

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
HONOURS DOCUMENT 1, 2008

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Work in Honours Pure Mathematics, Honours Applied Mathematics and Honours Statistics in 2008 nominally begins on Monday, 4 February, though it is recognised that some students may still be engaged in summer courses and work placements. The period before lectures begin is devoted mainly to work on the student's project in consultation with his or her supervisor. As examinations will be held during the June/July vacation, this period in February is one of the few opportunities during the year for uninterrupted work on projects, and students are strongly advised to make the most of it.

Students may be permitted to enrol in Honours in mid-year. The requirements for these students are the same as those that appear below, but the dates for initiating Honours and submitting deliverables will change. Students interested in starting mid-year Honours should contact the Honours Coordinator.

Each student should arrange a regular meeting (e.g. once a week) with his or her supervisor. As well as supervising the student's work on the project, the supervisor will assist the student in the choice of lecture courses and in the preparation of a seminar. Students must obtain the approval of their supervisor for their course choices.

Dr Alison Wolff (Room 4.22, 10 Pulteney St) is the Honours Coordinator for first semester 2008.

2. LECTURE COURSES

Subject to general and school requirements (see below), Honours students ordinarily take three, four or five courses in each semester (often fewer in the second semester to allow more time for working on projects). Students are encouraged to take more than the required minimum number of courses.

Lecture courses may be chosen from Honours lecture courses given by Mathematics, Physics and Mathematical Physics and Computer Science of this University and by the School of Mathematics and Computer Studies at the University of South Australia. Students may take Level III subjects which they have not taken previously, subject to constraints on the number (see below). The ICE-EM/AMSI Summer School will be held at Monash University in Jan-Feb 2008 (see details at <http://amsiss.maths.monash.edu.au/>), and courses (normally only one) passed there may be counted as Honours courses.

Honours Document 2 will contain a detailed list of Honours Mathematical Sciences courses available, and students will be asked to let the Honours Coordinator know of their course preferences by Monday 18 February so that a timetable can be prepared. The Level IV Preliminary Lecture will be given on Thursday 14 February, at 10:30 am (at a place to be announced). Details will be finalised at this lecture, and it will also be an opportunity for students to ask questions.

3. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is required to submit a project, to take the examination on a selection of lecture courses satisfying all course requirements, and to present a seminar. The lecture courses selected must be approved by the student's supervisor and satisfy all special school requirements.

4. SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

The lecture courses in which the student takes the examination must satisfy the following requirements:

All students

- must complete at least 7 courses; the 7 best marks (for courses which satisfy the rules below) will count 70% toward the final grade
- must include at least 4 approved Honours courses in the enrolled discipline for Honours in a single Discipline and at least 3 approved Honours courses in each of the two areas for joint Honours

- must not include more than 3 Level III subjects (and normally not more than 2); students offering 3 Level III subjects must have their courses approved by the Head of Discipline.

5. ASSESSMENT

Examinations on University of Adelaide first semester courses will be held during the normal exam period in June/July and for second semester courses during the normal exam period in November. The times of the examinations will be announced later. Unless otherwise announced, the examination on each course will be a three-hour written examination. Students taking any Level III course must inform both the Honours Coordinator and subject lecturer at the beginning of the relevant semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Note that such students may also be required to complete additional work in the form of assignments, and their examination may differ from the ordinary Level III examination.

As soon as possible after the examinations, the Honours Coordinator will make the unofficial results of these examinations available to each student.

The final Honours result is made up of course marks (70%), project mark (25%) and seminar mark (5%).

The result is published as a grade, determined in the following manner:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Honours First Class | 80 – 100% |
| Honours Second Class A | 70 – 79% |
| Honours Second Class B | 60 – 69% |
| Honours Third Class | 50 – 59% |
| Degree not awarded | <50% |

6. PROJECT

All stages of the work, including the actual writing, should be done in consultation with the supervisor. Students must take care with referencing and acknowledging the work of others. Plagiarism is not acceptable. A document defining this and what is allowable will be presented and discussed at the Introductory meeting. It is the student's responsibility, in conjunction with the supervisor, to ensure that no plagiarism appears in the project report. The length of the project will depend on the type of material included, e.g. text, tables, formulae or computer output, but students should remember that quantity is no substitute for quality. A normal length for the text section would be in the range 50 to 70 pages. For students wishing to typeset their projects, an introduction to \LaTeX will be given. \LaTeX -based typesetting is the standard for the production of mathematical documents and all students are strongly encouraged to master it. However, it is up to each student (with the advice of the supervisor) to determine the final presentation of the project. Students are discouraged from spending excessive time typesetting their projects.

Students are asked to prepare an annotated outline of their project for submittal to and review by their supervisor by the end of the mid-semester break in Semester 1. This outline should be at least two pages and no more than four pages in length and should be detailed enough to indicate to the supervisor that the student has a good idea of what is expected to appear in the project. A final, revised version of this outline should be provided to the Honours Coordinator a month later.

Projects must be submitted to the Honours Coordinator by 5pm on the last day of lectures in second semester. Extensions beyond this submittal date and time require approval of the supervisor, Honours Coordinator and Head of Discipline. Three soft-bound copies are required: one for the student, one for the supervisor and one for the School. The student's name, student number and supervisor's name should appear on the front cover of the project. The School will pay for the binding of three copies at the Image and Copy Centre (more details will be provided later), though there may be a charge to the student if colour printing is required. The cost of any further copies and binding is the responsibility of the student. An electronic version of the project must be submitted to Stephanie Lord (stephanie.lord@adelaide.edu.au).

The project mark counts as 25% of the final grade.

7. HONOURS SEMINAR

Each Honours student is required to give a short talk (approximately 25 minutes, including time for questions) on a mathematical or statistical topic to the Honours Students Seminar. The speaker should aim to make the subject matter interesting and understandable to all fellow Honours students.

The seminar topic should be chosen in consultation with the supervisor, who will also give advice on the preparation of the talk. All Honours students will be invited to attend a seminar "Giving Successful Presentations" to be given in the mid-year break.

The seminar will count 5% towards the final mark. An Honours Student Seminar Assessment Board will evaluate each student's seminar and determine the appropriate mark for each student. Seminars will be held in the mid-semester breaks.

8. **ROOMS**

Honours students are provided with a workspace in the School of Mathematics. The Honours room in the new quarters at 10 Pulteney St is Room 4.14.

9. **COMMUNICATION**

Supervisors may need to contact their students, and members of staff may need to consult Honours students about timetables and other matters, sometimes at fairly short notice. Students should make sure to check their email on a regular basis.

10. **COMPUTING**

Details will be provided at a later date.

11. **TEA ROOM**

Honours students are encouraged to use the facilities in the tearoom on Level 4 of 10 Pulteney St. However, you are responsible for cleaning up after yourself and making sure your cups, etc. are washed up. Tea, coffee, etc. are provided courtesy of the School.

12. **PHOTOCOPYING** Honours students can use the photocopier in Room 4.12. You will be allocated a PIN number, which will entitle you to 400 sheets of copying for the year. The allocation can be extended by paying \$5 for each additional 100 sheets to Jan Sutton.

13. **PARKING PERMITS**

Students are reminded that after hours parking permits (valid after 4:30pm on weekdays and all day at weekends) may be purchased from the Hughes Plaza Security Office and from the Alumni Association.

14. **EVALUATION**

In December 2008, after exams and projects have been completed, the School would like to encourage all Honours students to write a few words on their impressions of the courses attended. Supervisors will remind students of this pleasant task later in the year.

15. **HONOURS DINNER**

Also in December after the completion of exams and projects, there is normally a dinner for the Honours students to which staff and postgraduate students are invited. It is the responsibility of the Honours students to organise this event with the assistance of the Honours Coordinator.

Alison Wolff (Honours Coordinator)

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February 1, 2008