCP\)](#) units to be counted towards the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) in Tasmania.
- The University Connections Program was previously named the University College Program prior to 2017.
- The approved list of University of Tasmania HAP and UCP courses that contribute towards the Tasmanian Certificate of Education are published on the TASC website:
 - [High Achiever Program \(HAP\)](#)
 - [University Connections Program \(UCP\)](#)
- The [University of Tasmania website](#) provides further information about the UCP units, including information about which units contribute towards the ATAR.
- Scaling is applied to all relevant University of Tasmania HAP and UCP units studied from 2016 onwards.
- The scaling process is determined by TASC and is applied to all TASC accredited senior secondary courses at Level 3 or Level 4 and to approved University of Tasmania units.
- This scaling report provides background concerning the established scaling process for TASC Level 3 or Level 4 courses and demonstrates how the same process is applied to course scaling for HAP and UCP units.
- The [scaling outcomes for recent years](#) are published on the TASC website.
- 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

- Scaling aligns results from different units/ courses into a common scale, applying rigorous statistical techniques when performing calculations.
- TASC accredited Level 3 and Level 4 courses are scaled using information for these courses for all TASC students.
- HAP and UCP units are scaled using information for these units, concurrently with TASC courses, for all TASC students and university students. This method allows for more reliable course score values for each HAP and UCP unit than would be possible if based solely on information from TASC students only.
- Scaling values for each HAP and UCP unit are not published to protect privacy due to small number of TASC students that may be undertaking particular units.
- This process has been externally reviewed and validated.

TASC SCALING COMMITTEE

- The TASC Scaling Committee met on 14 December 2017 to review the scaling process and outcomes.
- The core principles of the Scaling Committee are to ensure equitable outcomes for students.
- The Scaling Committee included representatives from the University of Tasmania, TASC and each school sector, with expertise in curriculum, assessment, and educational measurement.

OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES

An overview of outcomes of scaling of HAP and UCP results for TASC students in 2017 is shown in Figure 1. The dots represent assessment results.

- University of Tasmania marks in the range 90–100 were scaled to TASC course scores from 17.8–26.0 in most cases. These course scores are similar to the range of scaled values assigned for TASC courses for Exceptional Achievement (EA) awards.
- University of Tasmania marks in the range 50–60 were scaled to TASC course scores from 6.0–8.4. These course scores are similar to the range of scaled values assigned for TASC courses for Commendable Achievement (CA) awards.

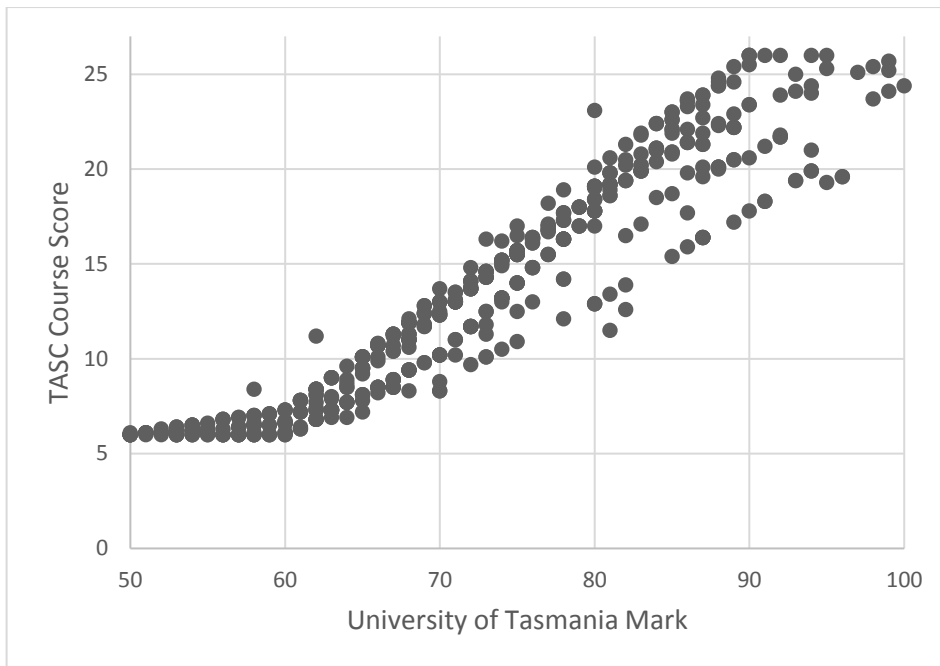


Figure 1. Distribution of TASC course scores by University of Tasmania mark, TASC students 2017.

- The Scaling Committee was aware of modelling work undertaken for data from 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. It was agreed that the resulting values obtained showed strong comparability with previous course scores, ensuring reasonably year to year consistency.
- A summary of the ranges of course scores is also presented in Table 1.

Table 1. TASC course scores for each University of Tasmania result category.

	Pass	Credit	Distinction	High Distinction
Minimum	6.0	6.0	8.3	11.5
Maximum	8.4	12.8	18.9	26.0
Mean	6.3	9.1	14.3	20.7

SCALING SCORE FOR DIFFERENT COURSES

- Scaling aligns results from different units/ studies/ courses into a common scale, applying rigorous statistical techniques when performing calculations.
- Any given University of Tasmania mark may attract a different TASC course score as a result of scaling.
 - A University of Tasmania mark of 70 resulted in a TASC course score ranging from 8.3 – 13.7.
 - A University of Tasmania mark of 80 resulted in a TASC course score ranging from 12.9 – 23.1.
- The Scaling Committee noted the scaling outcomes demonstrated for outcomes that were consistent with those scaling outcomes for TASC.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [TASC information on scaling](#)
- University of Tasmania information on [University Connections Program](#)
- University of Tasmania information on [High Achiever Program](#)