

Higher Degrees and Honours Bachelor Degrees in mathematics and statistics completed in Australia in 2009

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This report presents data relating to students who completed Honours or Higher Degrees in mathematics during 2009. The data are part of an ongoing project for the Australian Mathematical Society and should be read in conjunction with previous reports [1]–[10] covering the period 1993–2008.

Appendix 1 presents data for students completing Honours degrees in 2009, at all universities in Australia. Within each institution, the data are broken down into male and female students and into the three traditional areas of mathematics: pure, applied and statistics. There is also the general category ‘Mathematics’ for institutions which do not differentiate between the conventional areas. Finally, there is an ‘Other’ category for newer areas of mathematics such as financial mathematics. Each category is further broken down into grades of Honours awarded. The table shows that in 2009 there were 151 Honours completions in Australia, with 115 (76%) receiving First Class Honours (compared with 108 out of 158 (68%) in 2008 and 119 out of 174 (68%) in 2007). Despite a further slight decrease in total numbers, the quality of the students appears to be much higher.

Figure 1 presents the total number of students completing Honours degrees in Mathematics over the period 1959–2009. It shows that in 2009 there was a further decrease in the number of Honours completions over the previous year, but the number is again similar to numbers reported for most of the current decade. The figure also shows the numbers of male and female students who completed Honours over the same time period. For last year the number of male students decreased to 112 (down from 123), while the number of female students remain reasonably steady (39, as opposed to 35 in 2008).

Appendix 2 presents the data for Higher Degree completions in 2009. The data are broken down into Coursework Masters, Research Masters and PhD degrees, with the latter two divided into the three typical areas of mathematics. These data are also represented in Figure 2, as part of the overall Higher Degree data for the period 1959–2009. The figure shows that:

- (1) There was a rather large decrease in the number of PhD completions. In 2009, there were 62 PhD completions (down from 76 in 2008), of which 42

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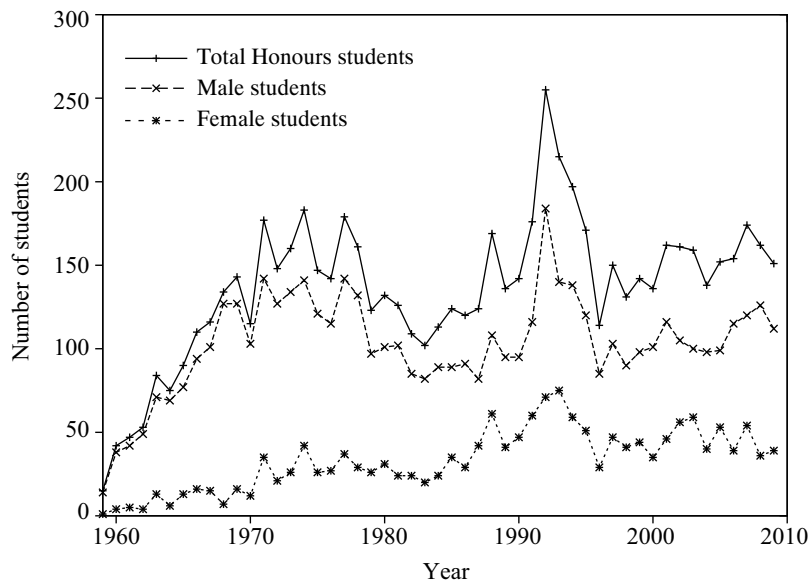


Figure 1. Number of Honours degrees completed in mathematics and statistics, 1959–2009.

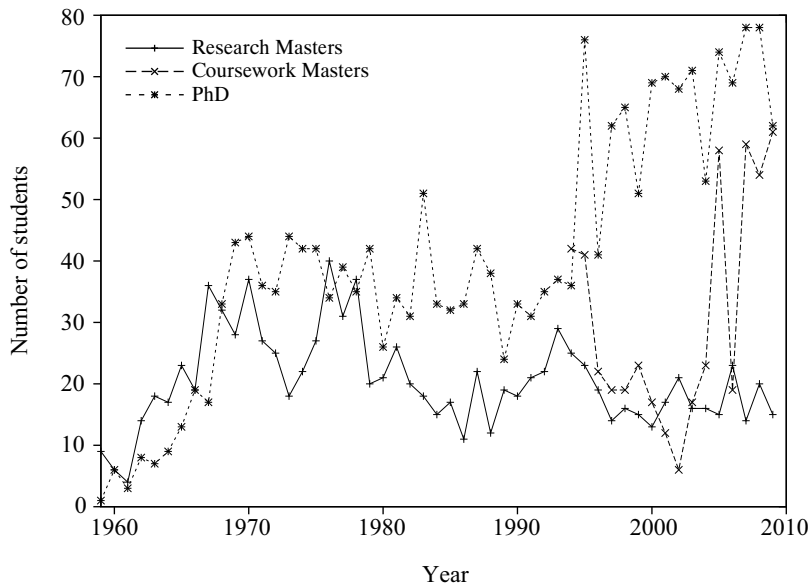


Figure 2. Number of research higher degrees completed in mathematics and statistics, 1959–2009.

were by male students and 20 by female students. This represents a decrease in both the number of male students (51 in 2008) and female students (25 in 2008).

- (2) The number of Research Masters completions has dipped again after a small peak last year.
- (3) There was a slight increase in the number of coursework masters completions, yielding the highest number of completions in this category to date.

For those who are interested in the finer details, the raw data are available from links on the web page www.cit.gu.edu.au/math. There is an Excel spreadsheet containing the complete data for 2009 as well as spreadsheets containing cumulative data from 1959 for Honours, Research Masters and PhD degrees.

I would like to thank the many people who took the time and effort to collect this data and forward it to me. This year I received 31 out of a possible 38 responses to requests for data, similar to last year's response rate. However, I feel that the numbers presented here do not reflect the actual situation in mathematics departments across the country. Despite having received a slightly better response rate this year, several of the larger departments did not reply or supplied incomplete data. Thus, for 2009, there was a greater number of students graduating than these figures suggest. Finally, if having read this report, you would like to contribute missing data for 2009, I would be happy to add it to the data on the website.

References

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Appendix 1. Number of Honours degrees completed in mathematics and statistics, 2009.

Uni.	Sex	Maths				Pure				Applied				Statistics				Other				Honours Total
		I	IIA	IIB	III	I	IIA	IIB	III	I	IIA	IIB	III	I	IIA	IIB	III	I	IIA	IIB	III	
ACU	M																					0
	F																					0
ADF	M											1										1
	F																					0
ANU	M					3	1				3	2										9
	F																					0
BOU	M																					0
	F																					0
CDU	M																					0
	F																					0
CQU	M																					0
	F																					0
CSU	M																					0
	F																					0
CUT																						0
DKU	M	1																				1
	F																					0
ECU	M												1									1
	F													1								2
FDU										1												0
GFU	M										1											1
	F																					0
JCU																						0
LTU	M					3								1								4
	F													1						1		2
MDU	M													2								2
	F									1	1			1								3
MNU	M					5				1				3	1			3	1			14
	F																	1				1
MQU																						0
QUT	M									6				1								7
	F									2												2
RMT	M																					0
	F																					0
SCU	M																					0
	F																					0
SUT	M																					0
	F																					0
UAD																						0
UBR	M																					0
	F																					0
UCB																						0
UMB	M					1	1			1				8	1							12
	F									2	1			1								4
UNC	M	1	2																			3
	F		1																			1
UNE	M													1								1
	F																					0
UNS	M						2															2
	F																					0
UQL	M					7				3				1								11
	F									2												3
USA	M		1																			0
	F																					0
USN	M					3				6	1			4	2							16
	F									2				3								5
USQ	M																					0
	F																					0
UTM																						0
UTS	M		2											2	1							5
	F		2												2							4
UWA	M					4				1	1											6
	F													1	1	1						3
UWG	M					2				3				1				4	3			13
	F									1								2	4	1		8
UWS	M					2								1								3
	F					1																1
VUT	M																					0
	F																					0
											0											0
Totals		7	3	0	0	31	4	0	0	34	9	0	0	33	9	2	0	10	8	1	0	151

Appendix 2. Number of research higher degrees completed
in mathematics and statistics, 2009

Uni.	Sex	Coursework Masters	Research Masters		Research Masters Total	PhD		PhD Total	
			Pure	Applied Statistics		Pure	Applied Statistics		
ACU	M			1	1	2	2	4	
	F				0			0	
ADF	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
ANU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
BOU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
CDU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
CQU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
CSU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
CUT					0			0	
DKU	M				0			0	
	F		1		1			0	
ECU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
FDU					0			0	
GFU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
JCU					0			0	
LTU	M	2			0	1	1	3	
	F				0			0	
MDU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
MNU	M			1	1	5	1	6	
	F				0	1		1	
MQU					0			0	
QUT	M	2			0			0	
	F	2			0			0	
RMT	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
SCU	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
SUT	M				0	1		1	
	F				0			0	
UAD					0			0	
UBR	M		1		1	4		4	
	F		1		1	1		1	
UCB					0			0	
UMB	M				0	6	2	8	
	F		1		1	3		3	
UNC	M				0			0	
	F				0	1		1	
UNE	M			1	1			0	
	F				0			0	
UNS	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
UQL	M	3	1	1	2	1	4	5	
	F	9			0	2		2	
USA	M				0	1		1	
	F			1	1	4		4	
USN	M		1	1	2	2	3	6	
	F		1		1	2		3	
USQ	M			1	1		1	1	
	F				0		1	1	
UTM					0			0	
UTS	M				0			0	
	F				0		2	2	
UWA	M	12		1	1			0	
	F	12			0	1		1	
UWG	M	15			0		2	2	
	F	4			0	1		1	
UWS	M				0	1		1	
	F				0			0	
VUT	M				0			0	
	F				0			0	
Totals		61	4	8	3	15	34	13	62