

How we will calculate your Safety Net mark – for Undergraduate Final Year students.

The College has introduced a 'No Detriment' policy, which we are calling the Safety Net. Understandably we have had students asking us how we calculate this, so this note tells you more. The principle of what we are doing is quite straightforward. What we are doing is generating a mark that reflects all of the assessed work you did in your second year, and all of the assessed work that you completed before the Coronavirus Crisis in your final year (there are variations of the scheme for students doing four year or part-time degrees). We are using that to generate a Safety Net mark, which gives you a guarantee that your final classification won't fall below what that mark indicates. So if your Safety Net mark that we calculate is 60% or above, the lowest classification you can get is an Upper Second Class degree (2:1).

Remember that we also have what we are calling the 'Best 90' policy, which will also help us focus on your best work in calculating your average for your final year. Remember too that to complete your degree and graduate, irrespective of the Safety Net, you must pass 90 credits in your final year.

While the principle of the Safety Net is straightforward, the calculation is a little complicated. This is because depending on their degree programmes and option choices, different students will have different amounts of work from the Final Year that can be included in the Safety Net calculation. All final year work that we include is double-weighted, but we also have to weight this work depending on how many credits it is worth. So for example, if there is a piece of coursework included that is worth half the marks for a 30 credit course, then we weight that at 15 credits, and so on.

A worked example.

It's perhaps easiest to walk you through an example of a student profile and show how we calculate the Safety Net.

This student achieved an average of **58.00%** for their Second Year.

They have taken four 30 credit modules in their final year to give their required 120 credits:

- Module XY3001 completed all of its assessments in the Safety Net period. The student achieved **65%** for this module. This is worth 30 credits in the Safety Net calculation as all assessments were completed.
- Module XY3002 completed coursework worth 50% of the final mark during the Safety Net period, and now has an exam replacement 'alternative assignment' in May for the other 50%. The student achieved **58%** for that coursework. This is worth 15 credits in the Safety Net calculation as 50% of the assessments were completed.
- Module XY3003 also completed coursework worth 50% of the final mark during the Safety Net period, and now has an exam replacement 'alternative assignment' in May for the other 50%. The student achieved **62%** for that coursework. This is worth 15 credits in the Safety Net calculation as 50% of the assessments were completed.
- Module XY3004 has coursework at the end of term 2, and has an exam replacement 'alternative assignment' in May. This is worth 0 credits in the Safety Net calculation as none of the assessments were completed. It therefore is not counted for the Safety Net mark.

So this student will have 120 credits from Year Two, and 60 credits from this year, made up of all of XY3001 (30 credits) and half of the credits for modules XY3002 and XY3003 (15 credits each.)

We will calculate an average on the basis of these marks, but double-weight the Final Year marks. In this example we can therefore treat the Final Year as two times 60 credits. In this particular case that means the same weighting as Year Two.

In the Final Year the mark for XY3001 is for the full module, while for XY3002 and XY3003 is for just half the module, so the Final Year average works out as 62.50%. Averaging this with the Second Year mark, gives the student a Safety Net mark of **60.25%**.

This means that they now have a guarantee, that as long as they pass 90 credits in their Final Year, the lowest classification they can be awarded is an Upper Second Class degree (2:1).

You want the Maths ...

We warned you it was a simple principle (the Safety Net includes all of the Second Year, and those parts of the Final Year unaffected by the virus crisis), but a bit complicated to put into operation. If you prefer to think about this mathematically, then read this next bit.

In the equation for the Safety Net the denominator (the bit on the bottom of the equation) is made up of the number of credits included in the Safety net, but with the Final Year credits double weighted.

So in the example above, the credits being used in the calculation are:

120 credits from the Second Year
+ 30 credits x2 from XY3001
+ 15 credits x2 from XY3002
+ 15 credits x2 from XY3003

Total of 240

In the equation for the Safety Net the numerator (the bit on the top of the equation) is made up of the average for each module or component multiplied by its credit weighting, with Final Year marks counted double. (We will treat the Second Year for all students as if it is a single module worth 120 credits.)

So in the example above, the marks credits being used in the calculation are:

58 x 120 (the Second Year average times the credits)
+ 65 x 30 x 2 (the contribution from XY3001, double-weighted)
+ 58 x 15 x 2 (the contribution from XY3002, double-weighted)
+ 62 x 15 x 2 (the contribution from XY3003, double-weighted)

So we get:

$$\frac{(58 \times 120) + (65 \times 30 \times 2) + (58 \times 15 \times 2) + (62 \times 15 \times 2)}{120 + (30 \times 2) + (15 \times 2) + (15 \times 2)}$$

Or:

$$\frac{14460}{240} = \mathbf{60.25}$$

Don't worry we do this for you.

We will be doing these calculations for our Examination Boards in the summer, and will calculate this Safety Net mark for all our Finalists. As explained elsewhere, we also be using our standard degree algorithm to calculate another mark. The Final Year mark used in that algorithm will be the average of your best 90 credits in the year. (This is the 'Best 90' Policy). You will be awarded the classification generated by whichever of these systems puts you in the higher classification.

We can't give you a Safety Net average now.

We can't do this now because we don't have confirmed marks for all of the work that you have completed. Some work is still being marked, second marked or moderated and so marks are not yet confirmed. For all of our marks, we require scrutiny and approval by the Examination Boards and by our External Examiners, who are obviously more important than ever in ensuring what we do in these unprecedented circumstances. Exam Boards review student performance and may make adjustments to Module marks – for example in response to earlier disruption this year. So you should have a pretty good idea of what work will be included in your Safety Net, but we can't give you a formal Safety Net result now.