UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

PGT MASTERS DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

(Academic Session 2017/18 onwards)

The taught postgraduate classification algorithm uses the St Andrews GPA in order to determine a final degree classification. The St Andrews GPA is the credit-weighted mean of all grades including both the taught component and the dissertation.

Only one decimal point is used in all calculations.

Outcomes for PGT Masters classification

St Andrews GPA	Classification outcome
16.5 or more	Distinction
13.5 or more	Merit
7.0 or more	Pass
6.9 or less	Fail

A St Andrews GPA of 16.5 or above constitutes the threshold for a recommendation of distinction.   A St Andrews GPA of 13.5 or above constitutes the threshold for a recommendation of merit. If the classification policy for a collaborative programme differs from the above, the School must make this clear to students at the outset of their programme and in their programme handbooks.

Calculation protocols

The Senate Regulations specify that at least 180 credits should be gained during an approved Masters programme. For students who have taken extra modules, the calculations of taught average and St Andrews GPA must include all modules (allowing for the exceptions noted below). Thus a student cannot take an extra module with a view to disposing of another with a poorer grade.

The award of a taught postgraduate Masters degree requires 90 credits of the taught component to be at 5000-level. Students are permitted to 'dip-down' for remaining credit. The grades achieved for dip-down modules taken at 1000- or 2000-level as part of a taught postgraduate degree are incorporated into the degree only when the subject of the module is required language training. In all other cases, only grades received for 3000- and 4000-level 'dip-down' modules are incorporated into the St Andrews GPA.

In the case of a module failed with a grade of 3.9 or less, there is no right to reassessment and the original grade is reported and entered into the algorithmic calculation even though no credits are obtained for the module.

In the case of a taught module failed with a grade of 4.0-6.9, there is a right to reassessment. For modules of 3000-level or above, if the reassessment is passed, the grade reported, recorded on the transcript and entered into the algorithmic calculation is a "capped" grade of

"7.0" (not the original failed grade). There is no right to reassessment for dissertation modules.

In the case of a failed module for which no credit is subsequently obtained at reassessment, the original (failed) grade is entered into the algorithmic calculation even though no credits are obtained for the module.

If a module is failed both at the first sitting and at re-assessment (if permitted), but is subsequently re-taken and passed, then (i) the original failed grade should be entered in the algorithm for the session in which the module was first taken, and (ii) the grade earned for the later session in which the module was re-taken and passed should be reported and entered into the algorithm. This may occur when a specified module has to be passed in order to fulfil the stipulations of a degree programme. In such cases two grades are entered into the algorithm for this module even though actual credit is only achieved at the second taking.

In the case of receiving a 0X, a grade of "0" is entered into the algorithmic calculation (with the credit-weighting of the relevant module), even though no credits are obtained for the module with respect to meeting the requirements of the degree programme. Any properly authorised withdrawal from a module, however, would be ignored by the algorithm.

Grades that are achieved (after suitable translation) from modules taken outwith St Andrews (usually abroad) as part of a Masters programme are entered into the algorithmic calculation. If ungraded credits are received from abroad or graded credits that are not formally approved as part of a Masters programme, then these will not influence the algorithmic calculation, although such credits will normally appear on transcripts.