

## Graded Honours in Speech Pathology

*For students considering applying to complete Graded Honours in their fourth (final) year of program Speech Pathology.*

### What is Graded Honours?

Graded Honours is a stream of study that involves undertaking a research project under supervision of an academic researcher at The University of Newcastle within the Speech Pathology Program.

### Who can enrol in Graded Honours?

Students will become eligible to enrol in a Graded Honours Program if they achieve a consistently high level in their academic program to the date of enrolment.

### What does Graded Honours require?

Students accepted into the graded Honours stream are required to successfully complete 30 units of research courses **by** (a) undertaking SPTH4210 Research Review (10 units) **and** (b) SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis (20 units).

The criteria for the determination of class of Honours are detailed in the [Bachelor Honours Policy](#) located in the University Policy Library.

For selected admission into graded Honours for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) program, high performing students are those considered to have achieved the following minimum criterion:

- a GPA Overall above 5.5, calculated in accordance with University policy on all courses above the 1000 level taken prior to entry into graded Honours; and
- a GPA above 5.5 for all courses above the 3000 level taken prior to entry into Graded Honours (at the end of Sem 1) in the year of application (3<sup>rd</sup> year).

The Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) program is an embedded Honours program and offers high performing students selected admission into **graded Honours** on the basis of a pre-determined and publicised level of performance in specified courses in the program (see below). Students who do not complete the graded option will be eligible for ungraded Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours).

Note: Weighted Average Mean (WAM) criterion will be applied in the awarding of graded Honours upon completion, as well as a second criterion in relation to the grade of the research component undertaken. That is, your performance in SPTH4210 Research Review also contributes to your Graded Honours outcome as this mark forms part of the composite of marks for graded Honours. The determination of graded Honours and the level of graded Honours is made by assessment of the student's academic performance in all core 3000/4000 level courses (WAM) and their performance in the Research Component which is comprised of SPTH4440 (Speech Pathology Honours Thesis) and SPTH4210 (Research Review).

### How many students can enrol in Graded Honours each year?

Conducting a Graded Honours Research project relies on the availability of adequate supervision within the Discipline of Speech Pathology. Each year, approximately 6-8 students enter the Graded Honours program in Speech Pathology. In order for the discipline to plan for adequate Graded Honours supervision, it is helpful for us to have an idea of the number of students who are considering enrolment and would potentially be eligible to be selected for inclusion in Graded Honours. Also, knowing who is interested will also help us to understand more about the research interests and capabilities of potential Graded Honours students. This will help us to advise students as to their potential suitability for enrolment in Graded Honours in the following year, and will help students and potential supervisors to prepare for project commencement at the start of

Semester 1 (4<sup>th</sup> year), or Semester 2 (4<sup>th</sup> year) (depending on your program structure) with appropriate ethical approvals in place.

### **What happens once I submit my EOI?**

Students will be ranked based on GPA after EOI period by the Honours Convenor. Ranking determines offers and preferences. The number of students accepted to the Graded Honours pathway each year is dependent on staffing and availability of projects. Final rankings and offers (based on preferences) are determined following final grade release in Semester 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> year). Students who are not accepted into the Graded Honours stream continue in the Ungraded Honours pathway or may choose to apply for another Stream (e.g. the International Stream) if offered in their final year.

### **What are the broad topic areas for potential projects?**

Research projects may relate to any of the range of practice areas and supervisors' research interests. Each year a list of graded Honours projects will be provided. Submitting an Expression of Interest for Graded Honours in the following year does not commit you to the Graded Honours Stream in Speech Pathology. You can also express an interest after this time before enrolling in SPTH4210 (Research Review).

Students can indicate their preference for topic areas on their Expression of Interest (EOI) form (see below). If students require further information about the topic areas they may consult with the project supervisor for that topic prior to submitting an EOI. Please note, topics may be subject to change at the discretion of project supervisors prior to the commencement of the project.

### **When should I apply for entry into the Graded Honours Stream?**

The Honours Convenor in the Speech pathology Program will call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) late in Semester 1 of the academic year via announcements on BlackBoard. Students will be invited to complete an EOI by a determined date (after Semester 1 results are released) and EOIs must be forwarded to the Graded Honours Convenor by the end of week 1, Semester 2. Students will be required to complete the EOI and indicate their current GPA on all 2000 and 3000 level courses completed by the end of their Semester 1, third year. A copy of the EOI form template is below (this may be updated from year to year).

You can use the [GPA calculator](#) to calculate your own GPA to check for your eligibility to apply:

- all courses above the 1000 level taken prior to entry into graded Honours; and
- a GPA above 5.5 for all courses above the 3000 level taken prior to entry into Graded Honours (at the end of Sem 1) in the year of application (3<sup>rd</sup> year).

### **When are EOIs for Graded Honours due?**

EOIs must be forwarded to the Graded Honours Convenor by the end of week 1, Semester 2.

### **When will I find out about entry into Graded Honours?**

You will find out about your entry into the Graded Honours Stream by end September in Semester 2.

### **What does an Honours thesis look like?**

There are two structures available for the graded Honours project and your project structure will be designed in consultation with your Honours Project supervisor(s) and the Honours Convenor.

Further information on the structure of Embedded Honours (AQF level 8) programs can be found in the [Bachelor Honours Policy](#).

### **How is an Honours project marked?**

See Course Outline & B site for the year you enroll. The Honours Convenor will organise this for you and advise of the process.

### What is the outcome of graded Honours?

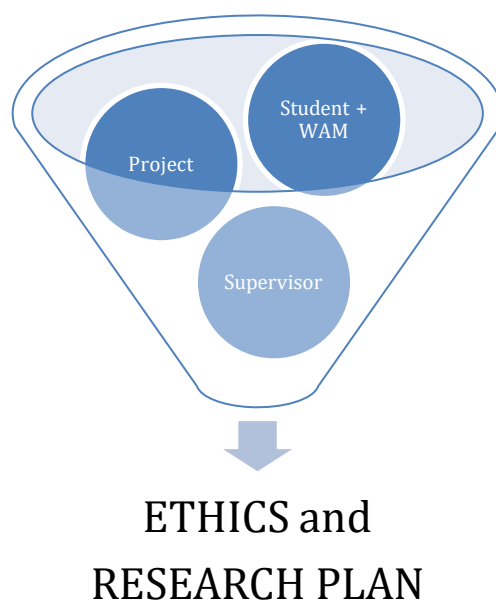
You will receive component marks for SPTH4210 Research review and SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis. Information about this is detailed in the [Bachelor Honours Policy – Examination of the Research Component](#) section and the [Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual](#).

### Why would I consider completing Graded Honours?

There are many opportunities this can lead to in both clinical practice and research. Please consult with the Honours Convenor or any Speech Pathology staff for further information.

## 1. PLANNING PHASE – (Strategy!) 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

- a) Look out for the notification of EOIs!
- b) Complete your EOI after Sem 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> year results are released and you can calculate your GPA.
- c) Start discussions with the Graded Honours Convenor who helps liaise with the potential project supervisor.



## 2. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE – (Action!) 4<sup>th</sup> Year

[Note: if you do SPTH4210 in Sem 1 of 4<sup>th</sup> year, *choose your SPTH4210 topic very carefully, in consultation with your potential Graded Honours Supervisor*].

Sem 1 will require meetings and workload related to the Graded Honours Project; this is agreed with the Graded Honours Supervisor & Convenor. SPTH4440 enrolment is in Sem 2.

(Note: if your final program semester is Sem 1 in an academic year (e.g. Sem 1, 2021), you would start your project in Sem 2 of the previous year (i.e. Sem 2, 2020) with planning, reading in consultation with your project supervisors).

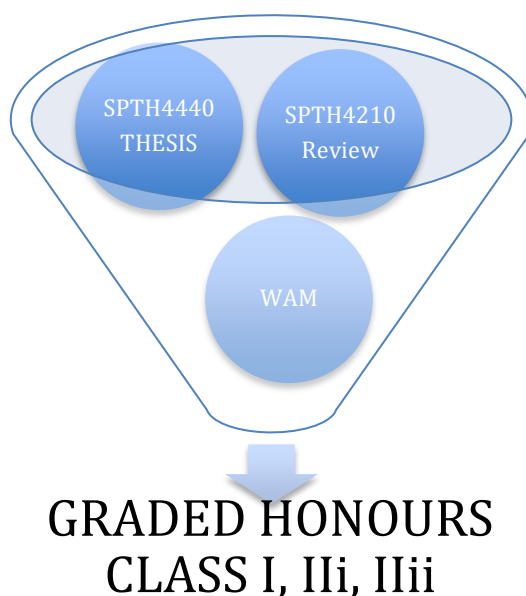
The Class of Honours awarded for Embedded Honours Programs will be determined according to [Bachelor Honours Policy](#), as follows:

1. a WAM, calculated in accordance with University policy, on all courses above the 1000 level, weighted at:
  1. 2 for 2000 level courses;
  2. 3 for 3000 level courses; and
  3. 4 for 4000 level and above courses.

### Outcomes of Graded Honours

#### Embedded Honours

Criterion One WAM	=	Class Awarded
77 – 100	=	Class I
72 – 76	=	Class II Division 1
67 – 71	=	Class II Division 2
< 67	=	Ungraded



**OPPORTUNITIES IN BOTH CLINICAL AND RESEARCH CAREERS**  
**CLINICAL POSITION, A RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE, A POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP, AWARDS**

**Please note:**

The potential supervisor can revise and refine topic ideas prior to finalising the plan for the Graded Honours.

If you are interested in the Graded Honours Research program, please email this form to Speech pathology Discipline Honours Convenor - by end Week 1, Semester 2 (in the year prior to enrolment) to indicate your interest in this program of research.

## Expression of Interest FOR GRADED HONOURS

### What is your final semester of program?

(Check with the Honours Convenor if you are unsure of your program plan/options).

\_\_\_\_ My final two semesters are: **Sem 1 – 20XX** and **Sem 2 20XX**.

Or

\_\_\_\_ My final two semester are: **Sem 2-20XX** and **Sem 1-20XX**

*Graded honours projects typically start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> last semester, and finish with enrolment in SPTH4440 in your final semester.*

Full Name:	
Student Number:	
EMAIL:	
Reasons for wanting to do Graded Honours	
Provide a list (and indicate your preferences) of potential project that you are interested in.  <i>Notes:</i>  <i>- not all may be available on the semester you are planning to start.</i>  <i>- please free to approach the supervisors listed about the specific research projects</i>	

Planned enrolment in courses in final year of program	<i>Semester 1, 20XX</i>  <i>Semester 2, 20XX</i>
<b>Signature and Date</b>	Please sign (it is ok to type your name) and date here.
GPA score	Please provide your Transcript of Results so far by email.

Please email this form to the Graded Honours Convenor Speech Pathology, Dr Traci Flynn - [Traci.Flynn@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Traci.Flynn@newcastle.edu.au) .

Expressing an interest in the Graded Honours stream is not a commitment to proceed. Supervisors are also at this stage not committed to run with these studies as conduct relies on several factors affecting feasibility.