

18 December 2024

By email: fyi-request-29066-2d4e3232@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe B

I refer to your request for information dated 5 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

"I am writing to enquire about the selection criteria for graduate general category applicants to receive an invitation to interview, in specific reference to the calculation of GPA. I understand the lowest GPA in the graduate general category with confirmed results was 7.0. The minimum GPA to receive an interview for pending academic results in the graduate general category is 6.5.

How is the weighted GPA calculated for both pending and confirmed results?

Please comment on the appropriateness of this calculation and the disadvantage posed to those whose degrees contain mostly full-year, high-point, papers. In my experience, my GPA is above both of the above figures, you can understand my confusion and disappointment."

Our response to your request is set out below.

There are strict limitations to enrolment in the University's Health Sciences Professional Programmes, including Dentistry. See: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/limitations#health-sciences>. Cut offs are established to meet these limitations, taking into account the relevant selection criteria, and these cut offs are subject to change annually in line with each cohort's results and the maximum number of places available. For that reason, the minimum GPA cut off for receiving an offer to interview for the 2025 Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme via the Graduate general category was 7.0 for applicants with confirmed results, and 6.5 for applicants with pending results.

For entry to the 2024 BDS programme via the Graduate general category, the minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer was 7.93. For the 2023 BDS programme, it was 8.63. Approximately 300 candidates across all admissions categories are invited to interview – far exceeding the number of available places. There is significant competition for the limited number of places available in the BDS programme, and it is inevitable that a number of applicants will be declined.

Individual weighted GPA scores can be estimated using the information provided in the [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage. Please note that an applicant's weighted GPA score is confirmed as part of the application process. Further information and FAQs on admission to the University's Health Sciences Professional Programmes is available [here](#).

Ngā mihi



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