

DCU Marks & Standards

Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs apply to Marks and Standards Version 2011.2.0. <http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/index.shtml>

Please note that approved programme regulations (which may include derogations to these Marks & Standards) may also apply.

All FAQs have been the subject of clarifications from University Standards Committee.

	Question	Response	Relevant Section(s)
1.	Can module exemptions apply to programmes with 60 credits or fewer?	This is not permitted	2.4
2.	May a student be required to attend or participate in elements of a module/programme?	This is determined by approved and published programme regulations	3.1.2
3.	What is the maximum registration period for awards in DCU?	Refer to relevant Section of Marks & Standards	5.1
4.	Are there any exceptions to the maximum registration period?	Refer to relevant Section of Marks & Standards	5.1.1, 5.1.2
5.	How are Deferrals and Leave of Absence treated in relation to the registration period?	Refer to relevant Section of Marks & Standards	5.1.3, 5.1.4
6.	In counting the available ECTS credits for the purposes of application of compensation, should account be taken of exemptions and Pass/Fail modules?	Yes	7.1.4 (iii)
7.	Can a student who is registered on a Graduate Diploma and successfully completes 60 credits automatically progress to an associated Masters?	Yes	7.1.13
8.	What happens when a student fails a 2.5 credit module and has to repeat when no 2.5 credit modules are available?	Programme Board should advise an alternative module	7.1.6
9.	What happens when a student has yet to complete a module in a programme or study period which is no longer running?	Programme Board should advise an alternative module	7.1.6
10.	If a student takes an alternative module can they then take 2 academic sessions to complete this module?	This is not permitted	
11.	Can a student take an alternative module as a resit to the original module?	This is not permitted	7.1.6
12.	Once a module has been passed overall, can a student (who has missed one element) resit this element?	This is not permitted	7.1
13.	Where a student has failed both CA and Exam elements of a module must both elements be taken in a resit?	Yes	7.1
14.	Can a student be required to reach a minimum mark in any one assessment component?	This is not permitted	6.2.2
15.	Are students permitted to progress carrying failed modules?	This is determined by approved and published programme regulations	7.1.8
16.	Can a student registered as a repeat student in 2009/10 register as a repeat student again?	This is not permitted	7.1.6

17.	Can a student who has deferred from previous years carry forward any passed module elements?	This is not permitted	7.1
18.	How is the precision mark calculated for students carrying failed modules, previous year/subject contributions and/or alternative modules?	In order to provide equity of treatment for all students, in all instances the precision mark is calculated using the first attempt at all modules and where an alternative module is taken it is the original module mark which counts towards the calculation of the precision mark.	7.1
19.	How is the precision mark calculated for a student that transfers to another programme of study or progresses from a foundation programme to a new programme of study?	In both situations any previous failed attempts at modules that are offered on the new programme of study are not used in the calculation of the precision mark for the new programme of study.	7.1
20.	In what circumstances should an additional repeat academic session be approved by a Progression and Award Board?	Decisions should be made on a case by case basis. Relevant supporting documentation should be available to the board when approving an additional repeat academic session. Where circumstances are not exceptional an additional repeat academic session should not be approved.	7.1.6
21.	What component of a module must be taken as a resit in modules with both continuous assessment and examination components?	Where a fail is recorded against the original overall module mark, a mark of less than 40% in a component requires that that component be taken as a resit where a resit is available. Exceptions to 40% module pass mark are in published programme specific regulations at http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/prog_specific_regulations.shtml	6.2.2, 7.1
22.	How are resit module marks calculated when a resit is available for all components of the module?	The resit module mark is calculated using the original module weighting; marks for any components graded at 40% or more at the original sitting are carried forward and used in the calculation of the overall resit module mark; where components are originally graded at less than 40%* at the original sitting, it is the resit marks that are used in the calculation of the overall resit module mark even if they are lower than the marks obtained at the original sitting; where there is an absence from a resit opportunity, a mark of zero will apply.	6.2.1, 7.1
23.	How are resit module marks calculated when no resit is available for the continuous assessment element?	The resit module mark is calculated using the original module weighting; the original continuous assessment mark is carried forward and used in the overall resit module mark calculation; the student is given the opportunity to resit the examination component in order to compensate for a failed CA component, regardless of the original examination mark.	7.1
24.	What discretion is available to Progression and Award Boards when considering resit module marks?	Progression and Awards Boards (PAB) have discretion to make decisions in respect of individual students' marks in situations in which the PAB believes such a decision would more accurately reflect the student's overall performance	

		All decisions of PABs in respect of module marks should be made with appropriate regard for the welfare of the students, equity of treatment and for the maintenance of academic standards.	
25.	What information about a student will a Progression and Award Board consider when making decisions?	<p>A Progression and Award Board (PAB) will consider all relevant information i.e. documented academic record to date and information the student has made known, typically through an extenuating circumstances form and/or other written evidence. All information should be available at the time of the PAB meeting.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the student to notify the University, through the Registry or the Oscail Student Services manger (for Oscail students), of any extenuating circumstances that may have affected his/her academic performance in one or more modules.</p> <p>Further information on submitting extenuating circumstances to a PAB is available at http://www.dcu.ie/registry/forms/pdfs/R30.pdf.</p>	6.2.3
26.	How should Pass/Fail modules be considered when considering the Precision (Preponderance) Rule	These modules and their associated credits should be excluded from consideration	7.1
27.	How should Previous Year Contribution be considered when considering the Precision (Preponderance) Rule	These elements should be excluded from consideration	7.1
28.	Should the Preponderance (Precision) Rule apply only to modules taken at the first attempt?	Yes. The first attempt principle applies to the Preponderance (Precision) Rule and only first attempts at modules should count in any Preponderance calculations	7.1