

# Certificate of Merit

## Certificate of Distinction

Certificates of Merit and Certificates of Distinction recognise student achievement in the WACE and are dependent on the degree of difficulty of the courses and programs undertaken, together with the student's level of achievement. **These awards are based on the grades awarded to students by their schools.**

A Certificate of Merit or a Certificate of Distinction is awarded to each eligible student who, in their last three consecutive years of senior secondary school WACE enrolment, accumulates:

- **150 → 189 points = a Certificate of Merit**
- **190 → 200 points = a Certificate of Distinction**

### Rules for calculating points for Certificates of Merit and Distinction

Points for the achievement of Certificate of Merit and Certificates of Distinction are calculated according to the following rules and table:

1. Points are accrued at the unit level.
2. Points are accrued from **20 Year 11 and Year 12 units** of which at least **10 must be Year 12 units**.
3. The units used to calculate a student's points will be those that **maximise the student's score** (maximum points = 200).
4. If a unit/course is repeated, the **result for the first attempt** is used in the determination of these awards.
5. **Unit equivalents from AQF VET industry certificates** achieved can be used to meet the requirements. A maximum of **eight unit equivalents can be used**. An AQF VET industry certificate II or higher must be achieved. Achieved certificates in the following combination may be used:
  - **one Certificate III or above**
  - **two Certificate II**
6. **Endorsed programs and AQF VET vocational certificates** may contribute a unit equivalence of up to **four units** – two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units. **Endorsed programs and AQF VET vocational certificates are not allocated points and do not reduce the number of points required.**

**Table 10: Calculating points for the achievement of certificates of merit and certificates of distinction**

Points per unit	ATAR course	General course	Foundation course	VET industry qualification	Maximum points per VET qualification
10	A				
9	B			Certificate IV+ Replaces two Year 11 and four Year 12 units	54
8		A		Certificate III Replaces two Year 11 and four Year 12 units	48
7					
6				Certificate II Replaces two Year 11 and two Year 12 units	24