

7. AWARD CLASSIFICATION

This section of the Student Regulations Framework applies to all taught programmes of Plymouth Marjon University, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, and to all apprentices enrolled on the University's apprenticeship programmes, who are classified as 'students' and referred to accordingly throughout this Procedure.

7.1 General Regulations

1. Module Assessment Boards will determine module marks and report them to Progression and Award Boards as described in Section 3 of this [Framework](#).
2. Unless stated otherwise in the approved programme specification, the Progression and Award Board will recommend classifications of its degrees and other academic awards in accordance with these regulations.
3. Where there is insufficient evidence to determine the class of an award, but the Progression and Award Board is nevertheless satisfied that the student would have qualified for the award for which they were a candidate, had it not been for illness or other sound reason, an *unclassified Aegrotat award* may be recommended.

7.2 Honours Degree Classification

1. All module marks at Levels 5 and 6 for non-top-up degrees will be presented to the Progression and Award Board as a whole number with any decimal below x.50 being rounded down and any decimal of x.50 or above being rounded up. For top-up degrees, all module marks at Level 6 will be presented in the same way.

2. If, exceptionally, a student has acquired more than the credits required at each of these levels, the Progression and Award Board will first take account of the marks in all compulsory modules for the award and title for which the student is registered, then the student's best performance in optional modules associated with that award and title, up to the total credit requirement. The Board will disregard all other marks.
3. The Progression and Award Board will recommend the classification calculated from all credits obtained at the applicable levels in accordance with the following classifications:

70+ First Class

60-69 Upper Second Class

50-59 Lower Second Class

40-49 Third Class

The overall weighted average will be presented at the Progression and Award Board as a whole number with any decimal below 0.5 being rounded down and any decimal of 0.5 or above being rounded up. The classification will then be determined by the following formula:

- The best marks achieved in 80 credits pursued at Level 6 will be given a weighting of 3 (i.e. they will count three times).
- The marks achieved in the remaining credits pursued at Level 6 and the best marks achieved in 40 credits pursued at Level 5 will be given a weighting of 2 (i.e. they will count twice).
- The marks achieved in the remaining credits pursued at Level 5 will be given a weighting of 1 (i.e. they will count once).

In exceptional circumstances, where a programme includes more than 120 credits pursued at Level 6, a proportional calculation will be applied.

4. If a student is admitted to Level 6 (whether to a top-up degree or, with credit, to a non-top-up degree), the classification will be determined by the following formula with regard to credits pursued at Level 6 only:
- The best marks achieved in 40 credits pursued at Level 6 will be given a weighting of 3 (i.e. they will count three times).
 - The marks achieved in the next best 40 credits pursued at Level 6 will be given a weighting of 2 (i.e. they will count twice).
 - The marks achieved in the remaining credits will be given a weighting of 1 (i.e. they will count once).

In exceptional circumstances, where a programme includes more than 120 credits pursued at Level 6, a proportional calculation will be applied.

5. If a student was admitted with credit other than as described in Sections 7.2.4 above, mean values will be calculated on the remaining credits *pro rata* and the Progression and Award Board will recommend the highest classification available, following as closely as possible the formula described in Section 7.2.3 above.
6. Modules that are not assigned a numeric mark, e.g. pass/fail modules, or are rated at Levels other than 5 or 6, do not count towards degree classification. Mean values will be calculated on the remaining credits *pro rata* and the Progression and Award Board will recommend a classification, following as closely as possible the formulae described in Section 7.2.3 above.
7. Where the overall weighted average falls within 1% of a higher classification, the higher classification will be applied.

7.3 Foundation Degree Classification

1. The credit-weighted mean of all module marks at Level 5, and the three best module marks at Level 4, will be presented to the Progression and Award Board as a whole number with any decimal below x.50 being rounded down and any decimal of x.50 or above being rounded up.
2. If exceptionally a student has acquired more than the credits required at Level 5, the Progression and Award Board will first take account of the marks in all compulsory modules for the award and title for which the student is registered, then the student's best performance in optional modules associated with that award and title, up to the total credit requirement. The Board will disregard all other marks.
3. The Progression and Award Board will recommend the classification calculated from the equally weighted mean of all Level 5 credits, and the three best module marks at Level 4, as follows:

70+ Foundation Degree with Distinction

60-69 Foundation Degree with Merit
5. Modules that are not assigned a numeric mark, e.g. pass/fail modules, do not count towards degree classification. Mean values will be calculated on the remaining credits *pro rata* and the Progression and Award Board will recommend a classification, following as closely as possible the formulae described in Section 7.4.4 above.
6. Where the overall weighted average falls within 1% of a higher classification, the higher classification will be applied.

7.4 Master's Degree Classification

1. The credit-weighted mean of all module marks will be presented to the Progression and Award Board as a whole number with any decimal below x.50 being rounded down and any decimal of x.50 or above being rounded up.
2. If, exceptionally, a student has acquired more than the credits required for the award, the Progression and Award Board will first take account of the marks in all compulsory modules for the award and title for which the student is registered, then the student's best performance in optional modules associated with that award and title, up to the total credit requirement. The Board will disregard all other marks.
3. The Progression and Award Board will condone modules in accordance with Section 6 of this [Framework](#), up to the maximum of value stated therein.
4. The Progression and Award Board will recommend the classification calculated from the equally weighted mean of all credits as follows:

70+ Master's Degree with Distinction

60-69 Master's Degree with Merit

50-59 Master's Degree Pass

5. If a student was admitted with credit, mean values will be calculated on the remaining credits *pro rata* and the Progression and Award Board will recommend the highest classification available, following the formula described in Section 7.4.4 above.
6. Modules that are not assigned a numeric mark, e.g. pass/fail modules, or are rated at levels other than Level 7, do not count towards degree classification. Mean values will be calculated on the remaining credits *pro rata* and the Progression and Award Board will recommend a classification, following as closely as possible the formula described in Section 7.4.4 above.

7. Where the overall weighted average falls within 1% of a higher classification, the higher classification will be applied.

7.5 Integrated Master's Degree Classification

1. The classification system applicable to Integrated Master's Degree awards will be determined by the student's point of exit. If a student exits with a Level 6 award (i.e. a Bachelor's Degree or Bachelor's Degree with Honours), then the undergraduate algorithm will apply as set out in Section 7.2 of this Framework. If, however, a student exits with a Level 7 award (i.e. an Integrated Master's Degree) then the following algorithm will normally apply:
 - The best marks achieved in 100 credits pursued at Level 7 will be given a weighting of 1 (i.e. they will count once).
 - The best marks achieved in 100 credits pursued at Level 6 or above (not counting credit from the above) will also be given a weighting of 1 (i.e. they will also count once).
 - The best marks achieved in 40 credits pursued at Level 5 or above (not counting credit from the above) will also be given a weighting of 1 (i.e. they will also count once).
2. If a student first registered before 1st September 2019 and has not interrupted their studies, the Progression and Award Board may also consider the regulations in force on the date of the student's first registration and recommend the higher of the two possible classifications. Specifically, the alternative classification will be determined by the credit-weighted mean of all module marks at Level 7 only. A student who interrupts their studies will be subject to the classification regulations in force at the time of the resumption of studies.

7.6 Apprenticeship Award Classification

1. The University validates two levels of apprenticeship programmes: Higher apprenticeships (Level 5), and Degree apprenticeships (Level 6 and above). Apprenticeships must include an academic programme leading to a University award at Levels 5 to 7.
2. Apprenticeship courses finish with an End Point Assessment (EPA), the format of which will depend on the apprenticeship standard and will be outlined in the EPA plan on the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) website and the Programme Specification document. The EPA will confirm the apprentice is occupationally competent in their role before they receive their apprenticeship certificate, and will determine whether the overall apprenticeship standard has been met.
3. For integrated apprenticeship courses, where the University is responsible for the teaching of the award and the EPA module is included within the structure of the course (for example a 20-credit final year module), the Progression and Award Board (PAB) will confirm all modules and completion of the EPA (and notify this to the Education and Skills Funding Agency). Where the EPA module is ungraded, as specified in the EPA plan, this will be excluded from the calculation of the degree award classification.
4. For integrated apprenticeship courses, the PAB may exceptionally require an additional external examiner who meets the criteria set out in the EPA Assessment Plan for the course being examined. The PAB and End Point Assessment Panel will make a decision on the award of the degree and its classification and also secondly whether the learner has passed or failed the EPA. The two separate decisions will be based on differing criteria.
5. For non-integrated apprenticeship courses, the employer will select an approved end point assessment organisation to conduct the EPA. The apprentice cannot be awarded until there has been confirmation that they have passed their End point Assessment.

6. For some regulated professions, the apprenticeship standard follows a fully integrated EPA. Students will be informed by their Academic Department if this is the case. The EPA is not included within the structure of the course. The learner can only progress to the PAB once the Gateway requirements, in line with the apprenticeship standard, have been met. The PAB will then confirm the credit, EPA and make a recommendation for the conferment of the award.

7.7 Classification of Other Awards of the University

1. The Progression and Award Board will classify other academic awards of the University, including Certificates of Higher Education, defined in the Regulations for Academic Awards as follows.
2. The credit-weighted mean of all module marks will be presented to the Progression and Award Board as a whole number with any decimal below x.50 being rounded down and any decimal of x.50 or above being rounded up.
3. If, exceptionally, a student has acquired more than the credits required for the award, the Progression and Award Board will first take account of the marks in all compulsory modules for the award and title for which the student is registered, then the student's best performance in optional modules associated with that award and title, up to the total credit requirement. The Board will disregard all other marks.
4. The Progression and Award Board will recommend the classification calculated from the equally weighted mean of all credits as follows:

70+ with Distinction

60-69 with Merit

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