

DEGREE OF BACHELOR IN SOCIAL STUDIES

PROGRESSION AND AWARD REGULATIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

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.

Credit Value of Each Year

The ECTS value of each year of the course is as follows: Junior Freshman 70 credits; Senior Freshman 80 credits; Junior Sophister 75 credits; Senior Sophister 75 credits.

Exemptions from College Progression and Awards Regulations

As the B.S.S degree is a professional degree accredited by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU) the School has received exemption from specific regulations on the new progression and awards regulations by the University Council. The exemptions are as follows:

University Progression Regulation	Exemption for B.S.S students
<p>Minimum credits to pass a year and progression thresholds.</p> <p>i. Students should have a balanced credit load across the two Semesters, i.e 30 credits in semester 1 and 30 credits in semester 2.</p> <p>ii. The number of credits to pass a year should be 60.</p> <p>iii. Compensation: All modules and components within modules are "compensatable".</p>	<p>ii. For the purposes of continuing accreditation, the ECTS credit value of each year of the course will be: JF = 70 ECTS, SF = 80 ECTS, JS = 75 ECTS and SS = 75 ECTS. Total = 300 ECTS.</p> <p>iii Compensation Accreditation mandates that the following modules are non-compensatable: SSU11030 Introduction to Social Work SSU11042 Junior Freshman Placement SSU22070 Social Work Theory and Practice SSU22112 Senior Freshman Placement SSU33012 Law for Social Workers SSU33072 Family and Child Care Studies SSU33202 Criminology SSU33402 Biography, Identity and Professional Practice SSU33902 Global Social Policy and Comparative Welfare States</p>

	<p>SSU33502 Child Protection and Disability Perspectives and Practice SSU33090 Social Work Practice SSU33101 Junior Sophister Placement SSU44042 Perspectives on Social Work SSU44062 Social Work and Child Care SSU44072 Social Work and Equality Issues SSU44082 Social Work and Mental Issues SSU44092 Groupwork SSU44132 The Professional in Context SSU44111 Senior Sophister Placement SSU44200 Social Work Practice (Capstone)</p> <p>The non compensatable modules listed above are central to the achievement of the programme learning outcomes. Students must attempt and pass all components of assessment to pass the module overall. Failure of a non compensatable module cannot be compensated by achievement in other modules.</p>
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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)

In order to rise with their class, Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman 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 SSU11030, SSU11042, SSU22070 SSU22112 where compensation does not apply and where students must achieve a pass in all assessed components of these modules). A student may only accumulate a maximum of 10 credits at qualified pass where the mark lies between 35-39 per cent.

Pass by Compensation (Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman)

To pass a year by compensation, a Junior Fresh student must achieve a 40 percent pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 60 credits (including non-compensatable modules SSU11030 and SSU11042) and obtain a module mark of at least 35 per cent in all remaining module(s).

To pass a year by compensation, a Senior Fresh student must achieve a 40 percent pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 70 credits (including non-compensatable modules SSU22070 and SSU22112) and obtain a module mark of at least 35 per cent in all remaining module(s).

Reassessment (Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman)

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. achieve a mark below 40 per cent overall or achieve a fail or mark below 40 percent 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 percent for the year
- (e) they fail to complete an assessment component and do not submit a valid medical certificate within a timeframe of three working days of absence / deadline. (provided the missed components are in modules totalling no more than 20 ECTS)
- (f) any combination of (a) - (e) 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 failed components of 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 compensation regulations as outlined above apply at the reassessment session. Students who satisfy the requirements of their year at the reassessment session will be returned with an overall result of Pass at Supplementals – no grade will be given. This does not apply to students given permission to defer assessments to the reassessment session as a first attempt.

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).

Where a student fails to complete or misses assessment components in modules amounting to more than 20 ECTS, and does not provide a valid medical certificate, the Court of Examiners will return a result of Fail- Repeat Year in respect of that student. The student will be required to

repeat the year in full. 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.

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.

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

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 modules

All 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 attempt and pass all components of assessment to pass the module overall. Failure of a non compensatable module cannot be compensated by achievement in other modules.

Reassessment (Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister)

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 achieve a mark below 40 per cent overall or achieve a fail or mark below 40 percent in any assessed component of a non compensatable module)
- (b) they do not obtain an overall pass mark of 40 percent for the year;
- (c) they fail to complete an assessment component and do not submit a valid medical certificate within a timeframe of three working days of absence / deadline. (provided the missed components are in modules totalling no more than 20 ECTS)

- (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 failed components of all modules for which they obtained a fail.

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

The same compensation regulations as outlined above apply at the reassessment session. Students who satisfy the requirements of their year at the reassessment session will be returned with an overall result of Pass at Supplementals – no grade will be given. This does not apply to students given permission to defer assessments to the reassessment session as a first attempt.

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).

Where a student fails to complete or misses assessment components in modules amounting to more than 20 ECTS, and does not provide a valid medical certificate, the Court of Examiners will return a result of Fail- Repeat Year in respect of that student. The student will be required to repeat the year in full. 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.

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 successfully complete a minimum of 1000 professional social work placement hours over the Sophister years of the programme. This builds on 560 foundation level placement hours undertaken across the Junior and Senior Freshman years of the BSS 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 end of August / 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

Students entering before 2019 – 20

The results of the Senior Sophister year constitutes Moderatorship, and contributes 100 per cent towards a students final award.

Students who are required to repeat one or more years, or go off-books for one or more years, may have their moderatorship results calculated as a weighted average of their overall results achieved in third year (contributing 30 per cent) and fourth year (contributing 70 per cent)

Students entering from 2019 – 20 onwards

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

For the current 2022-23 Senior Sophister year students, the threshold for attaining the prize of Gold Medal necessitates an overall average mark of 73%, with all module results required to be 70% or greater, attained in the Senior Sophister year.

The criteria for being awarded a Gold Medal will change for students graduating at the end of the 2023/24 academic year i.e. students taking their Junior Sophister year 2022-23 and their Senior Sophister year 2023-24.

- 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 on 23rd and 24th May 2023.

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/>