



Assessment and Academic Progression Policy

1. Context

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, herein referred to as Trinity, is committed to ensuring that the assessment of its students is reliable, equitable and transparent. Effective assessment systems are essential for academic progress, and in upholding the integrity of academic standards and awards.

This policy should be read in conjunction with (and is subject to) the relevant provisions of the [University Calendar](#) and [the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and the University of Dublin](#).

Trinity as a designated awarding body has responsibilities to assure that its linked providers have their own policies and procedures with respect to admission, transfer and progression.

2. Purpose

This policy seeks to ensure that assessment methods are fair and effective.

3. Benefits

Academic standards are upheld and the integrity of awards is assured.

4. Scope

- 4.1 This policy applies to all formal examinations, continuous assessment, dissertations, theses, viva voce examinations, performances and practical examinations undertaken on programmes that lead to an award from the University of Dublin or Trinity College Dublin.
- 4.2 It applies to all programmes delivered in Trinity and, as appropriate, to those programmes or part thereof, delivered collaboratively by Trinity and its partner institutions.
- 4.3 It does not apply to students studying abroad on Trinity's approved exchange programmes (the regulations of the exchange institutions apply in these instances).
- 4.4 This policy does not apply to programmes delivered by linked providers. Assessment and academic progression regulations for such programmes are approved through the Trinity Programme Design and Approval process.



5. Principles

- 5.1 Trinity sees the fulfilment of its academic standards as essential for all students wishing to obtain one of its qualifications or to progress through its academic system.
- 5.2 Students are responsible for demonstrating their learning achievement.
- 5.3 Assessment forms an integral part of programme design and relates directly to programme aims and learning outcomes.
- 5.4 Assessment promotes and supports effective learning and teaching.
- 5.5 Assessment procedures are valid, reliable and consistent.
- 5.6 Assessment methods are reviewed and renewed as necessary to adapt to evolving requirements.
- 5.7 Students are well informed about how and why they are assessed.
- 5.8 Timely feedback that promotes and enhances learning is an integral part of the assessment process.

6. Policy

- 6.1 Students must meet the academic requirements of their programme of study and satisfy the rules and regulations as set out in the Calendar in order to progress academically (Ref. [Calendar Part II, Section II](#) and [Calendar Part III, Section I](#)).
- 6.2 Trinity has safeguards in place to minimise the risk of bias and error in the marking process. Such safeguards may include anonymous marking of formal examinations and double marking of examination scripts.
- 6.3 Trinity appoints External Examiners, focused for the most part, on programme years leading to an award. Their role is to ensure that academic standards are being maintained and regulations followed.
- 6.4 Reasonable accommodations may be made for students with disabilities or who may be otherwise disadvantaged due to circumstances beyond their control. Such accommodations will not compromise the academic demands of the examination or assessment and will be in accordance with Trinity's regulations and relevant national legislation (Ref. 9.4).
- 6.5 Plagiarism, cheating, and fraudulent or dishonest behaviour are considered an offence against academic integrity and are subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.
- 6.6 All appeals in relation to examination results are considered in accordance with the provisions of the University Calendar.
- 6.7 Examination and assessment processes are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness, drawing on the recommendations of external examiners and other relevant sources.



- 6.8 The Board of the College reserves the right to exclude from the College, on the recommendation of the University Council, students whose academic progress is unsatisfactory.

7. Responsibility

- 8.1 The responsibility for this policy lies with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, the Dean of Graduate Studies, as appropriate, and the Junior Dean.

9. Related Documents

- 9.1 The University Calendar, Parts [II](#) and [III](#)
- 9.2 [The 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and the University of Dublin](#)
- 9.3 [External Examiners Policy](#)
- 9.4 [Guidelines for Students and Staff on the Modifications of Examinations and Assessment Arrangements for Students with Disabilities](#)
- 9.5 [Appeals Policy \(Academic Progress\)](#)
- 9.6 [Guidelines on Exceptional Circumstances in support of an ad misericordiam Appeal](#)
- 9.7 [Return of Coursework Policy](#)
- 9.8 [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- 9.9 [Policy and Criteria for Access, Transfer and Progression in Relation to Learners for Providers of Further and Higher Education and Training \(QQI Policy Restatement 2015\)](#)

10. Document Control

- 10.1 Date policy approved: October 2016
- 10.2 Date of next policy review: Academic year 2019/20
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