



UCD Registry

Dear Student,

We would like to inform you that UCD has made revisions to its Academic Regulations, effective from 1 September 2024. This email includes a brief summary of the main changes, but we recommend reading the full Academic Regulations to understand how they might impact you and your programme of study.

If you have any specific questions relating to possible impact on your programme of study, please contact your College or School office for support.

Kind regards,

Kevin Griffin
Stiúrthóir Sinsearach na Clárlainne | Senior Director of UCD Registry

Who do the revisions apply to?

- The [2024/2025 Academic Regulations](#) apply to all new and continuing UCD students, who are starting a new year of registration in September 2024.
- For students whose registration commenced in January or May 2024, the [2023/24 Academic Regulations](#) will continue to apply until January/May 2025.

Why are the changes being made?

The revisions were made following a review conducted by a working group appointed by Academic Council, the most senior academic decision-making group in the University. The working group comprised faculty, professional staff and representatives from the Students' Union. Their task was to look at the Regulations to see which parts were working well and which parts were causing unwanted issues or confusion. As a result of their review, some minor revisions were approved, such as editorial changes, language simplification, and the addition of more definitions.

What are the main changes relevant to you?

- **Structured electives** - Modules no longer need to be taken as electives to contribute to a Structured Elective. Instead, a structured elective may be awarded if you complete 15 credits from a defined list of modules in an area unrelated to your degree. Details of eligibility exclusions are published on the [Structured Electives website](#).
- **Exam Duration** - While one and two hour exams will remain the norm, a small number of modules will have three hour exams to meet the requirements of a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body. Where this is the case, it will be clearly flagged in the module descriptor (Regulation 4.11).
- **Provisional Grades** - Any grades released prior to formal Programme Exam Board ratification and [Exam Results Release](#) are provisional and indicative only. Until then, grades may increase or decrease (Regulation 4.20).
- **New IH (Incomplete Holding) grade** - This grade might be used if your module grade is temporarily unavailable due to other ongoing University procedures such as plagiarism, discipline or complaints; or due to agreements with other institutions that have different grading schedules (Regulation 4.26).
- **Progression** - You can now progress from one stage to the next with 10 credits (total) outstanding. It doesn't matter which stage those 10 credits are from (Regulation 6.4). Note that other specific progression requirements may apply to your programme.
- **Continuation** - Language simplification relating to the standards a Governing Board shall use to review a student's academic performance to determine if they can continue (Regulations 6.10 and 6.11).
- **Assessment changes** - There are new ways of describing assessment strategies on module descriptors, and module descriptors will have more comprehensive details about when different assessments are due to take place. You can view the information for modules you are registered to on the [UCD Current Students Course Search](#).