

## **July 2010 Results**

### **Moderation of Coursework and Projects, Plagiarism and Poor Academic Practice**

Coursework assignments and project reports are submitted to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Serious cases of suspected plagiarism and all cases of suspected cheating are dealt with by the School's Academic Conduct Officer. In many of the cases detected, students have copied and pasted or reused content from sources (usually found on the Internet) without giving proper acknowledgement to the sources. Although this is plagiarism, the School deals with this by regarding it as poor academic practice which means that work is assessed only on what has been contributed by the student when all of the unreferenced content is removed. This often results in an original mark being reduced significantly because a student has copied most of the work from elsewhere. Reusing large amounts of other people's work is regarded as poor academic practice whether the work is acknowledged or not. It is simply a worse case if the copied content is not acknowledged and may be regarded as plagiarism. In some cases where the majority of the work submitted has been taken from other sources, then there is little or no original contribution from the student in which case the mark may be reduced to zero.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED BY A LOW MARK FOR AN ASSESSMENT THEN YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE LINK TUTOR AT YOUR CENTRE. THE CMS COLLABORATIONS OFFICE CANNOT ANSWER QUERIES FROM INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR MARKS. IF NECESSARY, YOUR LINK TUTOR WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS YOUR QUERY WITH THE CMS COLLABORATIONS OFFICE.

### **Progression and Awards Decisions – July 2010**

A Progression and Awards Board (PAB) is an Examination Board that makes decisions on (a) whether a student who has completed their full programme of study may be made a degree award, and (b) whether a student who has not yet completed their full programme of study may continue with their studies. The following information is intended to help you with understanding the decisions made by a PAB and therefore with interpreting the information shown on your student transcript which is viewed using BannerWeb. Please note that a progress or award decision has to be made for all students at the end of each academic session.

### **Completion of Study on Top-Up Degree**

Either you have completed all 120 credits on the programme or you were due to complete according to your mode of study (full-time or part-time). Decisions made by the PAB would normally be (1) to award a degree, (2) to fail a student but allow them to repeat, or (3) to fail a student and not allow any further study.

- You may be awarded an Honours Degree provided that you do not fail more than 30 credits. The classification awarded will depend upon your results and is an academic decision made by the PAB.
- If you fail 45 credits then the decision will normally be Fail Repeat. This means that you may retake any or all of the failed assessments and your results will be reconsidered at the next PAB. If you choose not to retake any failed assessments then you will be awarded a Pass Degree.

- If you fail 60 credits then you may be awarded a Pass Degree depending on whether you have failed any courses at a previous attempt.
- If you passed all your taught courses but did not submit a project (and you were due to submit it) then you will be failed in the project course and permitted to submit your project at the second opportunity which will be the next assessment point.
- If you have exhausted all your opportunities (normally 3 opportunities are permitted) to retake and pass any of your courses then the decision will normally either be Fail and you will be awarded any credit gained or if you have passed a minimum of 60 credits then you will be awarded a Pass Degree. In either case, no further study will be permitted.
- If you have reached the end of the allowed period of registration then the decision made will be the same as the previous one i.e. Fail and any credit gained awarded or Pass Degree .

### **Non-Completion of Study on Top-Up Degree**

This means that you are part way through your normal programme of study and are not due to complete at the end of the academic session. Decisions made by the PAB would normally be (1) Same Stage which allows you to carry on with your studies in the next academic session, or (2) Fail with no further study permitted.

- If you passed all the courses that you attempted then the decision will be Same Stage. You may therefore continue with your study in the next academic session.
- If you failed some of the courses that you attempted then the decision will be Same Stage provided that you have not failed every course. You may therefore continue with your study in the next academic session when you should retake any failed assessments.
- If you did not attempt one or more of the courses shown on your Programme of Study form then you will fail the courses that you did not attempt and normally the decision will be Same Stage. You may therefore continue with your study in the next academic session when you should retake any failed assessments.
- If you have not carried out any study on the programme during the year then the decision will be Fail and no further study permitted because no academic progress has been demonstrated.
- If you have not attempted to study the number of courses required on your mode of study or attempted to retrieve failed assessments from the previous year then the decision will be Fail and no further study permitted because no academic progress has been demonstrated.
- If you have attempted and failed all the taught courses (90 credits) then the decision will be Fail and no further study permitted because no academic progress has been demonstrated.

IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND A DECISION THEN YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE LINK TUTOR AT YOUR CENTRE. THE CMS COLLABORATIONS OFFICE CANNOT ANSWER QUERIES FROM INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR RESULTS. IF NECESSARY, YOUR LINK TUTOR WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS YOUR QUERY WITH THE CMS COLLABORATIONS OFFICE.