

23 February 2021

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR: TEACHING AND LEARNING

UKZN PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENATE M+ PROJECT FOR STUDENTS WITH NO MORE THAN 2 MODULES REMAINING TO BE DEGREE COMPLETE

Dear Staff and Students

A. Joint communique dated 10 February 2021

Special exams/assessments for all students left with one or two modules outstanding for degree complete.

Colleges are already implementing General Rule 18, as previously approved by Senate, for students left with one or two modules and have already attempted these modules previously (i.e. the M-Plus Project). The required assessments for these students will be conducted online. In undertaking this task, which the respective CAABs will oversee, cognisance will be taken of the requirements for professional degree programmes and other practical requirements for the degree.

B. UKZN proposed guidelines for implementation of Special Assessment

A maximum of two (2) special assessments can be considered under the following conditions:

1. If the student only has a maximum of two (2) coursework modules (both modules having been registered for and participated in the module, in either semester 1 or semester 2 of 2020) outstanding to complete their Undergraduate or Hons/PGDip degree, in order to be made DC. This is subject to the guidelines for CR coding being considered well before deciding on a special assessment can be made.
2. That this intervention excludes all research modules and any module excluded due to their Statutory or Regulatory Body obligations.
3. Students who have performed poorly in practicals and where they count a sizable portion of over 50% toward the final mark will have to repeat the module when it is next offered.
4. Where group projects, work experience, or field trips are part of the remaining module, the student will have to repeat the module when it is offered next.
5. The students will be offered a special assessment that would replace the previous assessments, excluding the practicals, group assignments, and research projects; a single assessment covering all the module's learning outcomes.

All taught modules must be moderated and or externally examined in accordance with the applicable module quality assurance system.

In cases where oral exams are conducted in accordance with GR18 as contemplated in this intervention, these should align with all moderation processes, and the oral exam must be recorded and saved for quality assurance.

6. **Students who have pending or concluded disciplinary and/or conduct matters explicitly excluding them from the module due to the Proctor's judgements would not be eligible for the special assessment.**
7. That there will be no further opportunities made available if the student is unsuccessful in the special assessment or fails to take up the current opportunity.
8. The following general rules are applicable to the current intervention in accordance with the M+ project as contemplated

GR18 Examinations

An examination may be written and/or oral and may include practical work.

With the approval of the college academic affairs board, a written examination may, for a particular student, be replaced or supplemented by an oral examination.

HR7/PR7 Progression

- a) A student may repeat a failed coursework module not more than once.
- b) Under exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the relevant School, the College Academic Affairs board may permit a student who has failed the prescribed project described in Rule HR4 or Rule PR4 to register for the research project module once more, with a new research topic.
- c) A student who, after four semesters as a full-time student or six semesters as a part-time student, has not completed the requirements for the degree shall be excluded.

C. Administration of the Special Exams Process

1. Schools to identify invite those students who qualify for such exams by 26 February 2021.
2. Students to submit special exam applications to Schools by 05 March 2021. No late applications will be considered.
3. Schools to approve applications by the 12 March and to capture FE code immediately thereafter.
4. Assessment deadlines must be in keeping with the semester 1 2021 exam dates.

Issued by

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