Department of Social Work, Social Care and Youth and Community Studies

Guidance Notes on recording decisions following moderation of Practice Learning

Introduction

A student can pass or fail a placement and where a placement is passed that pass receives an academic grade. Where a student fails a placement, whether the student receives a recorded mark of a fail, refer or defer depends on:

- the existence of accepted Extenuating Circumstances (ECs)
- whether the placement has been terminated for dangerous or malpractice on the part of the student
- whether the placement has been terminated for factors relating to the placement and practice educator

The following guidance applies to where a placement is failed or terminated early on a first attempt

1. The student reaches the end of the placement and the practice teacher recommends a fail. The practice learning portfolio is submitted and the fail is confirmed by moderation. There are no ECs. The mark is recorded as refer.

2. The student reaches the end of the placement and the practice teacher recommends a fail. The practice learning portfolio is submitted and the fail is confirmed by moderation. ECs are accepted. The mark is recorded as defer.

3. The placement is terminated early on the grounds of poor practice. The practice learning portfolio is submitted and the fail is confirmed by moderation. There are no ECs. The mark is recorded as refer.

4. The placement is terminated early on the grounds of poor practice. The practice learning portfolio is submitted and the fail is confirmed by moderation. ECs are accepted. The mark is recorded as defer.

5. The placement is terminated early on the grounds of student ill health. ECs are accepted. The mark is recorded as defer.
6. The placement is terminated early on the grounds of practice educator ill health or lack of learning opportunities in the placement or other factors relating to the placement not the student. The mark is recorded as defer.

7. The placement is terminated early on the grounds of dangerous practice or malpractice on the part of the student. Fitness to Practice proceedings is initiated and suitability considered. Depending on the outcome of investigations the mark may be recorded as a fail, refer or defer.

Where a practice educator is recommending a fail then a practice portfolio must be submitted and considered by the moderators. If the documentation is still missing by the Subject Assessment Board, then a deferred decision is recorded.

Where students fail a second attempt, standard university regulations apply depending on whether the first attempt was refer or defer.