

Information update on no detriment policy 28th April 2020

Dear UCC students,

Thank you for bearing with me whilst we sought final approval to the No Detriment Policy and how this applies to you. The policy is set out in more detail below and also includes common questions that many of you may have.

What is the no detriment policy about?

The no detriment policy is designed to be a **safety net** that will ensure that your overall year average will not be lower than the average mark you achieved in Semester 1.

The no detriment policy has been implemented to recognise the significant change students had to encounter due to the global Coronavirus pandemic.

What do I need to do?

You will need to complete and submit all Semester 2 assignments (including online examinations and presentat. The safety net cannot be applied if you have incomplete modules.

All calculations of the No Detriment Policy (safety net) will happen at the External Exam Board stage in June 2020. If you have resits, it will happen after the resit period.

No detriment will only apply once you have passed all Semester 2 modules.

How will the safety net be applied?

- The safety net principle will apply once you have **passed** all Semester 2 (S2) modules
- We will then ensure that your overall year average **will not be lower** than the average mark you achieved in Semester 1 (S1). *This is what we refer to as the 'safety net'*
- The safety net will be based on the mean average achieved from those modules taken in S1
- We will only take into account assessments from S1 in order to calculate your safety net
- If your performance in S2 exceeds the mean average achieved in S1, the actual marks for S2 will stand. This means the safety net does not hold you back on achieving a high mark for the year
- If you failed a S1 module this will be included in the safety net calculation unless you have **accepted** mitigation (exceptional circumstances)
- Resits will be capped as usual at the pass mark (40).

There will be many of you with questions at this stage. The important thing to remember is that you will need to pass all your Semester 2 modules for the safety net to be applied.

Below are common examples that may apply to your situation:

Scenario one: What happens if I pass all my modules in Semester 1 and Semester 2 during 2019/20?

In this case the results from all of your modules in Semester 1 will be averaged to produce a Mean Average (MA). This is your 'safety net'.

For example, if you completed 3 modules in Semester 1 with module marks of 45%, 61% and 80% your 'safety net' would be 62% (the sum of the module marks divided by 3).

The exam board will then look at your results from your Semester 2 modules. If any of your module results have been passed but are below your 'safety net' (i.e. 62%) they will be increased to your 'safety net'. Any module marks above your safety net would remain as they are.

For example, if you pass your Semester 2 modules with marks of 50%, 45% and 65% and your safety net is 62%, the exam board would keep the module marks of 65% but increase the marks of 50% and 45% to 62%.

All of your Semester 2 modules need to have been passed for the safety net to be applied (see below if this isn't the case).

Scenario two: Calculating the Safety Net: what happens if I didn't pass all of my modules in Semester One (and didn't have approved Mitigation)?

In this case, the same process as above applies. All of your module marks are included in your safety net, even if they haven't been passed.

For example, if your Semester 1 module marks were 50%, 65% and 32% we would include the module mark of 32% in the mean average calculation to give a safety net of 49%.

You would have a resit for the module that wasn't passed, as usual, but your safety net would remain at 49%.

If you have no assessment marks in Semester 1, a safety net cannot be calculated or applied.

Scenario three: Calculating the Safety Net: what happens if I had approved Mitigation in Semester One and have been offered a resit/retake?

In this case, your safety net would be recalculated after your resit/retake in the Summer. This recalculated safety net would then be retrospectively applied to your Semester Two modules, where marks are lower than your recalculated safety net.

For example:

- Your Semester One module marks were 50%, 65% and 32%.
- You had Mitigation for the module receiving 32% and have been offered one or more resit for this.
- The module mark of 32% would be included in a 'provisional' safety net (49%).
- After your resit/s in the Summer you increase the module mark to 52%.
- Your safety net is recalculated to become 54% (Semester 1 modules/3).
- This new safety net is then applied to your Semester Two modules.

Scenario five: What happens if I don't pass one or more modules in Semester Two? Do I still get a safety net?

All Semester Two modules need to be passed for a safety net to be applied to any modules. However, if you are given a mandatory (required) resit for any module/s and this is passed then the safety net can be applied to modules that were passed in the first instance. This would be done at the exam board following the resit period.

For example, you passed all Semester One modules and have a safety net of 50%.

However, you have not passed one module in Semester Two with the following marks:

Module	Mark %
A	20
B	40
C	55

You then have a mandatory resit for Module A. No safety net is applied until Module A is passed.

You pass the resit for Module A, which is capped (as you don't have Mitigation) at 40% with no safety net. The safety net is then applied to give you the following marks:

Module	Original mark %	Mark after resit %	Explanation
A	20	40	This module was capped at the pass mark (40) as a resit
B	40	50	This module was increased to the safety net (from Semester One)
C	55	55	This module remained the same as it is above the safety net

Marginal fail

I have a marginal fail from Semester 1 – what will happen to this?

For Semester 1, marginal fails for undergraduates are 35-39%.

The assessment boards that take place in June will automatically compensate a marginal fail in up to 20 credits where you have achieved an uncapped stage mean of 40%.

If you meet these circumstances, the board will consider your overall performance and compensate your failed module. Where compensation is applied, the mark for the module will be raised to the threshold pass mark (40) and you will not be required to take a resit over the summer.

In summary – No detriment policy = Safety net

- The Safety Net will only be applied once you have passed all of your S2 modules;
- The Safety Net will be based on the mean achieved from the modules you took in Semester 1 (including the marks for any that you may have failed);
- Marks for Semester 2 modules that are below your Semester 1 mean will be raised to the Semester 1 mean.

Please note: All calculations of the No Detriment Policy (safety net) will happen at the External Exam Board stage in June 2020. If you have resits, it will happen after the resit period.

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