

8 November 2024

By email: fyi-request-28719-76dace8a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe HL

I refer to your information request dated 10 October 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request a spreadsheet that shows the minimum, average, and maximum GPA that the third-year students had for entry into the Honours year of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) in 2023 and 2022.

Our response to your request follows.

We note that the School of Pharmacy calculates average percentage marks, rather than a formal GPA when considering applications to the Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours programme. The School of Pharmacy looks at all 200-level and 300-level (semester one only) papers when assessing eligibility.

We decline to provide you with the average percentage mark distribution of students accepted into the Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours programme for 2022 and 2023, in order to protect the privacy of these individuals, under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Where numbers are low, we consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their academic scores) disclosed.

Despite this refusal, we can advise that across the cohort accepted into the Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours programme in 2022, their average percentage mark was 88.4%, and in 2023 it was 86.4%.

It is also important to note that academic grades are only one factor when considering applications to the Bachelor of Pharmacy Honours programme. As well as academic excellence, an applicant's brief personal statement, relevant research experience, and fit for particular research projects (from a student and supervisor perspective) are considered.

In case it is helpful, further information on the University's Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours Programme is available on the University's website:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/bpharmhons#requirements>

We hope this information is useful.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frewen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance