

Introduction of Capping for Repeat Examinations and Assessments

In August 2015, the University's Academic Standing Committee agreed to introduce capping for repeat exams and assessments. Capping means that when students repeat their exams or assessments, the maximum mark they can be awarded is the pass mark for the module (i.e. 40%). Capping will be phased in from the beginning of Academic Year 2015/16. The move will bring us into alignment with other universities across Ireland and the UK.

There are two exceptions:

- a) Capping will not apply in the First Year of programmes
- b) In the case of modules of the MB, BCh, BAO and BSc (Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, and Speech and Language), the maximum mark that may be awarded will be 50%, which is the pass mark for modules on those programmes

For detailed information on how capping applies to your specific programme, visit:

www.nuigalway.ie/marksandstandards

What does this mean for me?

As a student you should be aware that if you fail an exam or assessment and go on to repeat it, the highest mark you can achieve in that exam or assessment on most programmes is 40%. It is important for undergraduate students to be aware that, with the exception of Medicine, the results of your Pre-Final Year exams and assessments account for 30% of your overall degree. For Medical students entering Fourth Year in 2015/16, your degree will be based on 50% of your mark in Fourth Year and 50% of your mark in Final Year. Therefore, whatever your programme, if you have to repeat in Pre-Final or Final Year it may have a significant impact on your overall degree.

As a staff member you should ensure that students on your programme are aware of capping. It could have a significant impact on their results.

Implementing Capping

The University is phasing in capping over a three year period. Capping will be applied to undergraduate programmes as follows:

1. Academic year 2015/16:

- Capping does not apply to First Year and Final Year
- Capping applies to all other years of programmes, i.e. from Second Year to Pre-Final Year inclusive

2. Academic year 2016/17:

- Capping does not apply to First Year
- Capping applies to all other years of programmes, i.e. from Second Year to Final Year inclusive

- Capping applies to students who are repeating any Stage of a programme from Second Year to Final Year, regardless of when the first attempt at the Stage was made
- Capping does not apply to those students who were on ERASMUS, year abroad or other academic related programmes approved by the relevant College in 2015/16 and who are now in Final Year
- Capping applies to students who are in Final Year in 2016/17 and in the course of the 2015/16 academic year availed of leave-of-absence, whether or not such leave was approved by the University

3. Academic Year 2017/18 and thereafter:

- Capping does not apply to First Year
- Capping applies to all other years of programmes, i.e. from Second Year to Final Year inclusive, including those students who are repeating a year or returning after a gap in their studies

Summary

Capping will apply to all programmes from Academic Year 2015/2016 at the pass mark for the programme

It will be phased in as follows:

Academic Year 2015/16	Academic Year 2016/17	Academic Year 2017/18
<p>Capping applies to ALL STUDENTS with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Year Undergraduate • Final Year 	<p>Capping applies to ALL STUDENTS with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Year Undergraduate • Final Year students who were on ERASMUS, year abroad or other academic programmes approved by their College in 2015/2016 	<p>Capping applies to ALL STUDENTS with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Year Undergraduate

For detailed information on how capping applies to your specific programme, visit: www.nuigalway.ie/marksandstandards

Deferrals

Capping will apply in all cases as outlined above, unless a deferral has been granted. For information on deferrals see the University's Deferral Policy: www.nuigalway.ie/deferral