

DEGREE OF BACHELOR IN SOCIAL STUDIES

PROGRESSION AND AWARD REGULATIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

As the B.S.S. is a professional degree, students are expected to adhere to normal professional ethics and standards of conduct. Students in each year group are given written notification of expectations in relation to professional ethics and conduct, including regular attendance at required academic modules and practice placements, and are required to observe these regulations throughout the degree course.

Exemptions from College Progression and Awards Regulations

As the B.S.S degree is a professional degree leading to a qualification approved by the Social Workers Registration Board the school has received derogation from specific regulations on the new progression and awards regulations by the University Council. The derogations are as follows:

ECTS

The ECTS value of each year of the course is: Junior Freshman 70 credits; Senior Freshman 80 credits; Junior Sophister 75 credits; Senior Sophister 75 credits, giving a total of 300 ECTS credits.

Non Compensatable Modules

The following modules taken by B.S.S students in JF, SF, JS and SS are non compensatable. Students must pass all components of assessment to pass the non compensatable module overall.

SSU11030 Introduction to Social Work
SSU11010 Introduction to Psychology
SSU11072 Junior Freshman Placement
SSU22070 Social Work Theory and Practice
SSU22112 Senior Freshman Placement
SSU22041 Inclusive Disability
SSU22101 Introduction to Child Protection
SSU22242 Introduction to Family Law
SSU22232 Psychology for Social Workers
SSU22151 Groupwork
SSU33502 Child Protection and Disability
SSU33012 Law for Social Workers
SSU33202 Criminology
SSU33072 Family and Child Care Studies
SSU33402 Biographies of Social Work
SSU33090 Social Work Practice
SSU33101 Junior Sophister Placement
SSU44042 Perspectives in Social Work
SSU44132 The Professional in Context
SSU44062 Social Work and Child Care
SSU44072 Social Work and Equality Issues
SSU44082 Social Work and Mental Health
SSU44302 Interprofessional Practice for Social Work

SSU44200 Social Work Practice (Capstone)
SSU44111 Senior Sophister Placement

Attendance

Attendance at lectures, tutorials and other teaching inputs is a vital component of a holistic approach to education and professional development. The School of Social Work and Social Policy must ensure that the Bachelor in Social Studies, as an accredited programme, implements a robust attendance policy. Therefore, attendance is monitored on modules which the School is directly responsible for delivering and minimum attendance of 80% is required to pass a module. This is a minimum requirement which allows for absences in the event of significant life events and students should make every effort to attend 100% of all modules. Students who have not satisfied this attendance requirement may be returned as non-satisfactory for the term and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat their year.

In cases where a student has a genuine, mitigating and documented unavoidable reason or reasons for missing a lecture, tutorial or other teaching input, the Course Director(s), in conjunction with the relevant lecturer or instructor, may require the student to meet the learning outcomes via an additional piece of written work in lieu of the missed session or sessions. In cases such as this, the Course Director(s) will adjudicate, and the decision of the School will be final.

The BSS Attendance Policy applies to the following modules in 2025/26.

SSU11030 Introduction to Social Work
SSU11010 Introduction to Psychology
SSU11072 Junior Freshman Placement
SSU22070 Social Work Theory and Practice

SSU22112 Senior Freshman Placement
SSU22041 Inclusive Disability
SSU22101 Introduction to Child Protection
SSU22242 Introduction to Family Law
SSU22232 Psychology for Social Workers
SSU22151 Groupwork
SSU33502 Child Protection and Disability
SSU33012 Law for Social Workers
SSU33202 Criminology
SSU33072 Family and Child Care Studies
SSU33402 Biographies of Social Work
SSU33090 Social Work Practice
SSU33101 Junior Sophister Placement
SSU44042 Perspectives in Social Work
SSU44132 The Professional in Context
SSU44062 Social Work and Child Care
SSU44072 Social Work and Equality Issues
SSU44082 Social Work and Mental Health
SSU44302 Interprofessional Practice for
Social Work
SSU44200 Social Work Practice (Capstone)
SSU44111 Senior Sophister Placement

Marking Scale

The following institutional marking scale has been adopted by College for undergraduate degree courses including the B.S.S programme:

I	70 – 100 per cent
II.1	60 – 69 per cent
II.2	50 – 59 per cent
III	40 – 49 per cent
F1	30 – 39 per cent
F2	0 – 29 per cent

Academic progress: B.S.S programme (Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman)

The pass mark for this course is 40 per cent. In order to rise with their class, students must obtain credit for the academic year by satisfactory attendance at lectures and tutorials and by carrying out, submitting and sitting the required assessment components. In addition, students must pass the year by achieving, at a minimum, an overall credit-weighted average pass mark for the year (40 per cent) and either:

(a) accumulate 70 credits (Junior Freshman), 80 credits (Senior Freshman) by achieving at least the pass mark in all modules

or

(b) pass by compensation. All modules and components within modules are compensatable (except non compensatable modules where compensation does not apply). A student may only accumulate a maximum of 10 credits at qualified pass where the mark lies between 35-39 per cent.

To pass a year by compensation, a Junior Freshman student must achieve a 40 percent pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 60 credits (including non-compensatable modules) and obtain a module mark of at least 35 per cent in all remaining module(s).

To pass a year by compensation, a Senior Freshman student must achieve a 40 percent pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 70 credits (including non compensatable modules) and obtain a module mark of at least 35 per cent in all remaining module(s).

Progression is on an annual basis. Within a year students may carry failed modules from one semester to the next but not from one academic year to another; that

is, they will not be able to rise to the next year of their programme until they have successfully completed the preceding year(s).

Students who have not passed their year are required to present for reassessment when:

- (a) they fail a non-compensatable module (i.e. meet attendance requirements but achieve a mark below 40 per cent overall or achieve a fail or mark below 40 per cent in any assessed component of a non-compensatable module);
- (b) they obtain in excess of 10 credits at qualified pass (i.e. marks between 35-39 per cent);
- (c) they fail any module (i.e. achieving marks below 35 per cent);
- (d) they do not obtain an overall pass mark of 40 per cent for the year;
- (e) any combination of (a) - (d) occurs

If a student has achieved both fail and qualified pass grades at the first sitting or has exceeded the 10 credit limit allowed for compensation and is not permitted to rise with their year, they must present for reassessment in all modules for which they obtained a fail and/or a qualified pass.

Different modalities of assessment to the first sitting are permitted in the reassessment session as determined by the programme.

The same progression and compensation regulations as outlined above apply at the reassessment session.

Students who fail to satisfy the requirements of their year at the reassessment session are required to repeat the year in full (i.e. all modules and all assessment components).

The Court of Examiners cannot grant a repeat year if a student has already repeated the year once or has repeated two years of the programme. A year off-books with assessment (OBA) is considered to be a repeat year.

The maximum number of years to complete an undergraduate degree is six years for a standard four-year programme.

Academic progress: B.S.S programme (Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister)

The pass mark for this course is 40 per cent. In order to rise with their class, students must obtain credit for the academic year by satisfactory attendance at lectures and tutorials and by carrying out, submitting and sitting the required assessment components.

In addition, students must pass the year by achieving, at a minimum, an overall credit-weighted average pass mark for the year (40 per cent) and accumulate 75 credits (Junior Sophister), 75 credits (Senior Sophister) by achieving at least the pass mark in all assessed components of all non compensatable modules, and in the case of Junior Sophister students, by achieving a qualified pass (i.e a mark between 35 – 39 per cent for compensatable module SSU33902).

Most modules taken by Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister students are central to the achievement of the programme learning outcomes and are non compensatable. Students must pass all components of assessment to pass the module overall. Failure of a non compensatable module cannot be compensated by achievement in other modules

Progression is on an annual basis. Within a year students may carry failed modules from one semester to the next but not from one academic year to another; that is, they will not be able to rise to the next year of their programme until they have successfully completed the preceding year(s).

Students who have not passed their year are required to present for reassessment when:

a) they fail a non-compensatable module (i.e. meet attendance requirements but achieve a mark below 40 per cent overall or achieve a fail or mark below 40 per cent in any assessed

component of a non-compensatable module);
(b) they fail a compensatable module (i.e achieving marks below 35 per cent)
(c) they do not obtain an overall pass mark of 40 per cent for the year;
(d) any combination of (a) - (c) occurs.

If a student has achieved fail grades at the first sitting and is not permitted to rise with their year, they must present for reassessment in all modules for which they obtained a fail.

Students must pass their placement (SSU33101 Junior Sophister Placement / SSU44111 Senior Sophister Placement) and their associated practice project SSU33090/SSU44200 before progressing to the next academic year. Only one attempt to repeat a failed placement is permitted.

Different modalities of assessment to the first sitting are permitted in the reassessment session as determined by the programme.

The same regulations as outlined above apply at the reassessment session.

Students who fail to satisfy the requirements of their year at the reassessment session are required to repeat the year in full (i.e. all modules and all assessment components).

The Court of Examiners cannot grant a repeat year if a student has already repeated the year once or has repeated two years of the programme. A year off-books with assessment (OBA) is considered to be a repeat year.

Students are permitted to repeat any year of an undergraduate programme, subject to not repeating the same year more than once, and not repeating more than two academic years within a degree course, except by special permission of the University Council.

Students who proceed to the Senior Sophister year but subsequently are unsuccessful in that year, may be allowed the ordinary B.A. degree based on successful completion of the Junior Sophister year, provided that a special recommendation to that effect is made by the court of examiners. Except by permission of the University Council, on the recommendation of the executive committee of the school, the ordinary degree of B.A. may normally be conferred only on candidates who have spent at least three years in the University. The ordinary B.A. degree is not one of the qualifications approved by the Social Workers Registration Board for entry to its register and graduates holding this qualification are not eligible to apply to register with the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU).

The maximum number of years to complete an undergraduate degree is six years for a standard four-year programme and seven years for a five-year programme.

Professional practice

Students must undertake a placement in all years of the BSS programme. Each student is required to complete a minimum of 1000 professional social work placement hours over the Sophister years of the programme. Students who fail a placement in any year engage in a reflective practice process with their Social Work Tutor and the Practice Education team in order to provide evidence of readiness for practice. They may then be permitted to undertake a repeat placement and the related practice project. Only one attempt to repeat a failed placement is permitted. Repeat placements for Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman students normally take place during a repeat year and must be passed before students rise to the subsequent year. Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister placements may be repeated after semester two examinations and a supplementary examination board will be held at the beginning of September. The repeat placement and the related practice project must be passed in order for students to progress within their programme. These requirements regarding professional practice form part of the Bachelor in Social Studies with honors. Students who do not reach the required standard in social work practice will not be eligible for the award of the B.S.S. degree with honors.

Degree Award Calculation

Moderatorship Part I

The results of the Junior Sophister year constitute Moderatorship, part I and contribute 30 per cent toward the final award.

Moderatorship Part II

The results of the Senior Sophister year constitute Moderatorship, part II and contribute 70 per cent toward the final award.

Award

Degree of the Bachelor in Social Studies (Hons)

Criteria for Award of Gold Medal

- Gold Medals will be awarded on the basis of the final, overall degree award mark (which will be calculated on a 30/70 basis over the final two years).
- Gold Medals will be awarded on the basis of the overall degree award mark only (with the overall degree mark set at 75% or above).
- Gold Medals will be awarded on the basis of a single annual attempt (to include Semester 1 and Semester 2 assessments). A deferral counts towards the single, annual attempt, but reassessment is not counted, i.e., Gold Medals will not be awarded to students who have been reassessed due to having failed.

Publication of Results

Results are published on the my.tcd.ie portal as soon as practicable following the B.S.S Court of Examiners meetings which are scheduled to be held in May 2026.

Re-Check / Re-Mark Of Examination Scripts And Other Assessed Work

Once the results are published following the relevant B.S.S Court of Examiners, any student who is unhappy with their mark has the right to discuss their examination /assessment performance with the examiners to understand why a specific mark was awarded. Please note that these consultations are not an opportunity to negotiate a mark increase. Lecturers cannot change

any marks once they have been approved by the B.S.S Court of Examiners.

Students are entitled to view your script when discussing your examination or assessment.

Having discussed marks and performance with examiners and B.S.S Course Coordinator, students may ask that their results be reconsidered if they have reason to believe that:

- a. The grade is incorrect because of an error in calculation of results,
- b. The examination paper contained questions on subjects which were not part of the course prescribed for the examination, or
- c. Bias was shown by the examiner in marking the script, you should contact your College Tutor to discuss the situation. Your College Tutor can request a re-check (a) or a re-mark (b) or (c). Please note that ground b applies to the class as a whole, not to individual students.

Note: While every attempt has been made to ensure that the information presented in this guide is accurate, the final word on all matters herein is the official College Calendar which takes precedence whenever a contradiction emerges.

<https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/undergraduate-studies/>