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Senior Secondary Mathematics Enrolments in Western Australia

In a statement released by the University of Western Australia (UWA) on 13 April 2016, it was announced that students will receive bonus points for maths courses.

Board Chair, Professor Patrick Garnett said the School Curriculum and Standards Authority is broadly supportive of the initiative aimed at encouraging students capable of studying mathematics at a higher level.

“However, there are some concerns with the enrolment data being quoted,” Professor Garnett said.

Professor Garnett said 2016 Year 12 enrolment data would show that enrolments in the more difficult maths subjects have increased or remained the same.

Enrolments in Mathematics Methods (intermediate) have increased by 17% in 2016 when compared to enrolments in Mathematics 3C/D in 2015.

Enrolments in Mathematics Specialist (highest level) have remained stable when compared to the equivalent course in 2015.

“2015 enrolment figures for mathematics courses show that Year 12 students do consider maths an essential component of their senior secondary education in Western Australia.”

“In 2015, 93.5% of all Year 12 students completed a mathematics course,” Professor Garnett said.

Professor Garnett said we have also implemented a minimum standard of numeracy required for achievement of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) from 2016.

Western Australia is the only State to have implemented a minimum standard in both literacy and numeracy for senior secondary certification.

The responsibility for calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) rests with the Tertiary Institutions Services Centre (TISC).

Professor Garnett said that the application of bonus points is the responsibility of TISC on behalf of the universities.

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