

March 1, 2010

The 8th Symposium: Standards Based Assessment and Honours Classification

Plenary Panel Discussion II

Standards Based Assessment and Honours Classification – the Path ahead for UGC-funded Institutions

Chairperson: **Professor Michael T. Prosser**
The University of Hong Kong

Standards Based Assessment

Discussants: **Professor Carmel McNaught**
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr. James Rice
Lingnan University

Dr. C.S. Tong
Hong Kong Baptist University

Professor Wang Wen Chung
The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Honours Classification

Discussants: **Dr. Catherine C.H. Chiu**
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Honours Classification

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March 1, 2010

The University of Hong Kong

334 Symposium on Standards Based Assessment
and Honours Classification

Classification Methodology at CityU

Bachelor's Degree with Honours	PGC/PGD/Master's Degree AD/D/HD
First class	Distinction
Upper Second class	Credit
Lower Second class	Pass
Third class	
Pass (without Honours)	

* Classifications are based on CGPA
(Cumulative Grade Point Average)

* Worked out a consistent approach to classification-CGPA
mapping within the university

Issues

<p>Does honours classify broad levels of achievement or narrow disciplinary levels?</p>	<p>CGPA is based on all courses taken by students → looking at broad levels of achievement</p>
<p>Do we need both GPA and Honours Classification? What different roles do they / should they play?</p>	<p>Yes, we need both. CGPA → how well a student has performed in courses. Honours Classification → tells whether a student is ranked in the top x% of graduates from an institution → useful for employers and when educational institutions accept candidates for higher studies</p>
<p>How does honours classification incorporate generic attributes, service courses, interdisciplinary courses double majors etc</p>	<p>Honours classification based on the achievement of all courses has incorporated generic attributes, interdisciplinary courses, double majors etc</p>

Concluding Comments

- * Honours classifications are still useful as different universities have different GPA systems
- * Universities might consider to adopt a common terminology in our award classification

Honours Classification

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Chair Assessment Sub-committee

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8th 334 Symposium

Standards Based Assessment &
Honours Classification

1 March 2010

Honours Classification

- **To continue or not was discussed.**
- **System to be retained, at least for the time-being**
 - **useful for screening by employers**
 - **useful for screening by universities using or familiar with the British system**

Honours Classification

**Keep an eye on the UK introduction of the
Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)**

Honours Classification

What does honours denote?

1. **Broad classification of overall student achievement**
 - **Core curriculum**
 - **Major(s)**
 - **Minor(s)**
 - **Required/elective**
 - **Capstone/experiential**
2. **Achievement in major discipline(s)**

Honours Classification

HKU has used GPAs since 1998.

From 2012 weightings of GPA to be standardized in the determination of honours classifications

and

all courses to carry equal weighting, including failed courses.

Honours Classification

At present award of Honours appears to be based on weighted GPA.

Honours Classification

If GPA converts to Honours

Why have both?

Other approaches to awarding Honours may be considered.