

SCA April 2024 briefing: Corrections to Guide to Assessment 23/24

The new Progression and Award Rules were developed and consulted upon in 2022/23, these resulted in numerous simplifications and changes to benefit students. In the process of implementing these new rules in SITs, the implementation team noted some inconsistency in the text which requires immediate amendment.

Please note that all of these changes apply to assessments conducted during the academic year 2023/24.

1. Correction of principles of degree classification and use of marks after reassessment.

UCC6.1a, UG6.1a, UGH6.1a, UGM6.1a, GD6.1a, GSS6.1a, PGD6.1a, PCC7.1a, PGT7.1a, PYM7.1a.

SCA has approved the new wording to the principles of classification where it had said the following:

- 'Classification of degrees is based on the first-attempt module mark, or capped module mark following reassessment, ... whichever is the greater.'¹

This has been replaced with:

- Classification of degrees is based on the marks obtained during the student's **best attempt** at the assessment (capped at pass mark where a reassessment has taken place).

This is in line with the text for reassessment principles which states (at, for example, UG5.1):

- The module mark(s) capped at the pass mark following reassessment will be used to determine if the student passes the module(s).

2. Reassessment limits for PGDiplomas (PGD4.3)

The limit for the number of failed credits for PGDiploma was incorrectly set at 40 credits - this has now been raised to 60 credits.

New wording:

PGD4.3 Reassessment Limits

Students will only be offered a reassessment opportunity for failed module(s) if the total number of failed credits does not exceed **60 credits**.

¹ The ellipses reflect a cross reference to the section on treatment of module marks following reassessment in each section of the Rules. The text in UG 6.1a is slightly different due to an error. It reads 'Classification of degrees is based on the first-attempt module mark, or capped module mark following reassessment, ... whichever is the greater'. This is equally incorrect.

3. Capstones Marginal Fail

SCA has approved text to clarify that a marginal fail of a capstone module is applied at the module level, not the dissertation component level. The student will only be able to resit the dissertation component of a capstone module if the weighted average of all marks is within the compensatable fail range. A student who fails a dissertation component but passes a multiple component module overall will not need to resit any part of that module.

It was noted that there is therefore a possibility that a student could still fail a dissertation component but pass the module overall, or pass the dissertation component but fail the module overall. Insofar as these possibilities cause any concerns about the appropriateness of the overall assessment outcome, departments are advised to review the component weighting of their capstone modules rather than creating excessively complicated rules to address such concerns. The principle remains that there is an argument for allowing the reassessment of all assessment components but has decided for now to retain the principle that the resit entitlement on postgraduate capstone projects should be limited to the final dissertation or equivalent product. SCA will keep this aspect of the policy under review.

The last paragraph of section 14 of the Policy on Assessment (p.55) has been revised as follows:

*14.7 For Capstones Project Modules with component assessments (eg a dissertation proposal, practical, viva in addition to a dissertation or report) reassessment is only possible if it is a **marginal fail for the module as a whole**. In such a case, only the dissertation or equivalent component can be reassessed. The (uncapped) mark for the reassessed dissertation replaces the original mark for that component and the Capstone Project Module mark is re-calculated. If a pass is achieved, the overall module mark is capped at pass.*