

LTC16D117

Title: Changes to BIM Regulations communication to students
Author: Caroline Sauverin, Head of LTS (Systems)
Date: 02-05-17
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Agenda: 10-5-17, Section C
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

To receive the communication plan for informing students of the changes to the BIM regulations with the introduction of limited compensation and GPA, along with the memos and flowcharts for continuing and final-year undergraduate students.

Recommendation

This is for information only.

Resource Implications

None.

Risk Implications

Low

Equality and Diversity

n/a

Timing of decisions

This is for report only.

Further Information

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Communication plan for introduction of compensation and GPA, May 2017

Task	Who	Notes	Target date	Completed date
Regulations approved by LTC	CS			15-3-17
Regulations ratified by Senate	CS	VC Chair's action by email		26-03-17
Email detailing outcome of regulation changes for 16/7 to Faculties/ consultees, with next steps regarding identification of modules which can be compensated	CS		30-03-17	03-04-17
Changes to regulations for 2017/8 onwards to May LTC (deadline for papers 28 April) – consultation with FLTQCs (more of a proposal than a consultation)	CS	This has been delayed to June LTC	30-03-17	
Agree admin processes continuing students and Finalists with LTS and Planning Office	CS		07-04-17	07-04-17
Flow diagrams for progressing and final-year students	CS		02-05-17	02-05-17
Example scenarios for progressing and final-year students	CS		07-04-17	02-05-17
Draft memo to finalists and continuing students and send to SU Education Officer and Advice Centre, plus UEA Comms for comments	CS	No comments received from SU by 02-05-17; UEA Comms happy with proposal.	07-04-17	Sent 12-04, chased for response 28-04.
Letter to be sent out via Hubs to students			w/c 08-05-17 or earlier if possible	
Piece for 'All students' email			w/c 08-05-17 or earlier if possible	
Piece for Concrete to go via ARM			TBC	
Details of 'core' modules published to students via LTS website	Hub teams		22-05-17	
Memo to external examiners			TBC	
Task	Who	Notes	Target date	Completed date

	LTS Processes support:				
	New PIT codes: 1. REASSOPTNON 2. PROGRESSCOMP 3. REASSOPTFIN	Planning Office (Ant)		End of May	
	New training/guidance: • Core modules and new regulations • on use of CP – undoing Fail grade and replacing with CP • on new PIT code and new processes	LTS/SAS team: Jeff/ADG/ Jo C		End of May	
	20% rule – keep for students who are not eligible for compensation?	CS	This will go to LTC with regs for 2017/8	June LTC	
	SITS 'send to reassessment letters' – amend for optional reassessment students – progressing and finalists.	Heather Reynolds		End of May	
	17/8 auto updated diets, SMS, SMO, SMRs with correct SES code E, by September	Planning Office (Ant)		September	
	List of finalists with failed assessments in sem 1	PO for CS		May	

Final Year Students' Memo:

Award regulation changes for undergraduate and integrated masters students – information for Finalists

Summary

This important information is for students finishing their degrees this year and covers the introduction of compensation and the introduction of Grade Point Averages (GPA).

The University has changed the award regulations for 2016/7 with immediate effect to allow students in some circumstances the opportunity to progress and achieve a degree even though they have failed a module. The reason the University is making this change is to give students the same opportunities that they would receive at comparable universities.

This document also explains the introduction of Grade Point Averages, which will be available to all undergraduate students this Summer.

A. Changes to the requirement to pass all modules

The Regulation

The University is introducing compensation for 2016/7 modules. This means that if a student has achieved good marks in all of their modules except for one 20- or 30-credit module they may have achieved the requirements for a degree without undertaking reassessment. Compensation will only be available in some courses and will not be allowed in courses where all modules need to be passed, for example those for professional degrees.

Compensation will not be allowed in any module designated as core (those that must be passed to meet the learning outcomes of the course). Some modules in some courses will not be core, and will be compensatable.

In order to be considered for compensation in eligible courses:

1. The student must fail only one module, of no more than 30 credits.
2. The failed module must be eligible for compensation ie is not designated as core.
3. The student must have an average mark for the year of at least the pass mark (40% for Bachelors degrees; 50% for Integrated Masters degrees). All modules including the failed module contribute to this mark.

A compensated module will be recorded on the students' marks statements and transcripts as a 'compensated pass'. The achieved mark will not change.

Delayed Sit Students from 2015/6 for finalists

Final-year students who are returning to complete delayed final assessments from previous years are eligible for compensation using the above criteria. (This is only available to returning finalists; continuing students with delayed sits from 2015/6 will be considered under the original regulations and must pass all modules).

Compensation at the Final Board

For final-year students who are eligible for compensation, the Board of Examiners will consider their marks and recommend a classification for their award assuming that the failed module is compensated. We will assume that finalists who are eligible wish to take the compensation, so that they can have the award conferred, graduate and not worry about reassessment. However, students may opt to go to reassessment if they wish to. A model example is given at the end of this document to illustrate the effect of compensation compared to a capped reassessment mark, to help students with their decision.

Is it better to undertake Reassessment or take the Compensation?

This will be the student's decision. Students may want to consider the effects of both options in light of their overall performance and the degree classification they are hoping to achieve. Some of the issues they may want to consider are outlined below. In terms of affecting the eventual classification outcome, whether or not a capped reassessment mark will improve the class will depend on the whole set of marks, how high the original fail mark is, and how close to the borderline of the next class the students' marks lie. An example is set out below. If students have any doubts about which option to take or would like to discuss their options further they should discuss their situation with their Adviser or the Student Union Advice Centre.

Consequences for Graduation and attending the Graduation Ceremony

Students who are eligible for compensation will be awarded their degree which will be conferred at their graduation ceremony, and if they are attending Graduation, they will receive their parchment. For students who wish to go to reassessment they can attend Graduation, but they will not receive their degree or parchment until the Reassessment outcome is known because this may affect the degree classification.

Consequences of taking Reassessment

1. Students would have the chance to pass all their modules and to have a pass mark recorded on their transcript, rather than a mark below the pass mark.
2. Taking reassessment may improve the classification and consequently the job prospects or further study options available to the student.
3. All module marks at Stage 2 (Year 2) and above contribute to the degree classification so by improving the module result at Reassessment, students' classification mark would improve. However, the significance of the improvement would depend on the original failed mark and how close to the borderline the overall marks are. Please remember that:
 - a. Reassessment marks are capped at the pass mark, so the mark of 40% (for Bachelors) would contribute to the classification mark, not the actual mark achieved at reassessment.
 - b. The module marks are weighted according to credit and year of study.
4. For finalists who choose to go to reassessment to improve their failed module mark, and pass the module at reassessment, a mark of 40% (for Bachelors) will be used in the degree classification calculation. Students will be able to calculate in advance whether the improvement in the mark would materially affect their classification. If by passing the module at reassessment would make a student's degree class a 2i, from a 2ii, for example, it would be sensible for the student to consider taking the reassessment option.
5. Taking the reassessment option will cost students £70. This is the current module charge for reassessment.
6. Taking the reassessment option delays the conferment of the degree and may result in a delay in starting in employment.

Consequences of taking the Compensation

1. Finalists would have their degrees conferred at the July Graduation ceremonies, and would be available for graduate-level employment immediately.
2. Students would know when they received their results in July that they had successfully completed their degree and did not need to make themselves available for Reassessment exams or undertake Reassessment coursework during the Summer vacation.
3. Students would not be charged the £70 reassessment fee.
4. Students would have on record a mark that is below the pass mark, graded as a 'compensated pass'.
5. The mark achieved would contribute to the Stage Average, and, for 'counting' years (Year 2 and beyond, contributing to the classification mark), not going to reassessment may result in a lower classification.

What happens next

1. Lists of modules detailing which are core and which can be compensated will be published for each Course on the LTS website by the 22 May.
2. Students will be notified that they have received compensation, if appropriate, when their results are published, and there will be instructions on how to opt for reassessment instead, if they wish to, in the results email sent from the Hubs. The deadline for informing finalists of their results is 7 July 2017.
3. Students who wish to go to reassessment rather than take compensation should apply to their Hub by Thursday 13 July 2017. They can still attend Graduation, but will not receive their parchment until after reassessment.

Example for a 2:1 borderline student - Finalist					
2015/6 year 2	Mark	Grade	Stage (year) Average	GPA	Degree Class Weighting
Module 1	70	I			
Module 2	40	3			
Module 3	68	2i			
Module 4	55	2ii			
Module 5	57	2ii			
Module 6	50	2ii	56.67		40%
2016/7 year 3					
Module 7	63	2i			
Module 8	60	2i			
Module 9	20	CP			
Module 10	67	2i			
Module 11	63	2i		(summative)	
Module 12	70	I	57.17	3.00	60%

With Compensation

If this student took the compensation for Year 3 Module 9 their transcript would record the marks above and their class would be:

40% of their Year 2 Stage average and 60% of their Year 3 Stage average:

(0.4 x 56.67)+(0.6 x 57.97)	Classification mark	GPA	Class
	56.97	3.00	2ii

With Reassessment

However, if this student went to successful reassessment in Year 3, they would receive a mark capped at 40% for Module 9, bringing their Stage average up to 57.17 and a classification mark of 58.97, within the 2% boundary; the marks would mean that the student would receive a 2i automatically using the algorithm regulation:

40% of their Year 2 Year average and 60% of their Year 3 average:

(0.4 x 56.67)+(0.6 x 60.50)	Classification mark	GPA	Class
	58.97	3.00	2i

So, in this case, it would be in the student's interest to go to reassessment in Year 3 as a finalist as they would receive a 2i

B. The introduction of Grade Point Averages (GPA)

Summary

The grade point average (GPA) is a measure of student achievement which can be used both during and on completion of a programme of study. UEA is introducing GPA as a complementary measure of students' achievements to be used alongside traditional degree classifications.

Indicative GPA for continuing students

For continuing students, an indicative GPA based on the module marks achieved in the year, will be available on students' online mark statements. The indicative GPA will be calculated using the weighted stage (year) average (that is, the average of all the module marks, weighted to take account of the module credit), using the following scale:

TABLE ONE: Conversion table for GPA Score

Year Average Mark/ Classification mark	Grade Point	Classification
>=75	4.25	I
71-74	4.0	I
67-70	3.75	2 I (high)
64-66	3.50	2 I (med)
61-63	3.25	2 I (low)
57-60	3.0	2 ii (high)
54-56	2.75	2 ii (med)
50-53	2.50	2 ii (low)
48-49	2.25	3
43-47	2.0	3
40-42	1.50	3
38-39	1.0	
35-37	0.75	
30-34	0.5	
<=29	0.0	

As an example, a student at the end of Year 2 who had achieved a weighted year average of 68% would have an indicative GPA of 3.75. Only the current year marks contribute to the indicative GPA so continuing students will receive an indicative GPA at the end of each progressing year which is only calculated from marks achieved within that year.

Summative GPA for finalists

Final-year students will be awarded a GPA based on their classification mark, and this will be published on their transcript in addition to their classification and classification mark. It will not be recorded on the degree parchment. Only transcripts for completed students, who obtain a classification mark, would record a GPA score.

The summative GPA is derived from the classification mark using the conversion in Table One. (The classification mark is calculated from the weighted year average marks from the 'counting years' ie Year 2 and beyond. The year averages are then further weighted according to the classification weighting, normally 40% year 2, 60% year 3 for Bachelor degrees. Further details on the award regulations are available [here](#)).

Continuing Students' Memo:

Award regulation changes for undergraduate and integrated masters students – important information for non-final year students

Summary

This important information is for current continuing (non-final year) students and covers the introduction of compensation and the introduction of Grade Point Averages (GPA).

The University has changed the award regulations for 2016/7 with immediate effect to allow students in some circumstances the opportunity to progress even though they have failed a module. The reason the University is making this change is to give students the same opportunities that they would receive at comparable universities.

This document also explains the introduction of Grade Point Averages, which will be available to all undergraduate students this Summer.

C. Changes to the requirement to pass all modules

The Regulation

The University is introducing compensation for 2016/7 modules. This means that if a student has achieved good marks in all of their modules except for one 20-credit module, they may be able to progress to the next year without undertaking reassessment. Compensation will only be available in some courses and will not be allowed in courses where all modules need to be passed, for example those for professional degrees.

Compensation will not be allowed in any module designated as core (those that must be passed to meet the learning outcomes of the course). Some modules in some courses will not be core, and will be compensatable.

In order to be considered for compensation in eligible courses:

4. The student must fail only one module, of no more than 20 credits.
5. The failed module must be eligible for compensation ie is not designated as core.
6. The student must have an average mark for the year of at least 40%. All modules including the failed module contribute to this mark.

A compensated module will be recorded on the students' marks statements and transcripts with a grade of 'compensated pass' next to the achieved mark.

Delayed Sit Students from 2015/6 for continuing students

Please note: This regulation affects modules studied in the current academic year; students who are returning to complete delayed assessments from previous years are not affected by this change in the regulation, and are still required to pass everything for modules relating to previous years' study.

Referral to Reassessment

The University will refer to reassessment all non-final year students who have failed a module but are eligible for compensation. This is because we believe that students should have the opportunity to pass all their modules, and obtain the best marks possible, over two attempts. However, students may opt out of the reassessment opportunity and take the compensation if they wish to. Some marks modelling examples are given at the end of this document to help students with their decision.

Is it better to undertake Reassessment or take the Compensation?

This will be the student's decision. Students may want to consider the effects of both options in light of their overall performance and the degree classification they are hoping to achieve. Some of the issues they may want to consider are outlined below. In terms of affecting the eventual classification outcome, whether or not a capped reassessment mark will improve the class will depend on the whole set of marks, how high the original fail mark is, and how close to the borderline of the next class the students' marks lie. An example is set out below. If students have any doubts about which option to take or would like to discuss their options further they should discuss their situation with their Adviser or the Student Union Advice Centre.

Consequences of taking Reassessment

7. Students would have the chance to pass all their modules and to have a pass mark recorded on their transcript, rather than a mark below the pass mark.
8. All module marks at Stage 2 (Year 2) and above contribute to the degree classification so by improving the module result at Reassessment, students' classification mark would improve. However, the significance of the improvement would depend on the original failed mark and how close to the borderline the overall marks are. Please remember that:
 - a. Reassessment marks are capped at the pass mark, so the mark of 40% would contribute to the classification mark, not the actual mark achieved at reassessment.
 - b. The module marks are weighted according to credit and year of study.
9. Taking the reassessment option will cost students £70. This is the current module charge for reassessment.

Consequences of taking the Compensation

6. Students would know when they received their results in July that they had progressed to the next year and did not need to make themselves available for Reassessment exams or undertake Reassessment coursework during the Summer vacation.
7. Students would not be charged the £70 reassessment fee.
8. Students would have on record a mark that is below the pass mark, graded as a 'compensated pass'.
9. The mark achieved would contribute to the Stage Average, and, for 'counting' years (Years 2 and beyond, contributing to the classification mark), not going to reassessment may result in a lower classification.

What happens next

4. Lists of modules detailing which are core and which can be compensated will be published for each Course on the LTS website by the 22 May 2017.
5. Students who are eligible for compensation will be notified when their results are published, and there will be instructions on how to opt out of reassessment and take the compensation in the results email sent from the Hubs. These emails will be sent to students on 18 July at the latest.
6. If students do not wish to go to reassessment and would rather take the compensation, they must inform the Hub team by 28 July 2017.

Compensation at the Reassessment Board

1. Students will undergo reassessment either because they have failed modules that are core and are not eligible for compensation or they have failed more than one module, or they have chosen to take the reassessment instead of the compensation.
2. If these students fail one module at reassessment, and that module meets the compensation criteria, the Board of Examiners will progress the student to the next year. The higher of the two achieved marks attempted at first sit and at reassessment will be recorded on the students' record against the Compensated Pass grade, for the failed module.
3. If the failed module is not eligible for compensation, the student will be withdrawn through academic failure.

Example for a 2:1 borderline student					
2016/7 year 2	Mark	Grade	Stage (year) Average	GPA	Degree Class Weighting
Module A	70	I			
Module B	25	CP			
Module C	68	2i			
Module D	55	2ii			
Module E	57	2ii		(indicative)	
Module F	50	2ii	54.17	2.75	40%
2017/8 year 3					
Module G	63	2i			
Module H	60	2i			
Module J	30	CP			
Module K	67	2i			
Module L	63	2i		(summative)	
Module M	70	I	58.83	3.00	60%
With Compensation					
If this student took the compensation for both Year 2 and Year 3 their transcript would record the marks above and their class would be:					
40% of their Year 2 Stage average and 60% of their Year 3 Stage average:					
		class. mark		GPA	Class
	$(0.4 \times 54.17) + (0.6 \times 58.83)$	56.97		3.00	2ii
With Reassessment in Year 2					
However, if this student went to successful reassessment in Year 2, they would receive a mark capped at 40% for Module B, bringing their Stage average up to 56.67 and a classification mark within the 2% boundary; the marks would mean that the student would receive a 2i automatically using the algorithm regulation:					
40% of their Year 2 Year average and 60% of their Year 3 average:					
		class mark		GPA	Class
	$(0.4 \times 56.67) + (0.6 \times 58.83)$	57.97		3.00	2i
So, in this case, it would be in the student's interest to go to reassessment in Year 2 as they would be able to get the results achieved in Year 3, including a fail, and still get a 2i. If they chose not to take the reassessment in Year 2, they would have the option of taking it for Module J in Year 3, and still get a 2i.					

D. The introduction of Grade Point Averages (GPA)

Summary

The grade point average (GPA) is a measure of student achievement which can be used both during and on completion of a programme of study. UEA is introducing GPA as a complementary measure of students' achievements to be used alongside traditional degree classifications.

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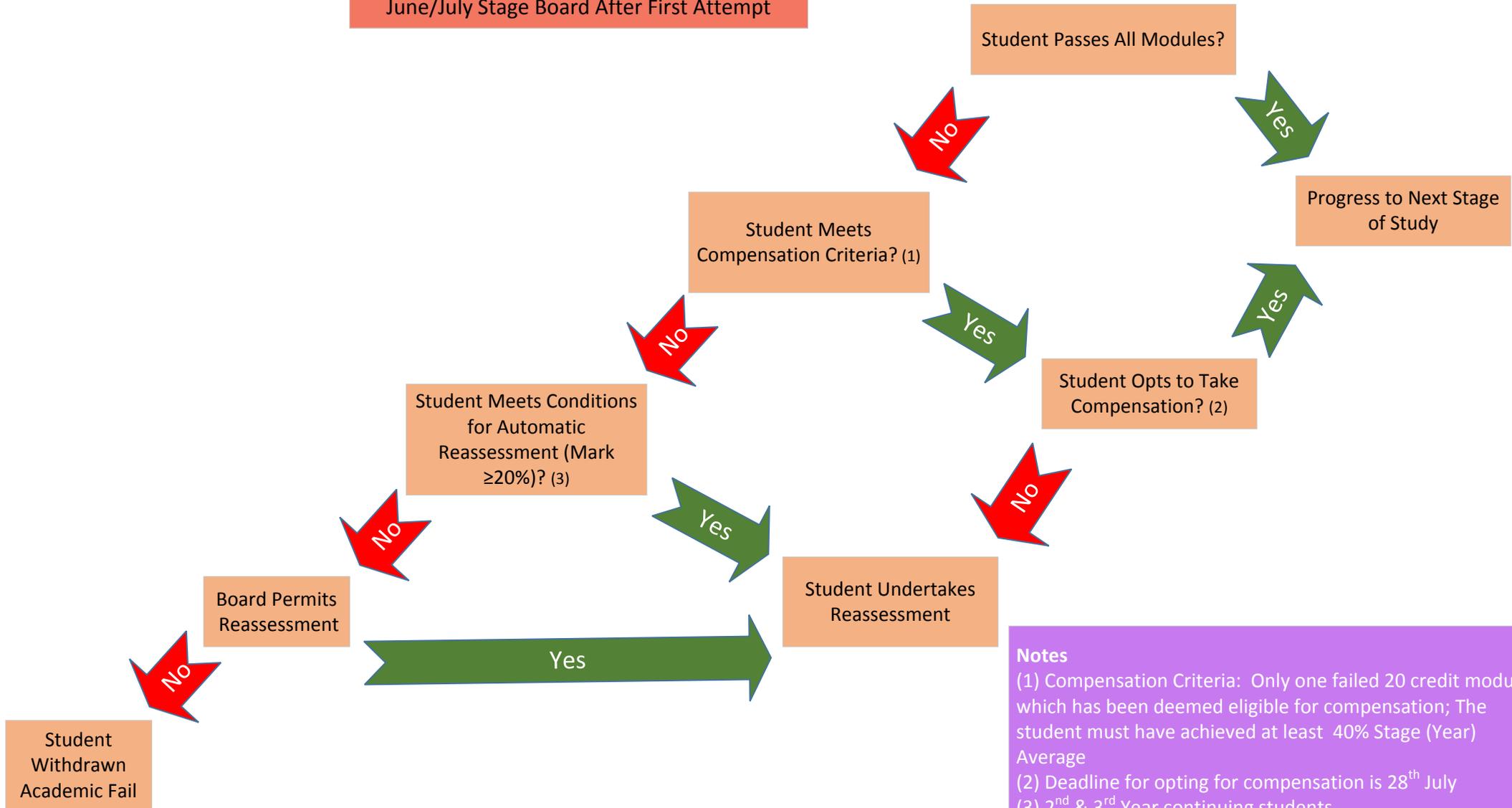
Summative GPA for finalists

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Continuing Students – How Compensation Works 2016/17 Assessment

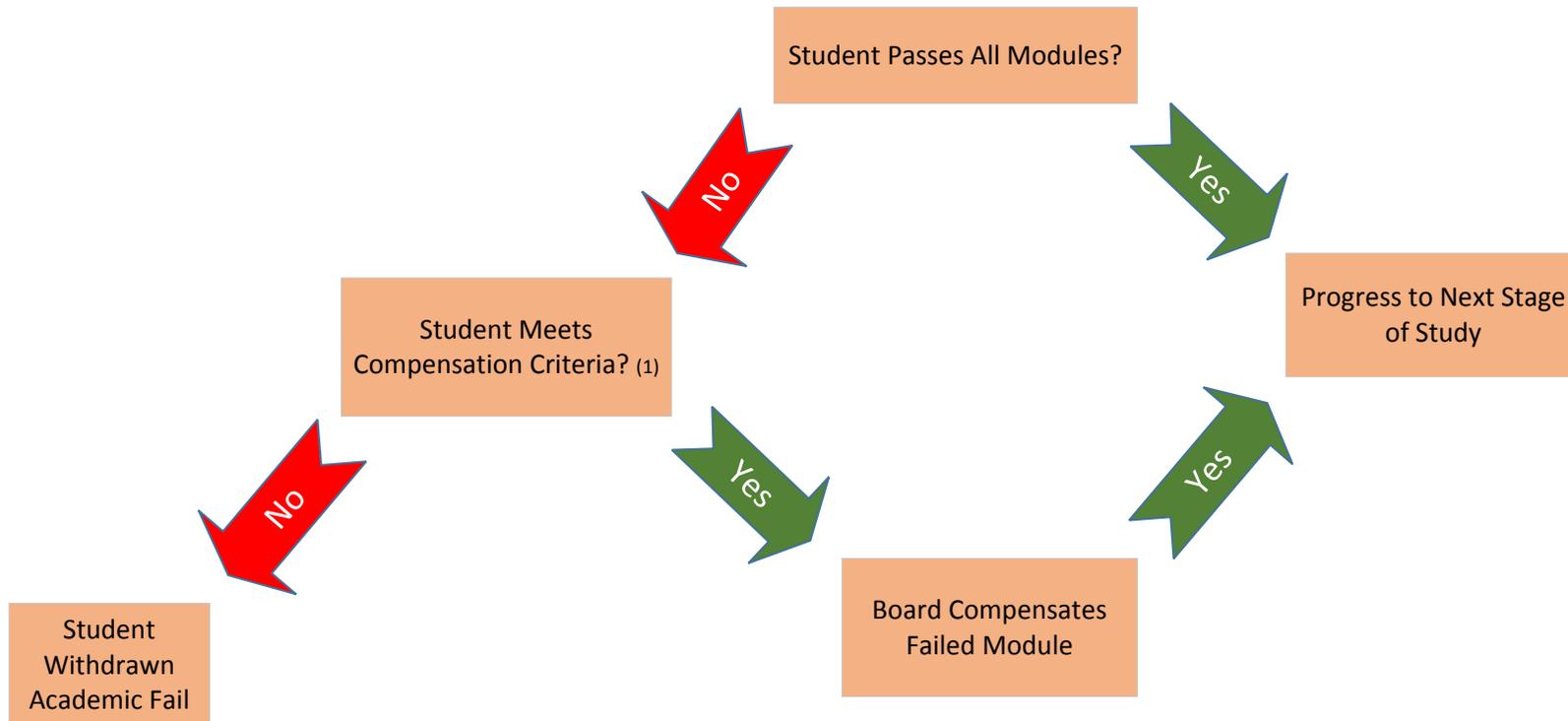
Part A: June/July Stage Board After First Attempt



Notes
(1) Compensation Criteria: Only one failed 20 credit module, which has been deemed eligible for compensation; The student must have achieved at least 40% Stage (Year) Average
(2) Deadline for opting for compensation is 28th July
(3) 2nd & 3rd Year continuing students

Continuing Students – How Compensation Works 2016/17 Assessment

Part B: Reassessment

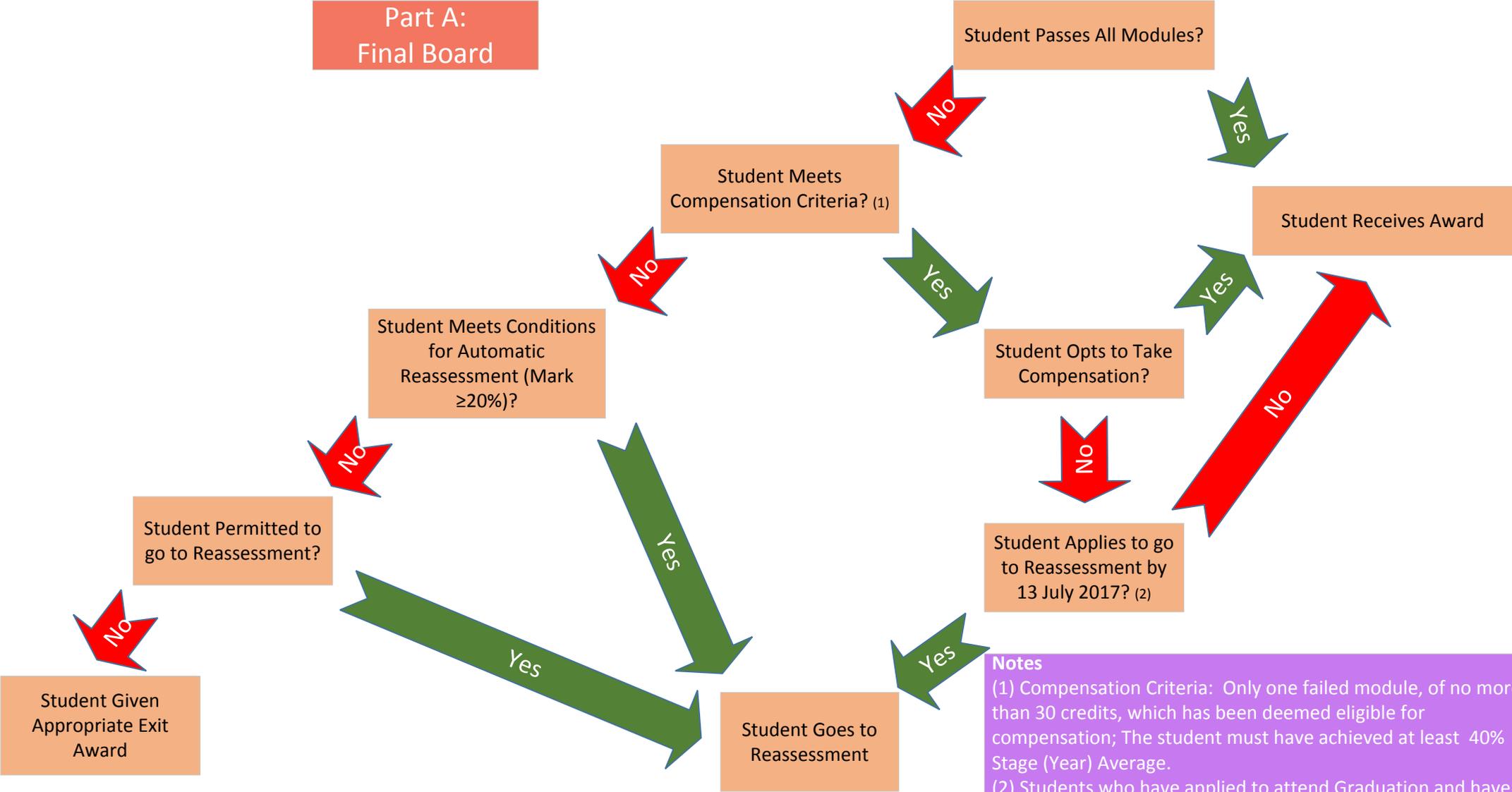


Notes

(1) Compensation Criteria: Only one failed 20 credit module, which has been deemed eligible for compensation; The student must have achieved at least 40% Stage (Year) Average.

Finalists – How Compensation Works 2016/17 Assessment

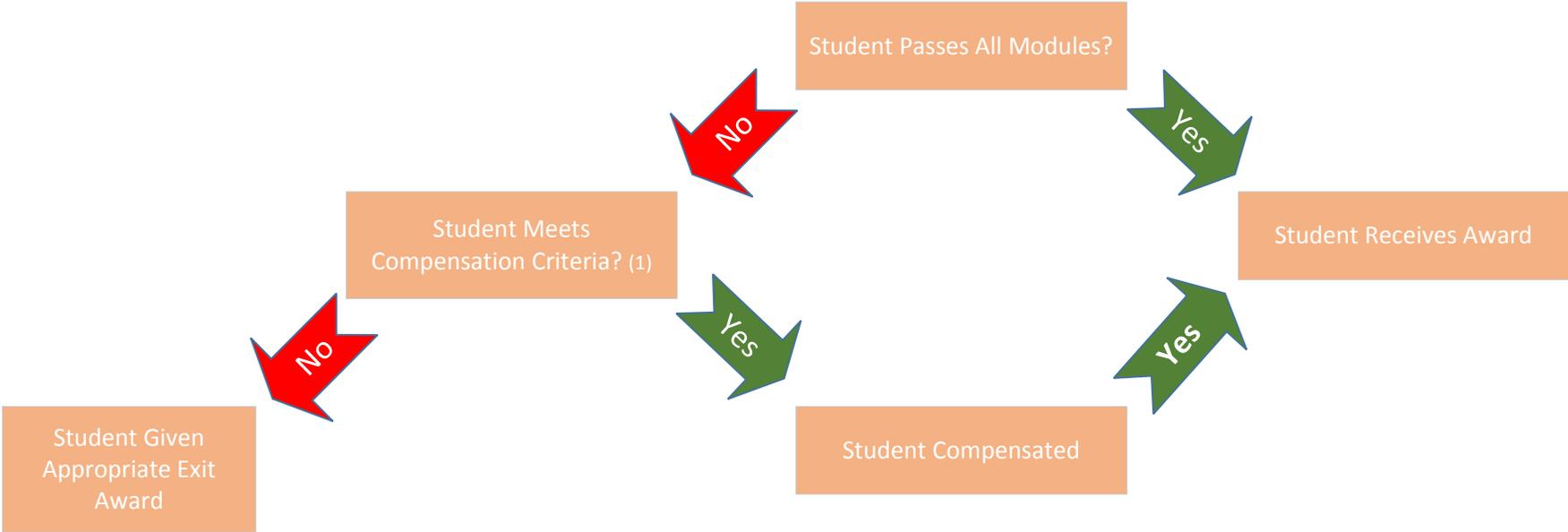
Part A: Final Board



Notes
(1) Compensation Criteria: Only one failed module, of no more than 30 credits, which has been deemed eligible for compensation; The student must have achieved at least 40% Stage (Year) Average.
(2) Students who have applied to attend Graduation and have met the compensation criteria can attend even if they opt to undergo reassessment. They will receive their parchment after reassessment.

Finalists – How Compensation Works 2016/17 Assessment

Final Reassessment Board



Notes
(1) Compensation Criteria = Stage average of at least the pass mark, failed module is no more than 30 credits and is eligible for compensation (non-core)