ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAMS
ACADEMIC AWARDS POLICY

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

(1) The College wishes to recognise both academic excellence and academic endeavour. To that end the College has instituted a number of awards:

- The College Medal
- The College Academic Excellence Awards, and
- The College Academic Endeavour Awards.

These awards will be made three times per year at the graduation ceremony at the end of each term.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(2) For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

a. “Program Cohort” - group of students enrolled in the Diploma/Bachelor First Year, Associate Degree or the University Foundation Studies programs.

b. “Course Cohort” - group of students enrolled in one specific course of study (e.g. a Diploma in Business & Commerce or Diploma in Science (including two term or three term) or University Foundation Studies Nursing course (including one term, two term and three term).

c. “College” - UWS College Pty. Ltd.

SECTION 3 - POLICY STATEMENT

Criteria for the award of the UWS College Medal and Academic Awards

UWS College Medal

(3) The following criteria will be applied a maximum of three times per calendar year for the total number of eligible graduating students in each of the following:
a. Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year
b. Associate Degree
c. University Foundation Studies

(4) To be eligible the student must have:

a. completed a College Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year, Associate Degree or University Foundation Studies program;
b. completed at least one term at the College;
c. the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of the completing College students in the graduating program cohort; and
d. completed the program in the minimum time.

(5) At the end of each term, the relevant completing Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year, Associate Degree and University Foundation Studies program cohorts will have their results finalised and published by the College Registrar's Office. A list will then be generated by the College Academic Administration showing the GPAs of all completing graduating students.

(6) The College Medal may be awarded to the students with the most outstanding academic achievement in each of the Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year, Associate Degree or University Foundation Studies program. The successful students must have a minimum GPA of 5.5 if Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year/Associate Degree students or 9 if University Foundation Studies students. Where no students are deemed to have met these criteria, the Medal will not be awarded.

(7) In exceptional circumstances, where more than one student completing study in that term with the same GPA is deemed to be outstanding in a course, more than one medal may be awarded.

(8) Each College Medal will be engraved with the student's name and year of award.

(9) In addition to the medal, the award of the College Medal will be recognised by the awarding of a certificate and a small gift.

(10) The Director, Teaching and Learning, Academic Pathway Programs will advise the student that they have been awarded the College Medal and that it will be presented at the College graduation ceremony.

Academic Awards

(11) Academic Awards comprise the College Merit Lists: First in Course; Academic Merit; and Academic Endeavour awards.

(12) To be eligible, the student must be enrolled in a course offered by the College.

a. **First in Course Awards (across all campuses)** will be made in Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year, Associate Degree and University Foundation Studies courses. The criteria for the awards are that:

   i. candidates must have the highest GPA in their course cohort;
ii. candidates must have finished in minimum time;

iii. in the Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year courses, awards will be made with students enrolled in the two-term and three-term courses being treated as one cohort. The GPA calculation will be based on the eight (8) university level subjects completed; and

iv. In the University Foundation Studies courses, awards will be given in each of the following four University Foundation Studies areas: Arts; Business/ICT; Engineering/Science; and Health Science/Nursing. For the purposes of awarding First in Course, students enrolled in the same stream in University Foundation Studies one-term and University Foundation Studies two-term courses will be treated as one cohort.

b. **Award of Academic Merit (across all campuses)** will be given to candidates who have:

   i. achieved a minimum meritorious GPA of 5.0 for Diploma/UWSC Bachelor First Year students and 8.5 for University Foundation Studies students; and

   ii. ranked second and third in the course cohort.

c. **Award of Academic Endeavour (three (3) per program per campus)** will be given to candidates from a course cohort who have

   i. displayed commendable academic progress and achievement;

   ii. demonstrated diligence and participation in academic activities; and

   iii. submitted all assessment tasks.

(13) Recommendations will be made by the College Assessment and Progression Committee and endorsed by the Director, Teaching and Learning, Academic Pathway Programs.

(14) All documentation relating to recommendations, including Academic Pathway Programs Education Assessment and Progression Committee minutes, must be accompanied by an endorsement from the Director, Teaching and Learning, Academic Pathway Programs.
ACADEMIC AWARDS POLICY
STATUS AND DETAILS

Status: Current
Version: 2
Effective Date: 12 November 2013
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Endorsed by: UWS College Academic Committee
Approval Date: 10 December 2013
Expired Date: N/A
Unit Responsible: Academic Pathway Programs
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Summary of changes from previous version
Amendment of position titles as per the new College structure
Definitions added
Updated reference to all campuses
Updated reference to UWSC Bachelor First Year Programs and Associate Degrees
Amended Enquiries contact person
Amended Clause 5 – added “with the same GPA”
Amended Clause 9 (c) – deleted “and six (6)”