

Becoming eligible for an award with “Distinction” or “Merit”: *a guide for new postgraduate students*

DOES THIS APPLY TO ME??

- ✓ This guidance applies from the academic year to ***students on all taught postgraduate courses except PGCE, Professional Doctorates Part 1 and MEd***

How do my marks relate to award classes?

- Your marks and grades for individual assessments relate to award classes as shown opposite.
- If all of your marks fall in the same class band, that is what you will get!
- However, most students aren't quite so consistent

Grade	Class
A++, A+, A	Distinction
B+, B	Merit
C+, C	Merit

I'm on a Masters degree: how will my award class be calculated?

The Common Classification Scale [all awards]

- An overall aggregate mark of 70-100 is classed as a Distinction
- An overall aggregate mark of 60-69 is classed as a Merit
- An overall aggregate mark of 50-59 is classed as a Pass

Classifications Recommended by the Boards of Examiners

All Masters Degrees

- a. Award classification will be based on the Overall Aggregate Mark unless the student has been granted exemption, via the Accreditation of Prior Learning, from more than 60 credits of taught modules. In this case the maximum award that can be granted is a PASS.
- b. Where the Overall Aggregate Mark is within 2 rounded marks of the threshold for the higher classification, the candidate is **Borderline** and their profile will be considered at the Board.

Classifications Recommended by the Boards of Examiners

Postgraduate Diplomas

- a. Award classifications will be based on the Overall Aggregate Mark unless the student has been granted exemption, via the Accreditation of Prior Learning, from more than 30 credits of taught modules. In this case the maximum award that can be granted is a PASS.
- b. Where the Overall Aggregate Mark is within 2 rounded marks of the threshold for the higher classification, the candidate is Borderline and their profile will be considered at the Board.

Classifications Recommended by the Boards of Examiners

Postgraduate Certificates

- a. Award classification will be based on the Overall Aggregate Mark unless the student has been granted exemption, via the Accreditation of Prior Learning, from more than 15 credits of taught modules. In this case the maximum award that can be granted is a PASS.
- b. Where the Overall Aggregate Mark is within 2 rounded marks of the threshold for the higher classification, the candidate is Borderline and their profile will be considered at the Board.

Borderline Candidates

[a] The Board will NOT, when determining classifications, consider any evidence of mitigating circumstances; decisions will be based on the quality of the submitted assessment.

[b] After consideration of the assessment marks, students will receive the higher of the two classifications if 50% of their initial assessment outcomes are in the higher classification.

[c] For borderline candidates who have previously been granted exemption, by APL, from between 1 and 60 credits, 50% of assessment outcomes will be considered across the full 180 credits of the award, not from the credits they have undertaken at Hope. This means that for a student who has been exempted from 60 credits, the candidate must achieve 90 credits rather than 60 credits in the higher classification in order to have their award raised.

If you fail one or more assessments...

→ If you pass your module[s] on aggregate, & all your marks are at least F+:

☺ *you will normally be deemed to have passed your degree. [You will NOT have a resit opportunity.]*

→ If you get less than F+ for any assessment:

☹ *you will be deemed NOT to have passed your degree.*

⇒ The Examiners will decide your options, which might include:

- EITHER resubmitting the failed assessments;
- OR retaking all or part of the degree with attendance;
- OR finishing your studies without taking a Masters degree.

→ If you get less than Grade C for the Dissertation or other “Qualifying Component” specified for your degree:

☹ *you will be deemed NOT to have passed your degree.*

⇒ The Examiners will decide your options, which might include:

- EITHER resubmitting the failed assessments;
- OR retaking all or part of the degree with attendance;
- OR finishing your studies without taking a Masters degree.

If you simply don't submit one or more assessments ..

➔ You will NOT be eligible to graduate.

⇒ The Examiners will decide your options, which may include:

- EITHER “re”submitting the assessments;
- OR retaking the relevant modules with attendance;
- OR finishing your studies without completing your course.

➔ The marks you gain on any resits/retakes the Examiners require will NOT raise your aggregates any higher than a bare pass [any higher aggregate you already hold will not be lowered].

➔ Not submitting work is NEVER a good idea! If you aren't fit to do an assessment, follow the advice in the next slide.

If you aren't fit to do an assessment..

- If you miss an assessment due to approved mitigating circumstances [not necessarily "medical"], you will normally be entitled to undertake the assessment later with no penalty.
- Therefore, it is **essential** to:
 - ⇒ submit evidence of mitigating circumstances to explain absence from an exam;
 - ⇒ seek an extension if you are not able, for good reasons, to submit work on time.
- If, without letting the University know why, you don't do an assessment, or hand it in late, your degree is at risk!

Where do I find more information?

- ✓ This information is for Guidance Only.
- ✓ Further information about how merits and distinctions are calculated is available on: www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/
- ✓ If you have any queries, please contact your Faculty Office and ask for an appointment to talk to a Senior Academic Adviser.
- ✓ ***Please seek advice immediately if you think you have mitigating circumstances.***