

31 January 2025

By email: [fyi-request-29066-2d4e3232@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29066-2d4e3232@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe B

I refer to your email of 20 December 2024 in which you requested the below information following your initial Official Information Act (the Act) request of 5 November 2024:

*It seems you have not answered the question.*

*Please answer the question in reference to those applicants completing degrees which have full year, high point papers. Are they disadvantaged in this calculation, as no final year points will be contributed to the pending GPA. Please comment on the appropriateness of this.*

*For example: this 2024 year applicants for 2025BDS with pending weighted GPA calculations in a course such as the Bachelor of Oral Health with 3 full year papers and one 15 point semester one paper. It is impossible, using the university of Otago provided calculator for the weighted GPA, to reach the threshold with achieving an A+ in every paper, and despite at the completion of the degree reaching a GPA well above both of the interview threshold values.*

Our response to your request:

The Act enables people to request official information from the University. However, the Act only applies to information that is already held by the University. There is no obligation for the University to create information or generate an opinion or explanation in order to respond to a request. Therefore, your request for “comment” on any potential disadvantage for applicants to the University’s Bachelor of Dentistry (BDS) programme who are completing degrees with full year, high points papers is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held.

Information we hold and are able to provide:

The Faculty of Dentistry interviewed many more Graduate General category applicants than places in the BDS programme. The Dental Admissions Committee set different thresholds for applicants with final results pending and those with completed degrees in order to be fair to all applicants. As previously communicated to you, the GPA threshold for interview was set at 6.5 for those applying in the Graduate General category with final results pending, and a GPA threshold of 7.0 was set for applicants with a completed degree.

Please see the following table which shows the minimum weighted GPA scores to receive offers to the BDS programme via the Graduate General category in recent years:

<b>Year of entry to the BDS programme</b>	<b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer, Graduate General category</b>
2022	8.13
2023	8.63
2024	7.93

While an applicant with a GPA of just under 6.5 at the time of application may achieve a GPA of 6.5 or over by the time final results are confirmed, the reality is that there is high demand for a limited number of places. Those applicants who are ultimately selected have scores well above the thresholds set by the BDS programme regulations or by the Dental Admissions Committee. There will be a significant number of students who met or exceeded both GPA thresholds who have not received offers to enter the 2025 BDS programme via the Graduate General category. It is also important to note that the final determining factor in receiving an offer to the programme via the Graduate General is weighted GPA score. Meeting the threshold to receive an interview invite does not guarantee a place in the programme.

We note that the Dental Admissions Committee reviews its admission processes and related academic thresholds each year. As 2024 was the first year that the BDS programme set minimum GPA thresholds for interview (previously, threshold results from UCAT were used), the Committee will be including this as part of their review. This will include how the thresholds are applied to applicants both with and without results pending at the time of application.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

Ngā mihi



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