

OPs, FPs and all that . . .



This can be a confusing area. Not everybody wants or needs an OP and what are FPs anyway?

OP (Overall Position) The Overall Position (OP) indicates a student's position within a state-wide rank order of merit based on achievement in the equivalent of five OP subjects studied in Years 11 and 12. All OP subjects have the same weighting for the purpose of determining an OP. OP's are awarded as one of 25 bands from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest).

Who Needs an OP? The OP is the main instrument for determining tertiary (mainly university) entrance and is only available to students who have completed the QCS Test. The OP may also be reasonably used by employers and others as a summary of a student's overall academic performance compared to that of other students in the same year.

FPs (Field Positions) Field Positions indicate a student's position based on overall achievement in OP subjects in up to five fields. FP's are only determined for OP eligible students who have completed the QCS Test. FP's are awarded in one of ten bands from 1 (highest) to 10 (lowest). All OP subjects have different FP weightings depending on the nature of the subject.

Who needs FPs? FPs are used by universities and TAFE institutes to select students who are at the OP cut-off for a course. However, most students are likely to be selected for courses without using FPs.

OP and FP Calculator

Subject	OP [®]	Field Positions [®]				
		FP A	FP B	FP C	FP D	FP E
<i>English</i>	4 × <u>5</u> = <u>20</u>	4 × <u>5</u> = <u>20</u>	4 × <u>4</u> = <u>16</u>	4 × <u>1</u> = <u>4</u>	4 × <u>0</u> = <u>0</u>	4 × <u>3</u> = <u>12</u>
	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___
	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___
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	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___	4 × ___ = ___
OP and FP Eligibility	≥ 100 ?	≥ 60 ?	≥ 60 ?	≥ 60 ?	≥ 60 ?	≥ 60 ?

- ① *To work out your Overall Position (OP) eligibility you need to calculate the total of your weighted semester units (WSUs) for all subjects studied.*

First, multiply the number of semester units (pre-printed for you as 4) by the subject weight for each subject. All OP or "Authority" subjects are equally weighted. For the purposes of working out your OP eligibility OP subjects have a weighting of 5. Non-OP subjects have a weighting of 0. This will give you the WSUs for each subject.

Second, add the WSUs for all of your subjects together. If the total WSUs is equal to or greater than 100 you are OP eligible. You will notice that you need the equivalent of at least 5 OP subjects studied over 4 semesters to be OP eligible.

- ② *To work out your eligibility in each Field Position (FP) you need to again calculate the total of your WSUs for all subjects studied.*

First, multiply the number of semester units (pre-printed for you as 4) by the subject weight in each field (A, B, C, D and E) for each subject. All OP subjects are weighted differently and these weightings may change from year to year. For the purposes of working out your FP eligibility OP subject weightings in each field are available from the Queensland Studies Authority website at www.qsa.qld.edu.au. Note that some subjects may not be weighted in one or more fields. Non-OP subjects have a weighting of 0.

Second, add the WSUs for all of your subjects together under each field. If the total WSUs in a field is equal to or greater than 60 you are eligible in that field. Most OP eligible students are eligible in at least 2 or 3 fields. Some students may be eligible in all 5 fields.