

# 2012 Data summary

## State Distribution of Overall Positions and Field Positions

### Background

Overall Positions (OPs) provide a statewide rank order of students from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest) based on students' achievement in Authority subjects. A student's OP shows how well that student has performed in their senior studies when compared with the performances of all other OP-eligible students in Queensland.

OPs are used in the selection of students for tertiary education courses. They are used by tertiary institutions as one basis for selecting applicants for a course when there are more eligible applicants than quota places for that course.

Students are eligible for an OP at the end of Year 12 provided they have completed a minimum of 20 semester units of Authority subjects, including at least three subjects for all four semesters, and sat for the Queensland Core Skills Test in that year.

Field Positions (FPs) are calculated only for OP-eligible students. A field is an area of study that emphasises particular knowledge and skills. An FP is a rank order from 1 (highest) to 10 (lowest) in that area of study. There are five fields with about 20% of students qualifying for all five FPs and most students qualifying for three or four fields.

### OP distribution

Figure 1 represents the distribution of the 26 233 Queensland students<sup>1</sup> who received an OP in 2012. Table 1 includes for each band: the number, the cumulative number (from 1 up to that band), the percentage and the cumulative percentage of students.

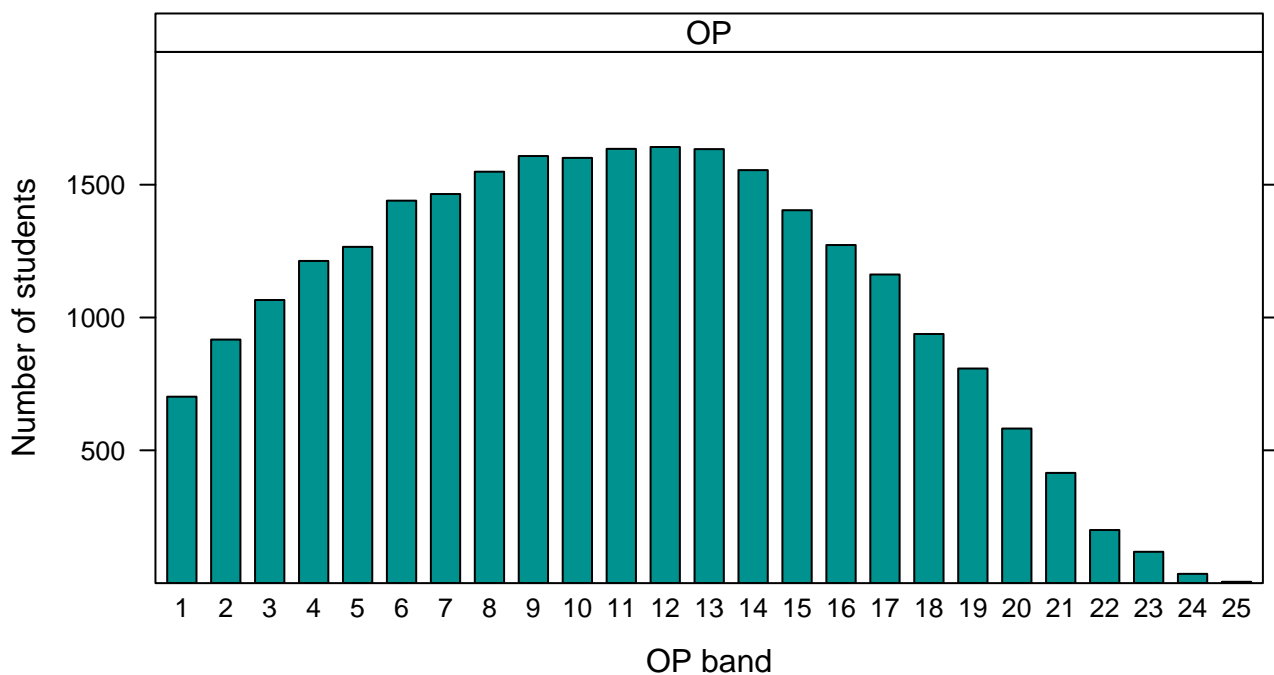


Figure 1: 2012 OP distribution

<sup>1</sup> Visa students are not included unless indicated. A visa student is a student who is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australia. Visa students are not generally regarded as OP/FP-eligible. They may qualify for equivalent-OPs/FPs.

**Table 1: 2012 OP distribution, cumulative percentages**

OP band	All students	%	Cumulative	Cumulative %
1	702	2.68	702	2.68
2	917	3.50	1619	6.17
3	1066	4.06	2685	10.24
4	1213	4.62	3898	14.86
5	1266	4.83	5164	19.69
6	1440	5.49	6604	25.17
7	1465	5.58	8069	30.76
8	1549	5.90	9618	36.66
9	1608	6.13	11226	42.79
10	1601	6.10	12827	48.90
11	1635	6.23	14462	55.13
12	1642	6.26	16104	61.39
13	1634	6.23	17738	67.62
14	1555	5.93	19293	73.54
15	1404	5.35	20697	78.90
16	1273	4.85	21970	83.75
17	1162	4.43	23132	88.18
18	938	3.58	24070	91.75
19	808	3.08	24878	94.83
20	582	2.22	25460	97.05
21	415	1.58	25875	98.64
22	200	0.76	26075	99.40
23	118	0.45	26193	99.85
24	35	0.13	26228	99.98
25	5	0.02	26233	100.00
Total	26233			

## Calculation of OPs

OPs are calculated each year by the Queensland Studies Authority using student assessment information from Queensland schools. The process for determining OPs is explained further in *Calculating Overall Positions (OPs): The basic principles*, available at [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/te\\_op\\_basics.pdf](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/te_op_basics.pdf).

## Comparing OPs across years

*The Review of Tertiary Entrance in Queensland 1990*<sup>3</sup> recommended “basic year-to-year comparability” of OPs. Consequently, a numerical process is used to equate students’ performances across years. This means that there is no fixed quota of students in each band and that year-to-year differences in the OP-eligible cohort may produce variations in the proportions of students in each band.<sup>4</sup>

## OP distribution within gender

Figure 2 and Table 2 show the distribution of OPs within gender. Care is needed when making comparisons between the numbers of females and males in each band. The participation rates are different between the genders as are the proportions of males and females choosing to be OP-eligible — Figure 3 shows a percentage distribution within each gender.

There are more females in each OP band except 1 and 25. In the higher OP bands, there are many more females than males while the differences are quite small in bands 23 and 24.

<sup>3</sup> Report submitted to the Minister for Education by the Tertiary Entrance Reviewer, Professor Nancy Viviani.

<sup>4</sup> Since 2005 the corresponding percentage of OP-eligible students receiving an OP 1 has increased from 2%. Both the increase in the percentage of OP 1 students and decrease in OP 25 students is because the standard for each OP is held constant from year to year and there has been a decrease in the proportion of the population that is OP-eligible in this period, with a greater number of the lower achieving students choosing pathways that do not lead to OP-eligibility.

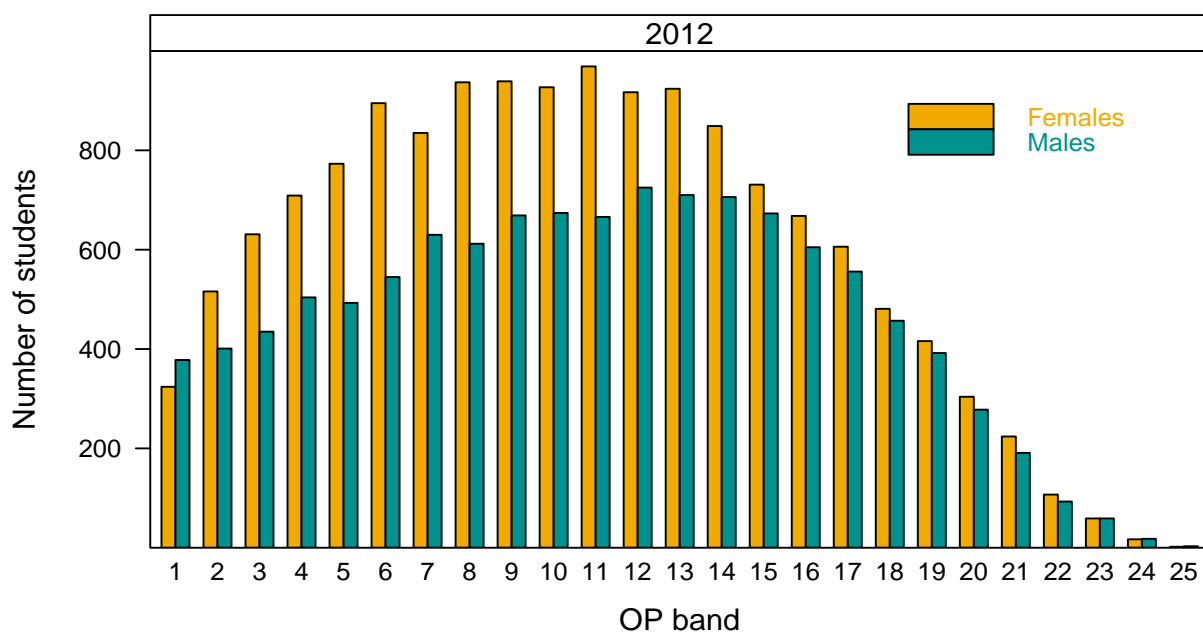


Figure 2: 2012 OP distribution within gender

Table 2: 2012 OP distribution, within gender

OP band	Females	Females %	Males	Males %
1	324	2.20	378	3.29
2	516	3.50	401	3.50
3	631	4.28	435	3.79
4	709	4.80	504	4.39
5	773	5.24	493	4.30
6	895	6.06	545	4.75
7	835	5.66	630	5.49
8	937	6.35	612	5.33
9	939	6.36	669	5.83
10	927	6.28	674	5.87
11	969	6.57	666	5.80
12	917	6.21	725	6.32
13	924	6.26	710	6.19
14	849	5.75	706	6.15
15	731	4.95	673	5.87
16	668	4.53	605	5.27
17	606	4.11	556	4.85
18	481	3.26	457	3.98
19	416	2.82	392	3.42
20	304	2.06	278	2.42
21	224	1.52	191	1.66
22	107	0.72	93	0.81
23	59	0.40	59	0.51
24	17	0.12	18	0.16
25	2	0.01	3	0.03
Total	14760		11473	

## OP percentage distribution within gender

Figure 3 and Table 2 show the percentage distribution of OPs within each gender.<sup>5</sup> Since, more females than males are eligible for an OP, it is useful to express the figures as percentages of the total number of females or males.

In most years, except for OPs 1 and 2, the higher OP bands contain a greater percentage of the female OP-eligible students. The lower bands have a greater percentage of males.

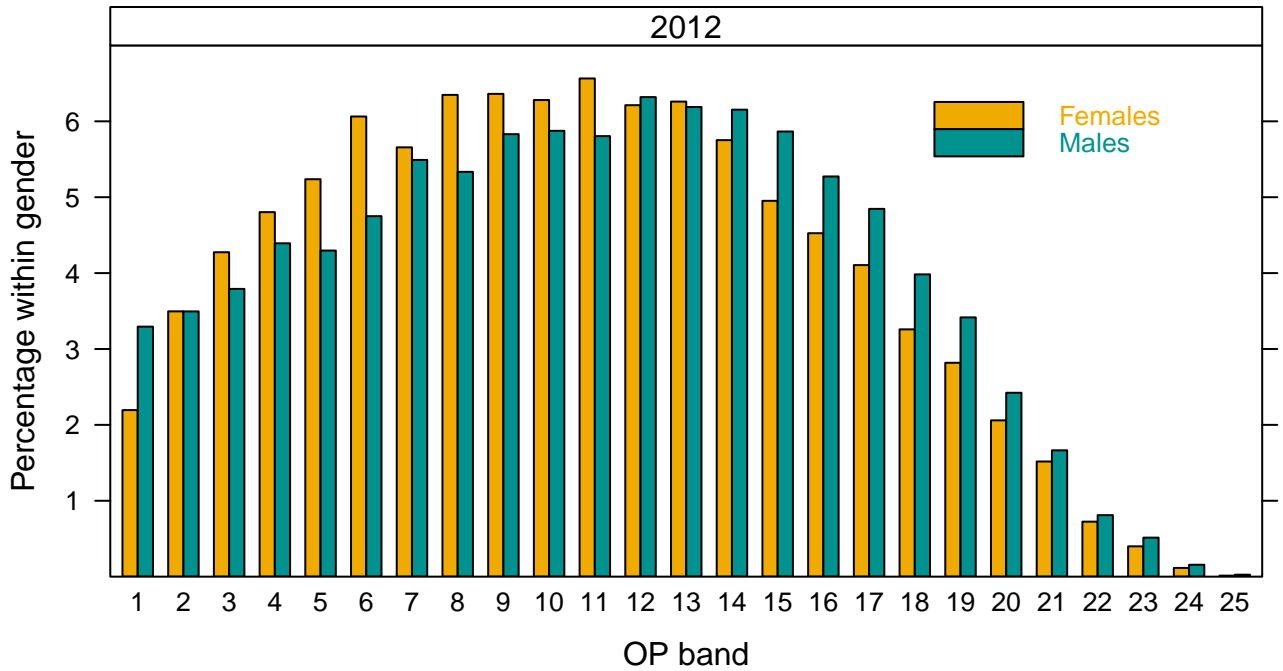


Figure 3: 2012 OP percentage distribution within gender

<sup>5</sup> The proportion of females in each OP band is expressed as a percentage of the total number of females, and the same for males.

## FP distributions

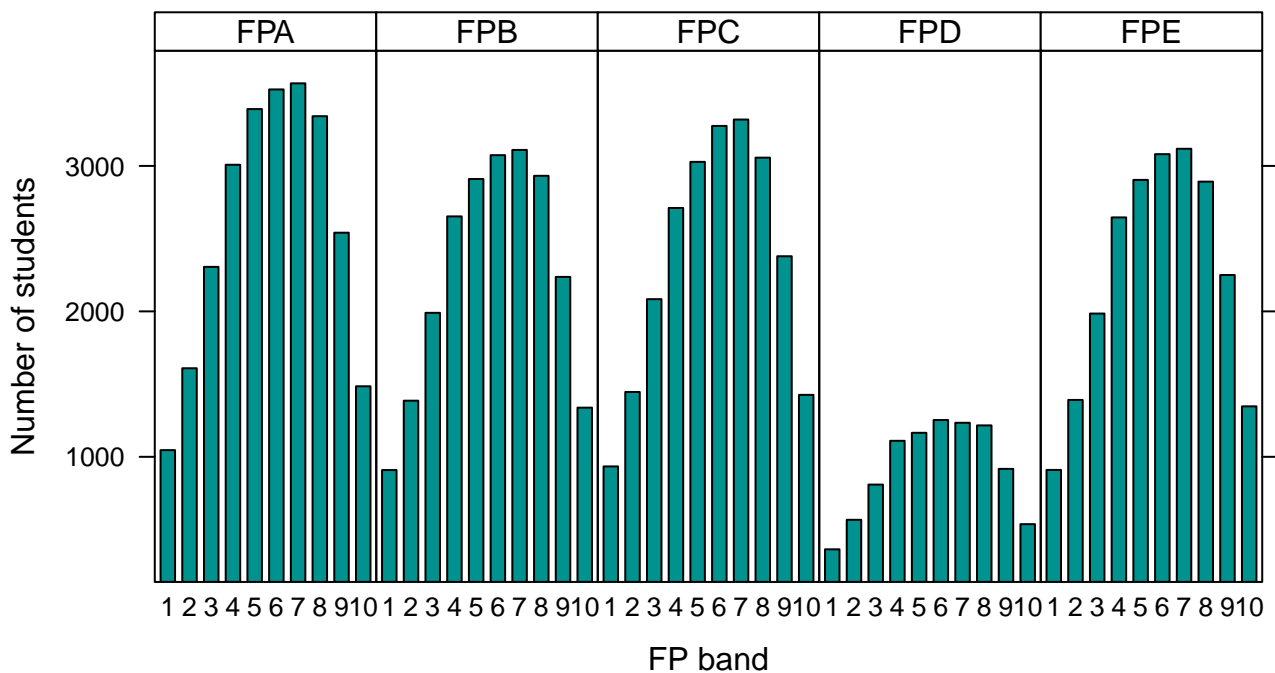
Figure 4 and Table 3 show the FP distributions for 2012. Table 4 shows the combinations of fields for which students were eligible in 2012. In up to five fields, FPs show a student's rank on a 1 to 10 scale (with 1 being the highest) based on their achievement in Authority subjects. These fields identify areas of study that emphasise particular knowledge and skills. FPs are determined only for OP-eligible students and students only receive FPs in the fields for which they are eligible, according to the Authority subjects they studied.

The five fields are:

- Field A** — extended written expression involving complex analysis and synthesis of ideas
- Field B** — short written communication involving reading, comprehension and expression in English or a foreign language
- Field C** — basic numeracy involving simple calculations, and graphical and tabular interpretation
- Field D** — solving complex problems involving mathematical symbols and abstractions
- Field E** — substantial practical performance involving physical or creative arts or expressive skills.

**Table 3: 2012 FP distributions**

Field	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
A	1046	1609	2306	3008	3391	3526	3568	3342	2541	1485	25822
B	909	1386	1990	2653	2910	3074	3110	2932	2237	1338	22539
C	934	1446	2084	2711	3028	3275	3319	3057	2379	1426	23659
D	364	567	809	1110	1165	1253	1234	1216	917	537	9172
E	910	1391	1985	2646	2904	3081	3118	2892	2250	1347	22524



**Figure 4: 2012 FP distribution**

**Table 4: Numbers of students per FP combination, 2012**

Sets of FPs	Students		Total	%
ABCDE	7228	5 FPs	7228	27.55
ABCD	836			
ABCE	10627			
ACDE	551			
BCDE	40	4 FPs	12054	45.95
ABC	1914			
ABE	1374			
ACD	360			
ACE	1737			
BCD	31			
BCE	45			
CDE	23	3 FPs	5484	20.9
AB	341			
AC	87			
BC	21			
CD	103			
CE	48	2 FPs	1441	5.49
A	7			
B	1			
C	8			
E	10	1 FP	26	0.1

## Subject weights

While FPs are calculated using a similar process to OPs, Authority subjects are not weighted equally for the calculations of FPs. Field weights mean that different subjects contribute differently to the calculations for each field<sup>6</sup>. For example, English (5) is more heavily weighted than Maths B (1) when calculating its contribution to FP A. Table 5 lists all Authority subjects offered in 2012 and the weights for each field position.

**Table 5: 2012 subject weights for calculating OPs and FPs**

Syllabus	OP	A	B	C	D	E	Syllabus	OP	A	B	C	D	E
1 English (2008 Trial)	5	5	3	1	0	4	42 Biology	5	4	3	5	3	3
1 English (2010)	5	5	3	1	0	4	43 Earth Science	5	3	4	5	3	3
3 English for ESL Learners	5	5	4	1	0	3	44 Multi-Strand Science	5	2	3	5	3	3
4 Indonesian Extension	5	2	5	1	0	4	45 Marine Studies	5	3	3	5	3	4
5 French	5	1	5	1	0	4	46 Science21	5	3	3	5	3	3
6 German	5	1	5	1	0	4	51 Agricultural Science	5	3	3	5	3	4
7 Indonesian	5	1	5	1	0	4	55 Aerospace Studies	5	4	4	5	4	2
8 Italian	5	1	5	1	0	4	56 Chinese Extension (2011)	5	2	5	1	0	4
9 Japanese	5	1	5	1	0	4	56 Chinese Extension (2010 Trial)	5	2	5	1	0	4
10 Russian	5	1	5	1	0	4	57 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages	5	4	4	2	0	3
11 Chinese	5	1	5	1	0	4	60 Accounting	5	3	3	5	4	2
12 Vietnamese	5	1	5	1	0	4	62 Business Organisation & Management	5	4	3	4	2	3
13 Korean	5	1	5	1	0	4	63 Business Communication & Technologies	5	3	4	4	2	3
14 Modern Greek	5	1	5	1	0	4	65 Information Technology Systems	5	4	3	5	3	4
15 French Extension	5	2	5	1	0	4	67 Health Education	5	5	3	3	2	2
16 German Extension	5	2	5	1	0	4	68 Physical Education	5	4	3	3	2	5
17 Latin	5	3	5	1	0	2	71 Home Economics	5	3	3	3	2	4
18 Spanish	5	1	5	1	0	4	72 Hospitality Studies	5	3	3	3	1	4
19 Polish	5	1	5	1	0	4	74 Engineering Technology	5	3	3	5	4	3
20 Ancient History	5	5	4	2	0	2	76 Graphics	5	2	3	5	4	4
21 Modern History	5	5	4	2	0	2	78 Technology Studies	5	4	3	4	3	4
23 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	5	4	4	2	0	3	80 Visual Art	5	3	2	2	0	5
24 Geography	5	5	5	4	2	3	85 Dance	5	3	3	2	0	5
27 Economics	5	5	5	5	3	2	86 Study of Religion	5	5	4	2	0	3
28 Study of Society	5	5	5	3	0	2	87 Information Processing & Technology	5	3	3	4	4	3
29 Legal Studies	5	5	5	3	0	2	88 Drama	5	4	3	2	0	5
33 Philosophy & Reason	5	5	4	3	3	2	91 Music	5	3	2	2	2	5
36 Mathematics A	5	1	2	5	5	1	93 Film, Television and New Media	5	4	3	2	0	5
37 Mathematics B	5	1	2	5	5	1	94 Music Extension	5	3	2	2	2	5
38 Mathematics C	5	1	2	5	5	1	95 English Extension (2010 Trial)	5	5	3	1	0	3
40 Chemistry	5	4	3	5	5	3	95 English Extension (2011)	5	5	3	1	0	3
41 Physics	5	4	3	5	5	3							

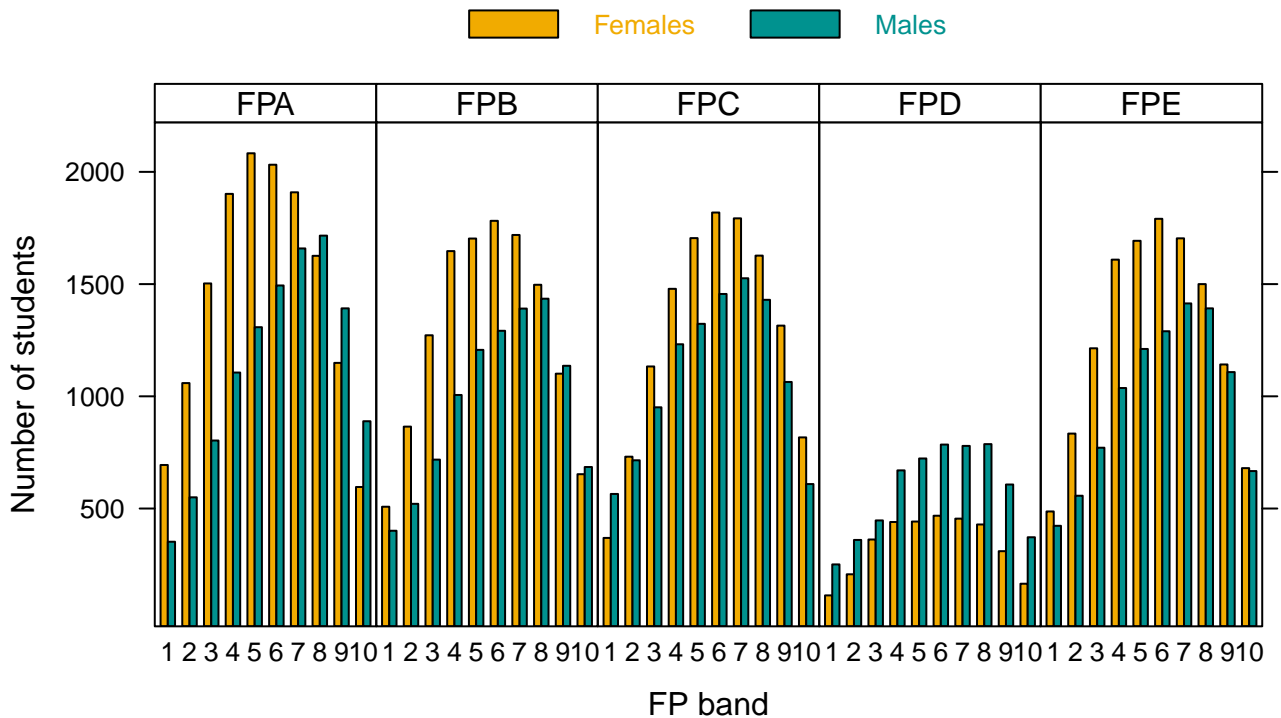
<sup>6</sup> For the calculation of OPs, all subjects are weighted equally.

## FP distributions within gender

Figure 5 and Table 6 show the FPs and their distributions in the State for 2012 within gender.

**Table 6: Numbers of students eligible for each FP within gender, 2012**

Field	Gender	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	All students	1046	1609	2306	3008	3391	3526	3568	3342	2541	1485
	Female	694	1059	1503	1902	2083	2032	1909	1626	1149	596
	Male	352	550	803	1106	1308	1494	1659	1716	1392	889
B	All students	909	1386	1990	2653	2910	3074	3110	2932	2237	1338
	Female	508	865	1272	1647	1703	1782	1719	1497	1101	653
	Male	401	521	718	1006	1207	1292	1391	1435	1136	685
C	All students	934	1446	2084	2711	3028	3275	3319	3057	2379	1426
	Female	369	731	1133	1479	1705	1819	1793	1627	1315	817
	Male	565	715	951	1232	1323	1456	1526	1430	1064	609
D	All students	364	567	809	1110	1165	1253	1234	1216	917	537
	Female	113	207	362	440	442	468	455	429	310	165
	Male	251	360	447	670	723	785	779	787	607	372
E	All students	910	1391	1985	2646	2904	3081	3118	2892	2250	1347
	Female	487	834	1214	1609	1693	1791	1704	1500	1142	680
	Male	423	557	771	1037	1211	1290	1414	1392	1108	667



**Figure 5: 2012 FP distribution by gender**

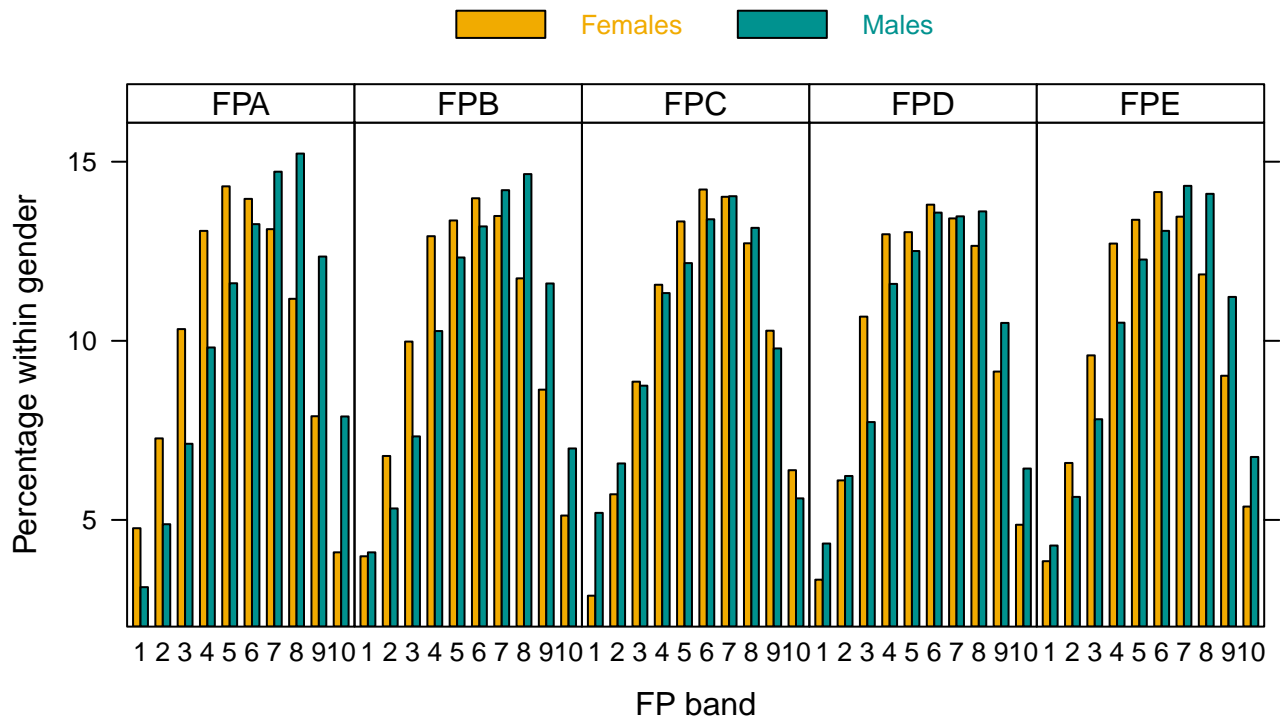


## FPs percentage distribution within gender

Figure 6 and Table 7 show FPs and their distributions in the State for 2012 within gender. These show the number of boys that achieved each FP as a percentage of FP-eligible boys, and the same for girls.

**Table 7: Percentages of students per FP band, within gender, 2012**

Field	Gender	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	All students	4.1	6.2	8.9	11.7	13.1	13.7	13.8	12.9	9.8	5.8
	Female	4.8	7.3	10.3	13.1	14.3	14.0	13.1	11.2	7.9	4.1
	Male	3.1	4.9	7.1	9.8	11.6	13.3	14.7	15.2	12.4	7.9
B	All students	4.0	6.2	8.8	11.8	12.9	13.6	13.8	13.0	9.9	5.9
	Female	4.0	6.8	10.0	12.9	13.4	14.0	13.5	11.7	8.6	5.1
	Male	4.1	5.3	7.3	10.3	12.3	13.2	14.2	14.7	11.6	7.0
C	All students	4.0	6.1	8.8	11.5	12.8	13.8	14.0	12.9	10.1	6.0
	Female	2.9	5.7	8.9	11.6	13.3	14.2	14.0	12.7	10.3	6.4
	Male	5.2	6.6	8.8	11.3	12.2	13.4	14.0	13.2	9.8	5.6
D	All students	4.0	6.2	8.8	12.1	12.7	13.7	13.5	13.3	10.0	5.9
	Female	3.3	6.1	10.7	13.0	13.0	13.8	13.4	12.7	9.1	4.9
	Male	4.3	6.2	7.7	11.6	12.5	13.6	13.5	13.6	10.5	6.4
E	All students	4.0	6.2	8.8	11.8	12.9	13.7	13.8	12.8	10.0	6.0
	Female	3.9	6.6	9.6	12.7	13.4	14.2	13.5	11.9	9.0	5.4
	Male	4.3	5.6	7.8	10.5	12.3	13.1	14.3	14.1	11.2	6.8



**Figure 6: 2012 FP percentage distribution by gender**

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