

29 October 2024

By email: fyi-request-29968-92d72746@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

I refer to your request for information dated 4 February 2025 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

... could you please provide the following information for Bachelor of Oral Health programme:

- 1) Lowest successful first-round offer GPA for the last three years (HSFY category only)*
- 2) Average successful first-round offer GPA for the last three years (HSFY category only)*
- 3) Average successful first-round offer GPA for the last three years (Graduate entry category)*
- 3) Lowest successful waitlist offer GPA for the last three years (HSFY category only)*

Can you please provide me with the grades I should aim for in HSFY to gain entry into Bachelor of Oral Health Programme at Otago.

Our response to your request follows.

Information on the entry requirements for the University of Otago's Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) programme is available on the University's website: [Oral Health: Guidelines for Admission](#). This provides information on the different categories of admission, application process, selection criteria, and content for the programme. For example, this information indicates that to be considered for admission under the One Year of University Study category, an applicant may also be required to attend an interview and may be required to pass prescribed papers, to a standard determined by the Committee, before being admitted to the programme.

Students enrolled in Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) apply for the BOH programme via the One Year of University Study category, rather than the HSFY category. They receive an average GPA calculation. The methods used for calculating scores for these categories are described at the website location noted above. The Graduate category uses "weighted GPA scores", which are calculated from the grades achieved in the qualifying degree, which is usually the first degree awarded to the applicant.

Unfortunately it is not possible at this time to provide the information you seek for 2025, as admissions processes are still ongoing. Once admissions processes have concluded, the University has in the past provided information of the type sought in your request, including minimum academic scores for programme entry, usually available in the first quarter of each year. We have however provided information for entry in **2023** and **2024**.

We have provided the **minimum** (lowest) and **mean** (rather than average) weighted GPA scores to receive offers to the BOH programme via the One Year of University Study category and the Graduate category, broken down by equity group. In all cases this data applies to offers generally (not first round or waitlist).

Subject to the following comments, please see this information in the below tables:

- The data is correct as at 29 October 2024.
- On occasions where fewer than five students received offers under a specific category and/or equity group, we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the admission score information for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing, under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined for inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their scores) being disclosed. In the tables below, information withheld will be indicated using "<5", and "N/A" will be used where no applicant received offers.

Admissions Scores of One Year of University applicants receiving offers for BOH in 2023						
	General	Māori	Pacific	Socioeconomic	Refugee	Rural
Minimum	3.71	4.25	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mean	6.50	6.24	<5	<5	<5	<5

Admissions Scores of Graduate applicants receiving offers for BOH in 2023						
	General	Māori	Pacific	Socioeconomic	Refugee	Rural
Minimum	5.70	N/A	<5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mean	6.40	N/A	<5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Admissions Scores of One Year of University applicants receiving offers for BOH in 2024						
	General	Māori	Pacific	Socioeconomic	Refugee	Rural
Minimum	5.67	2.00	W/H	W/H	W/H	W/H
Mean	7.95	3.64	W/H	W/H	W/H	W/H

Admissions Scores of One Year of University applicants receiving offers for BOH in 2023						
	General	Māori	Pacific	Socioeconomic	Refugee	Rural
Minimum	<5	<5	<5	N/A	<5	<5
Mean	<5	<5	<5	N/A	<5	<5

In the cases above, 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.

We hope this information will be helpful.

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', written in a cursive style.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance