

Information on the College Grading System

How the Grading System Works

All programmes within the College are assessed on the *Percentage Grading Scheme (%)*.

In the case of all undergraduate and most post graduate programmes, the pass mark is 40%. For some post graduate programmes, the pass mark is 50%.

Learners must achieve the minimum pass mark in each module. Where modules are assessed by more than one component, learners normally must pass each component. To find out the breakdown of assessment in each module, please refer to the approved programme schedule in your pack.

Pass by Compensation

In some cases learners are permitted to pass by compensation by achieving a mark within the band: (35% - 39%) or (45-49) according to the pass mark of the programme.

The rules for compensation are as follows:

The learner has been assessed for all modules within the stage

The learner has not failed any modules within the stage

The results from all modules are from 1st attempts

The learner has achieved the deficit marks in another module within the stage.

Interpreting Results

How a module result is calculated

Each assessment component completed is marked out of 100%, with the minimum pass mark normally set at 40%. The overall result for each module is calculated by multiplying the result achieved in each component by the associated weighting and then adding the results together.

Example of how a module result is calculated

Module Name	Allocation of Marks		Total 100%
Law of Contract 1	Assignment 30%	Examination 70%	100
Learner Name	Result achieved	Result Achieved	Overall result
Charlie Browne	84% (*.3 = 25.2)	65% (*.7 = 45.5)	71% (25.2+45.5)

Module Grades

Assessment Grade	Explanation
P	Pass
D	Pass by Compensation
I	Deferred component – must resubmit/retake at next available sitting
WH	Result withheld from exam board – contact faculty for further details
F	Fail. You must repeat all failed components
NP	Did not present. You must resubmit /retake relevant components
W	Withdrawn at your own request
AW	Withdrawn – College decision
X	Exemption granted based on prior learning
APL	Result achieved through prior credited achievement

Overall Results

How an overall result is calculated

The overall result for each year / stage of your programme is represented by the Percentage Point Average (PPA) achieved within the year / stage.

To calculate the PPA, the percentage achieved in each module is multiplied by the credits allocated to the module to determine the Percentage Credit Score.

Example of how an overall result is calculated

The Percentage Credit Scores for each module are added together and divided by the total credits for the year / stage to arrive at the PPA as indicated below

Total Percentage Credit Score	=	3530
Total Credits for stage	=	60
Percentage Point Average	=	58.9

To find out the credits allocated to each module associated with your programme, please refer to the approved programme schedule in your pack.

Overall Results	Explanation
Pass	Successfully completed all modules in stage
Fail	Did not successfully complete one or more modules in stage
WHLD	Results withheld from Exam Board – contact faculty for further details
DEF	Deferred one or more components/modules in stage
WDRW	Withdrawn from Programme – learners request
AWDRW	Withdrawn from Programmes – College Decision

Award Classifications

How to calculate an Award Classification

The classification awarded is normally based on the Percentage Point Average achieved in the final stage of the programme.

The award classification correlates to the PPA achieved and the Award Classification Bands relevant to the programme of study.

Award Classification Bands

Masters Degree (NFQ Level 9)	PPA	Award Classification
	40-59	PASS*
	60-69	2 nd CLASS HONOURS
	>=70	1 st CLASS HONOURS
Post Graduate Diploma (NFQ Level 9)	PPA	Award Classification
	40-59	PASS
	60-69	MERIT
	>=70	DISTINCTION

*** In the cases where the module pass mark is 50%, the band for PASS is then 50-59**

Honours Degree (NFQ Level 8) Higher Diploma (NFQ Level 8) Higher	PPA	Award Classification
	40-49	PASS
	49-59	2 nd CLASS HONOURS GRADE 2
	59-69	2 nd CLASS HONOURS GRADE 1
	>=70	1 st CLASS HONOURS
Certificate, Higher Certificate (NFQ Level 6) Degree (NFQ Level 7)	PPA	Award Classification
	40-49	PASS
	49-59	MERIT GRADE 2
	59-69	MERIT GRADE 1
	>=70	DISTINCTION

A 'Pass' classification of an award is a positive statement of achievement.

All awards — other than minor awards and supplemental awards shall be classified

Minor Awards and Special Purpose Awards are normally unclassified.

Special-purpose awards which have a volume of at least 60 credits and are comparable to a major award (at the same NFQ level) may have the same classification as the major award.