LLB/LP (Hons) – Policies and Procedures

August 2014

These policies apply to students who enrolled in the LLB/LP (Hons) in 2011 or later

At a meeting of the Law School Board in Semester 1, 2014, several changes were made to Honours Policies. The purpose of these changes was to align the Flinders Law Honours degree with national standards for honours degrees and with practice across the University, and to rectify some minor issues which had arisen in relation to the calculation of classes of honours and continuing in the degree. This document summarises current policies, as approved by the Board. It should be read in conjunction with the course rule, which is available on the University website. Later year students may also be interested in the Topic Guide for LLAW6001 Dissertation, which contains information about designing a dissertation topic, finding a supervisor, and assessment method. The current topic guide is available on request from the Honours Co-ordinator.

Criteria for Retention and Transfer

(From the Course Rule: “Students will need to have a GPA of 5.70 or higher to enter the final year of the course. Those not meeting this requirement will transfer to The Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice. Students enrolled in The Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice may transfer to The Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Honours) if they have achieved a GPA of at least 5.70 after completion of 36 or 72 units of the degree. Under exceptional circumstances and subject to specific conditions, the Law School Board may invite other students.”)

In accordance with this paragraph in the Course Rule, the Law School Board has resolved to allow applications from students, either to remain in the degree, or to transfer into the degree, under the following circumstances:

Any student who satisfies the following requirements:

a. has a GPA for all law topics over 5.5;
b. either has completed between 72 and 108 units in the LLB/LP (students wishing to transfer to honours) or has received notification that they may be transferred to the LLB/LP (students wishing to remain in the honours degree);
c. has a GPA of 5.7 for the most recent 36 graded units in the LLB/LP or the LLB/LP (Hons);
d. has capacity in their study plan to undertake LLAW6001 Dissertation; and
e. in the opinion of the Honours Committee could fulfill the requirements to be awarded honours;
may apply to the Honours Committee to be accepted into the LLB/LP (Hons). The Honours Committee will have discretion to decline applications if accepting additional students seems likely to place a strain on the ability of the Law School to supervise students.
Calculation of Class of Honours
(Note: Due to other changes detailed below, this policy applies only to students who enrolled in the LLB (Hons) in 2011, 2012, 2013, or 2014, regardless of when they complete their LLB/LP (Hons) degree).

1. The Honours GPA will be calculated by weighting the Dissertation at 25%. This is intended to reflect the significance of independent research within the degree.

2. The remaining 75% will be made up of the final 6 graded topics in the LLB/LP (Hons) (excluding the Dissertation) plus a further 8 non-first level graded topics in the LLB/LP (Hons) in which the student has achieved their highest grades. Where there are more than 6 ‘final’ topics, the best topics in the earliest semester will be counted. (For instance, if the Dissertation plus one graded law topic is completed in S2, 2016, three graded law topics are completed in S1, 2016, and three graded law topics are completed in S2, 2015, the ‘final’ 6 topics will be the four topics from 2016 (not the Dissertation), plus the best two topics from S2, 2015.) Where, on completion of the degree, a student has completed fewer than 14 non-first level topics (excluding the Dissertation and all non-graded topics), the best most recent first level topics may be included.

3. The Honours GPA Classifications are as follows:
   - Hons 1 – 6.40-7.00
   - Hons 2A – 6.10-6.39
   - Hons 2B – 5.70-6.09

   Results will be calculated to two decimal places and will not be rounded up.

Changes to LLB/LP (Hons) course rule for students enrolling in 2015 or later

For all students enrolling in the LLB (Hons) in 2015 and subsequent years, the value of the Dissertation will be 13.5 units, with a reduction in electives of 4.5 units.

The class of honours for students enrolling from 2015 onwards will be based solely or primarily on the result obtained in the Dissertation. The Honours Committee will submit to the Law School Board in 2015 a detailed proposal specifying the process, levels of honours as a function of marks/grades, assessment criteria and other relevant matters. The Law School Board’s decision will be communicated to students in due course.