



# Modified Arrangements for Coursework Assessment Policy

**\*\* Note:** This policy has been modified as part of the University's efforts to support students and staff during a period of significant disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These modifications may be revised as conditions change\*

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## OVERVIEW

Assessment is a core academic activity and an essential component of the learning process. The Assessment for Coursework Programs Policy requires assessment practices to be fair and equitable and to give students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned.

This policy describes the modified arrangements that the University may provide to a student in the event that their capacity to demonstrate their true level of competence in an assessment or examination was, is, or will be significantly impaired as a result of medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances.

## SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This policy applies to all students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate coursework courses (delivered via any mode of study) at the University. It should be read in conjunction with the [Assessment for Coursework Programs Policy](#) and the [Reasonable Adjustments to Learning, Teaching and Assessment for Students with a Disability Policy](#).

Implementation of this policy will be carried out in accordance with the University's Code of Conduct and the Academic Board Statement on Undue Influence. Any attempts to improperly exert pressure or influence actions or decisions made pursuant to this policy must be reported in accordance with the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy.

## POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. The University recognises that in some instances, students may experience Circumstances which may impact on their capacity to demonstrate their true level of competence in an assessment or, significantly impair their performance in an examination.
2. The University offers three types of Modified Arrangements which are intended to support students when such Circumstances arise:
  - a. Assessment Extensions;
  - b. Replacement Examinations; and
  - c. Additional Assessment.

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3. Modified Arrangements will only be granted where it is academically practicable and reasonable so that the integrity of the total assessment scheme will be maintained.
  4. All Modified Arrangements will be applied consistently and fairly.
  5. The granting of a Modified Arrangement will not disadvantage other students in the course.
  6. Where Modified Arrangements are granted, only the final official result will appear on a student's formal academic transcript.

## PROCEDURES

### 1. Eligibility for a Modified Arrangement

- a) A student may be eligible for a Modified Arrangement if their capacity to demonstrate their true level of competence in an assessment or Primary Examination was, is or will be significantly impaired as a result of:
  - i. Medical Circumstances including serious illness, injury or hospitalisation of the student; or
  - ii. Compassionate Circumstances, being those which lead to serious suffering or misfortune which were outside of the student's immediate control, including but not limited to:
    - 1) death or life-threatening injury or illness of an immediate family member, a member of the student's household or an individual for whom a student has a formally recognised carer's responsibility;
    - 2) serious illness or injury of a dependent of the student which requires the student to provide care;
    - 3) traumatic experiences including being a victim of a serious crime or involvement in a serious accident;
    - 4) natural disasters or a major political upheaval in a student's home country;
    - 5) significant disruption to a student's domestic arrangements;
    - 6) substantial and unanticipated financial hardship; or
  - iii. Extenuating Circumstances, being events beyond the University's control that compromise an assessment process, or significant commitments or obligations which are outside of the student's control, including but not limited to:
    - 1) religious obligations;
    - 2) formal legal obligations;
    - 3) military service commitments (including Army Reserve);
    - 4) service with a recognised emergency management service (including CFS or SES);
    - 5) representing the University, State or nation at a significant sporting or cultural event;
    - 6) being an approved [elite athlete](#) preparing for or participating in a sporting event or attending a sporting commitment;
    - 7) a timetable clash for tests or examinations;
    - 8) approved University activities, such as placements or overseas experiences (including Study Abroad and study tours).
- b) A student will be ineligible for a Modified Arrangement if their Circumstances:
  - i. were avoidable and the student had reasonable opportunity to make alternative arrangements;
  - ii. relate to an illness, physical or mental health condition for which the student has an Access Plan, unless there has been an exacerbation of the condition for which the student has provided appropriate documentary evidence in accordance with Procedure 6;
  - iii. relate to balancing workloads from other units of study, disciplines or faculties;
  - iv. were personal commitments or events such as international travel, holidays or weddings;

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- v. relate to temporary minor ailments such as colds, minor respiratory infections, headaches or minor gastric upsets;
  - vi. relate to stress or anxiety normally associated with examinations, required assessment tasks or any aspect of course work;
  - vii. are a result of misreading or misunderstanding the examination timetable.

## **2. Assessment Extensions**

- a) A student may apply for an extension to an Assessment Deadline in accordance with Procedure 6 if, as a result of their Circumstances they were, are, or will be unable to meet an Assessment Deadline.
- b) The Course Coordinator will assess the student's application and will either:
  - i. grant an extension to the Assessment Deadline of up to 10 business days (or up to 3 business days for students enrolled in Online Teaching Periods) or;
  - ii. allow other Modified Arrangements in accordance with Procedure 2c and 2d; or
  - iii. reject the application if the student is not eligible.
- c) If a Course Coordinator believes that a student's Circumstances are exceptional and that it would not be reasonable to extend the Assessment Deadline by only 10 business days (or only 3 business days for students enrolled in Online Teaching Periods) the Course Coordinator may, in consultation with the Head of School (or delegate):
  - i. allow the student to complete an alternative assessment task in place of the original assessment task with an Assessment Deadline specified by the Course Coordinator; or
  - ii. after confirming that the faculty and school will support such an application, recommend that the student apply to withdraw from the course without obtaining a Fail grade; or
  - iii. allow an extension to the Assessment Deadline of more than 10 business days provided that the mark will be available before the date that a Result Pending grade is automatically converted to a Fail grade.
- d) If it is not academically practicable or reasonable to provide an extension, the Course Coordinator may:
  - i. recommend to the Faculty Assessment Review Committee that the student be awarded a final mark obtained by excluding the assessment in question and proportionally scaling up the student's marks for work completed during the course if:
    - 1) it would be to the student's advantage to do so; and
    - 2) the original assessment task was worth 20% or less of the total course assessment; and
    - 3) the student has completed all other assessment tasks in the course; or
  - ii. after confirming that the faculty and school will support such an application, recommend that the student apply to withdraw from the course without a Fail grade; or
  - iii. negotiate with the student to transfer the weighting percentage of the assessment task to an alternative exam(s) or assessment(s) (for example, if the assessment was weighted at 10% and an exam at 50%, the new weighting of the exam would be 60%) provided that the new weighting of the exam does not breach the [Assessment for Coursework Programs Policy](#).

## **3. Replacement Examinations**

- a) A student may apply for a Replacement Examination in accordance with Procedure 6 if, as a result of their Circumstances they were, are, or will be unable to demonstrate their true level of competence in a Primary Examination.

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- b) If a student is granted a Replacement Examination prior to the Primary Examination they become ineligible to sit the Primary Examination. In the event the student sits the Primary Examination the grant of the Replacement Examination will be revoked and no further applications for a Replacement Examination will be considered for that examination.
  - c) If a student sits a Primary Examination they will not be eligible for a Replacement Examination unless:
    - i. their Circumstances arose during the Primary Examination; and
    - ii. they made an examination invigilator aware of their Circumstances before 50% of the time allowed for the examination had lapsed; and
    - iii. they did not complete the examination.

If the student submits an application for a Replacement Examination which is rejected, the Primary Examination will be marked and will count towards the student's final mark.

- d) A Replacement Examination will:
  - i. test the same areas of skill and knowledge as the Primary Examination; and
  - ii. be equivalent, though not identical to the Primary Examination; and
  - iii. take place at a time and venue nominated by the University.
- e) Students must ensure that they are available to sit a Replacement Examination at the time and venue nominated by the University.

#### **4. Additional Assessment**

- a) An Additional Assessment provides an additional opportunity for a student who has narrowly failed to achieve a passing grade in a course to demonstrate that they have achieved the required skills, knowledge and learning outcomes of that course by completing an additional assessment task.
- b) A student will be offered an Additional Assessment if they receive a Fail grade for a course with an underlying mark within 5% of a passing grade (normally 45-49%).
- c) In the event that the student has taken a Replacement Examination for the Course, an Additional Assessment may be made available at the discretion of the Course Coordinator.
- d) A student who received a mark of 50% or more for a course but has not met the hurdle requirements for the course will be offered an Additional Assessment.
- e) A student who receives a Fail grade in a Last Course may apply for an Additional Assessment in accordance with Procedure 6 provided that they are entitled to an Additional Assessment pursuant to Procedure 4g.
- f) Students will be given at least 3 calendar days' notice of an Additional Assessment (unless the student has applied for an Additional Assessment in a Last Course in which case the University will endeavour to give at least 3 calendar days' notice but is not required to do so).
- g) A student will not be entitled to an Additional Assessment if they:
  - i. have received an adjustment in grade or mark as a result of a breach of the [Academic Integrity Policy](#);
  - ii. have not met the attendance requirements of the course, if any;
  - iii. are also eligible for a Replacement Examination or Assessment Extension, as those Modified Arrangements take precedence.

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- h) The nature of an Additional Assessment will be determined by the Course Coordinator. It may cover learning outcomes of the whole course, or where the student has passed some components of the total course assessment scheme but failed others, the learning outcomes tested by the failed assessment task or tasks. When Additional Assessment is offered because a Hurdle Requirement has not been met, it must provide opportunity to demonstrate the mandated minimum level of performance in all outstanding hurdle requirements.
  - i) The final assessment mark awarded to the student will be the higher mark of the original assessment and the mark following the Additional Assessment. The final assessment mark will be used to determine the final course mark.
  - j) The maximum mark available to a student for a course for which they have completed an Additional Assessment is the lowest passing grade available for the course or Non-Graded Pass.
  - k) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President (Academic) may exempt a program or course from the application of Procedure 4 for up to 5 years and 2 years respectively if there are sound academic reasons to do so. All exemptions will be reported to the University Education Committee.
  - l) Students must ensure that they are available to sit an Additional Assessment at the time and venue nominated by the University.

#### **5. Deferring a Modified Arrangement**

- a) A student may apply to defer a Modified Arrangement in accordance with Procedure 6 if their capacity to demonstrate their true level of competence in the Modified Arrangement was, is or will be significantly impaired as a result of Medical, Compassionate or Extenuating Circumstances.
- b) The Course Coordinator (or delegate) will assess the application and will:
  - i. Allow a further extension to the Assessment Deadline or a deferment of a Replacement Examination or Additional Assessment provided the mark for the deferred assessment, additional assessment or examination will be available before the date that a Result Pending clause is automatically converted to a Fail grade; or
  - ii. After confirming that the faculty and school will support such an application, recommend that the student withdraw from the course without a Fail grade; or
  - iii. Recommend to the Faculty Assessment Review Committee that the student be awarded a final mark obtained by excluding the assessment in question and proportionally scaling up the student's marks for work completed for the whole course if:
    - 1) it would be to the student's advantage to do so; and
    - 2) the original Assessment Task was worth 20% or less of the total course assessment; and
    - 3) the student has completed all other Assessment Tasks in the course; or
  - iv. Reject the application if the student is not eligible.
- c) If a student is granted a deferred Replacement Examination they become ineligible to sit the Replacement Examination or the Primary Examination.

#### **6. Applying for a Modified Arrangement**

- a) To apply for a Modified Arrangement a student must complete the relevant form and submit it to the relevant faculty within the required timeframe specified in Procedure 6a. Where circumstances beyond the student's control prevent submission within the required timeframe, the Course Coordinator in their absolute discretion may accept a submission made at the first available opportunity:

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- i. To apply for an Assessment Extension, a student must submit an [Application for Assessment Extension](#) form prior to the Assessment Deadline. The Course Coordinator may reduce the level of supporting documentation required by the form if the assessment task comprises 20% or less of the total course assessment scheme, provided it is to the advantage of the student, variations are applied consistently and the nature and conditions of the Assessment Extension are documented;
  - ii. The Course Coordinator may approve late submission of an assessment task without submission of the Application for Assessment Extension form provided the length of the extension is less than 24 hours after the Assessment Deadline, to the advantage of the student, variations are applied consistently and the nature and conditions of the Assessment Extension are documented;
  - iii. To apply for a Replacement Examination, a student must submit an [Application for Replacement Examination](#) form at least 3 business days before the Primary Examination date unless:
    - 1) the student's Circumstance arose during the Primary Examination in which case the student must submit the form no later than 3 business days after the Primary Examination; or
    - 2) the student has Extenuating Circumstances in which case the form must be submitted no later than 3 business days after the Examination Timetable is released by the University or within 3 business days of the student becoming aware of the Extenuating Circumstance, whichever is latest; or
    - 3) the student's Circumstances arose during the 3 business days before the Primary Examination Date, in which case students must submit the form at their earliest opportunity and Procedure 6c will apply.
  - iv. To apply for an Additional Assessment for a Last Course a student must submit an [Last Course Application](#) form within 3 business days of notification of their final course grade being released.
  - v. To apply to Defer a Modified Arrangement, the student must submit the appropriate [Application for Replacement Examination](#) or [Application for Assessment Extension](#) form, at least 3 business days before the Replacement Exam, the Additional Assessment Deadline or deferred Assessment Deadline unless:
    - 1) the student's Circumstance arose during the Replacement Examination in which case the student must submit the form no later than 3 business days after the Replacement Examination; or
    - 2) the student has Extenuating Circumstances in which case the form must be submitted no later than 3 business days after the Examination Timetable is released by the University or within 3 business days of the student becoming aware of the Extenuating Circumstance, whichever is latest; or
    - 3) the student's Circumstances arose during the 3 business days before the Replacement Examination Date, in which case students must submit the form at their earliest opportunity and Procedure 6c will apply.
- b) The University will normally notify the student of the outcome of their application via the student's University email account within 3 business days of the University's receipt of it.
  - c) Students who submit an application for a Replacement Examination at least 3 business days before the date of the Primary Examination, will be notified of the outcome of the application at least 24 hours before the Primary Examination. If a student submits an application less than 3 business days before the Primary Examination, and they are not notified of the outcome more than 24 hours before the Primary Examination, then they may sit the Primary Examination. If their application is approved Procedure 3c will not apply and they will be entitled to sit the Replacement Examination.

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- d) Where possible, supporting documentation should be original or certified copies and must be signed by an independent person or authority who is able to verify the Circumstances.
  - e) If the University believes that a student has deliberately submitted false or misleading information the application for a Modified Arrangement will be rejected and the student may be referred to the Student Misconduct Tribunal for an appropriate penalty under the [Student Misconduct Rules](#).
  - f) If a student has a Medical Circumstance, where possible, the medical section of the relevant form must be completed in full and signed by a Medical or Health Practitioner. Where this is not possible, students may complete a personal statement and sign a declaration that the information provided is true and accurate.
  - g) If a student has Compassionate and/or Extenuating Circumstances, where possible, the relevant form must be accompanied by sufficient written evidence from a person or authority able to independently corroborate the student's claims regarding their Circumstances. Where this is not possible, students may complete a personal statement and sign a declaration that the information provided is true and accurate. Sufficient evidence may include, but is not limited to:
    - i. proof of death;
    - ii. police report;
    - iii. court summons;
    - iv. written evidence from Military Officer confirming the requirement to fulfil military service commitments
    - v. approved [elite athlete](#) documentation;
    - vi. official correspondence from a religious organisation, emergency service, sporting or cultural organisation;

Otherwise, the relevant section of the form must be completed by a University Counsellor, Disability Advisor, International Student Advisor, Education Welfare Officer, Wirtu Yarlú Student Service Officer, Elite Athlete Coordinator or Roseworthy Student Support Coordinator who is able to independently verify the student's claims.

- h) A student who wishes to appeal a decision made pursuant to the policy should follow the [Student Grievance Resolution Policy](#).

## DEFINITIONS

**Assessment Deadline** means the published submission date for an assessment task.

**Circumstance(s)** means Medical Circumstances and/or Compassionate Circumstances and/or Extenuating Circumstances as set out in Procedure 1.

**Examination** includes any formally supervised summative assessment that requires a student to be assessed at a particular time and place irrespective of when in the semester it occurs.

**Faculty Assessment Review Committee** means the committee referred to in the [Assessment for Coursework Programs Policy](#)

**Last Course** means the single course in an assessment period that a student has failed but needs to pass in order to complete their program in that assessment period. This is identified at the time at which all final marks for Primary Examinations have been published and before results for Modified Arrangements are published.

**Medical or Health Practitioner** for the purpose of this policy means a health professional (such as a medical practitioner or psychologist) that is registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or a corresponding international regulatory agency.

**Modified Arrangement** means an alternative assessment arrangement that the University may provide as set out in Principle 2.

**Online Teaching Periods** policy means Online Teaching Periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

**Primary Examination** means the first sitting of an Examination.

## AUTHORITIES

<b>Key</b>	<b>Authority Category</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Delegation Holder</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Academic	Assessment	Approve applications for Assessment Extensions under Procedure 2	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 2
Academic	Assessment	Approve exceptional modified assessment arrangements under Procedure 2.c	Course Coordinator in consultation with the Head of School (or delegate)	Subject to Procedure 2.c
Academic	Assessment	Approve the determination of a grade under Procedure 2.d (averaging a student's work over whole course in specified circumstances)	Faculty Assessment Review Committee on recommendation of Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 2.d
Academic	Assessment	Approve applications for Replacement Examinations under Procedure 3	Designated officer/s or committee as specified by Executive Dean	Subject to Procedure 3
Academic	Assessment	Approve applications for a Last Course Additional Assessment under Procedure 4	Assessment Review Committee	Subject to Procedure 4
Academic	Assessment	Determine the nature of Additional Assessment	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 4
Academic	Assessment	Make Additional assessment available to students who have completed a Replacement Exam	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 4
Academic	Assessment	Approve exemptions from the application of Procedure 4 for programs or courses	Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Academic)	Subject to Procedure 4
Academic	Assessment	Approve the deferral of a Modified Arrangement under Procedure 5	Course Coordinator (or delegate)	Subject to Procedure 5



<b>Key</b>	<b>Authority Category</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Delegation Holder</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Academic	Assessment	Approve the late submission of a Modified Arrangement made at the first available opportunity under Procedure 6.a	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 6.a
Academic	Assessment	Approve the reduction in supporting documentation required to apply for an Assessment Extension in certain circumstances under Procedure 6	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 6
Academic	Assessment	Approve Assessment Extensions of up to 24 hours under Procedure 6.a ii	Course Coordinator	Subject to Procedure 6.a ii
Academic	Assessment	Verify a student's claim who has either compassionate or extenuating circumstances	University Counsellor, Disability Advisor, International Student Advisor, Education Welfare Officer, Wirltu Yarlur Student Service Officer, Elite Athlete Coordinator or Roseworthy Student Support Coordinator	
Academic	Assessment	Approve University-wide application form/s for Modified Arrangements	Director, Student Administration	

<b>RMO File No.</b>	F. 2018/11381
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic)
<b>Responsible policy officer</b>	Director, Student Life, Division of Academic and Student Engagement
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Academic Board on 12 February 2021
<b>Approved by</b>	Vice-Chancellor and President on 17 February 2021
<b>Related Documents and Policies</b>	<a href="#">Assessment for Coursework Students Policy</a> <a href="#">Academic Integrity Policy</a> <a href="#">Reasonable Adjustments to Learning, Teaching and Assessment for Students with a Disability Policy</a>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	<a href="#">Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS Act) 2000</a> <a href="#">Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021</a>
<b>Superseded Policies</b>	Nil
<b>Effective from</b>	17 February 2021
<b>Review Date</b>	17 February 2024
<b>Contact for queries about the policy</b>	Educational Quality: <a href="mailto:eqcompliance@adelaide.edu.au">eqcompliance@adelaide.edu.au</a>