At present applicants are ranked on their average mark in their third-year psychology units. We require at least 65%, but this does not guarantee entry. This year our capacity to supervise and the number of applicants led to a cut-off about 72%.

Students now do 4 third-year units (3301, 3302, 3303, 3310) and seven psychology electives (chosen from eight, numbered 22xx). The electives will be done in either the second- or third-year of a student’s study, depending on availability. Here are three options for entry to Honours (this is not to say there aren’t others).

**Option 1:** rank the applicants **only** on units done in their third year of study (ie, the 33xx units). This narrows the pool of contributing units drastically, and increases the weighting of 3310 which is not assessed by examination and tends to have a narrower band of marks. This option is likely to make it harder to discriminate applicants.

**Option 2:** rank the applicants on the units done in their third year of study. This option is likely to cause perceptions of unfairness: “It’s not fair; I had to do the units I’m good at in my second year, and they don’t count”. Justified or not, we want to avoid this sort of thing.

**Option 3:** rank the applicants on the four units done in their third year **and** their best four electives.

**Option 4:** There’s a 4th option which is that we take all their 3rd yr units and weight them 50% and then the rest of the 2/3rd units weight them 50%. Everyone is in the same boat then.