
Assessment Policy

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Approving Authority	Academic Board
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Contact Officer	Executive Director Conservatoire, Executive Director Pathways and Partnerships
Related Policies, Procedures and Documents	Admission Policy and Procedure Attendance Policy and Procedure Credit Transfer Policy and Procedure Monitoring Course Progress Policy and Procedure Student Handbook Course/Subject Guides Assessment Sheets and Marking Rubrics NIDA Code of Conduct Grievances, Complaints, Misconduct and Appeals Policy Grievances, Complaints, Misconduct and Appeals Procedure – Non Academic Grievances, Complaints, Misconduct and Appeals Procedure – Academic NIDA Student Charter Tuition Fee Refund Policy International Students Tuition fee policy NIDA policy of Re-crediting Fee Help Balance Grievance Policy and Procedure – Academic Matters Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Procedure Course Regulation Documentation Plagiarism Policy

1. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
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Accredited Course	A course that is recognised under the Australian Quality Framework (AQF) and is registered with one of the two main regulatory agencies, being TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority) for Higher Education and ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) for Vocational courses. An accredited course is one that leads to the conferral of a degree or the award of a certificate or diploma.
Adjustment	A measure or action (or a group of measures or actions) taken by NIDA that has the effect of assisting a student with a disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) in relation to a course or program — to participate in the course or program; and (iii) in relation to facilities or services — to use the facilities or services; on the same basis as a student without a disability, and includes an aid, a facility, or a service that the student requires because of their disability.
Assessment	A systematic process for evaluating student learning. It includes design, development and implementation of tasks and the evaluation and recording of student's performance against the set criteria.
Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)	The AQF is the national policy for regulated qualifications in the Australian education and training system. http://www.aqf.edu.au/aqf/what-is-the-aqf/
Day	24 hour period, or any part thereof.
Disability	<p><i>disability</i>, in relation to a person, means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions; or (b) total or partial loss of a part of the body; or (c) the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or (d) the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness; or (e) the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body; or (f) a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction; or (g) a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgment or that results in disturbed behaviour; and includes a disability that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (h) presently exists; or (i) previously existed but no longer exists; or (j) may exist in the future; or (k) is imputed to a person. <p><i>(from Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005)</i></p>
Due date	The time and date nominated for the final submission point on the assessment task.

Exceptional Circumstances Exceptional Circumstances are those that are outside of your control. NIDA recognises three types of exceptional circumstances; short term, essential commitments and long term circumstances.

Short Term Circumstances

Short-term illness, injury or misadventure that has significantly impacted your performance in an assessment or exam. For example: serious illness or injury requiring treatment from a medical practitioner, death of a family member or close friend, or an accident or natural disaster

Long Term Circumstances

This includes ongoing or recurring illnesses or medical conditions that might impact your studies.

Essential Circumstances

These are circumstances where you can apply for special consideration because a circumstance, which you cannot change, impacts your ability to undertake or participate in an assessment. Such Essential circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- Legal commitments - Jury duty, summons to appear in court
- Religious or cultural commitments
 - Military service

Grade Descriptors The published framework to explain student achievement in an assessment or subject.

Grading The academic review, feedback and awarding of a mark against a set of published criteria of an assessment.

Medical certificate A certificate from a Medicare registered health care provider. The certificate must indicate the student is unfit for work/study and the dates for which the certificate is valid.

On the Same Basis

- (1) A person with a disability is able to seek admission to, or apply for enrolment in, an institution *on the same basis* as a prospective student without a disability if the person has opportunities and choices in admission or enrolment that are comparable with those offered to other prospective students without disabilities.
- (2) An education provider treats a prospective student with a disability *on the same basis* as a prospective student without a disability if the provider makes any decisions about admission or enrolment on the basis that reasonable

adjustments will be provided in accordance with section 5.2 of the Standards.

Note 2 An education provider that:

(a) refuses a prospective student with a disability a place in the institution, or in the particular course or program applied for by the prospective student, on the ground that the student would be able to enrol in another institution, or in a course or program at another institution; and

(b) does not refuse students without disabilities places on the same ground;

(c) does not treat a prospective student on the same basis as a prospective student without a disability.

(3) A person with a disability is able to participate in courses or programs provided by an educational institution, and use the facilities and services provided by it, *on the same basis* as a student without a disability if the person has opportunities and choices in the courses or programs and in the use of the facilities and services that are comparable with those offered to other students without disabilities. (*from Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005*)

Reasonable Adjustment

An adjustment is **reasonable** in relation to a student with a disability if it balances the interests of all parties affected.

Note Judgements about what is reasonable for a particular student, or a group of students, with a particular disability may change over time.

(2) In assessing whether a particular adjustment for a student is reasonable, regard should be had to all the relevant circumstances and interests, including the following:

(a) the student's disability;

(b) the views of the student or the student's associate, given under section 3.5;

(c) the effect of the adjustment on the student, including the effect on the student's:

(ii) ability to achieve learning outcomes; and
(iii) ability to participate in courses or programs; and
independence;

(d) the effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including the education provider, staff and other students; (e) the costs and benefits of making the adjustment. *Note* A detailed assessment, which might include an independent expert assessment, may be required in order to determine what adjustments are necessary for a student. The type and extent of the adjustments may vary depending on the individual requirements of the student and other relevant circumstances. Multiple adjustments may be required and may include multiple activities. Adjustments may not be required for a student with a disability in some circumstances. The Standards generally require providers to make reasonable adjustments where necessary. There is no requirement to make unreasonable adjustments. In addition, section 10.2 provides that it is not unlawful for an education provider to fail to comply with a requirement of these Standards if, and to the extent that, compliance would impose unjustifiable hardship on the provider. The concept of

unreasonable adjustment is different to the concept of unjustifiable hardship on the provider. In determining whether an adjustment is reasonable the factors in subsection 3.4 (2) are considered, including any effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including the education provider, staff and other students, and the costs and benefits of making the adjustment. The specific concept of unjustifiable hardship is not considered. It is only when it has been determined that the adjustment is reasonable that it is necessary to go on and consider, if relevant, whether this would none-the-less impose the specific concept of unjustifiable hardship on the provider.

(3) In assessing whether an adjustment to the course of the course or program in which the student is enrolled, or proposes to be enrolled, is reasonable, the provider is entitled to maintain the academic requirements of the course or program, and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to its nature.

Note In providing for students with disabilities, a provider may continue to ensure the integrity of its courses or programs and assessment requirements and processes, so that those on whom it confers an award can present themselves as having the appropriate knowledge, experience and expertise implicit in the holding of that particular award.

(From *Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005*)

Working day Show Cause	Monday to Friday, inclusive of public holidays and holiday periods The student is given the opportunity to provide an explanation and provide any supporting evidence they feel is required to explain why they should be given an opportunity to continue their studies or in the case of exclusion to explain how they are ready to return to NIDA studies.
Special Consideration	An application asking for understanding that can be submitted by students who are experiencing circumstances or problems that are seriously impacting their ability to attend, perform in assessments. Special Consideration applications must be completed online and must be supported with documentary evidence unless extenuating circumstances apply.
Submission	The handing in or delivery of, either electronically, as hard copy in person of an assessment task to a teacher for assessment

2. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to assessment in all undergraduate, postgraduate degree courses and vocational courses at NIDA.

2.1 Responsibilities

This policy and procedure has rights and responsibilities as follows:

Executive Director Conservatoire & Executive Director Pathways and Partnerships are responsible for the implementation of the policy.

Head of Student Engagement Learning and Quality Assurance is responsible for ensuring the accessibility of this policy by staff and students.

All staff are responsible for supporting this policy and following procedure if they are aware of student breaches.

Students are responsible for being aware of and following the policy and procedure.

3. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the principles of assessment for NIDA's vocational and higher education courses.

4. PRINCIPLES

NIDA is committed to maintaining the integrity and reputation of its higher education degree courses

The principles that underpin admissions at NIDA are:

- Assessment is designed to enhance learning experiences, align to specific learning outcomes, relevant NIDA graduate attributes, the Australian Qualifications framework (AQF) and where relevant the training package or accredited vocational course.
- Assessment task design and assessment implementation is fair and equitable, valid, reliable and ethical.

5. POLICY

5.1 Assessment Design

5.1.1 Assessments are designed to enhance learning and teaching. Learning outcomes and assessment criteria are designed to align with the award levels outlined in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and promote the development of NIDA's stated graduate attributes.

5.1.2 Assessments are designed to reflect the demand of each subject, the subject weighting in terms of credit points and the overall course workload.

5.1.3 Each degree subject must have at least two assessments tasks and no single assessment in a subject should be worth more than 70% of the summative assessment of that subject.

5.1.4 Assessments are timed so as to support the ability to reflect on feedback and incorporate learning into subsequent assessments.

5.2 Assessment Advice to Students

5.2.1 Assessment notification of dates due must be in writing and be available at the commencement of the semester in which the assessment is due.

5.2.1 Assessment notification must meet the current subject outline template and include clear instructions regarding: task type, details, submission date (and time if required), weighting, assessment criteria, submission details (including referencing and formatting requirements as well as elements to be submitted) and moderation details.

5.3 Submission

5.3.1 Submission of assessment must be in accordance with the instructions in the assessment description.

5.3.2 It is expected that all work submitted for assessment by students is their own work, and where that work draws on the work of others is appropriately referenced.

5.3.3 Late submission is subject to penalties as outlined in this policy and procedure.

5.4 Marking and Feedback

5.4.1 Moderation of assessment is undertaken using appropriate methods to contribute to the fairness and equity of assessment.

5.4.2 Feedback should be timely and to be of sufficient quality and quantity so as to support students in their learning experience. Feedback should identify strengths and weaknesses, give guidance and advice, and facilitate a student's understanding about areas for improvement.

5.4.3 Marks are to be recorded in the current Student Management System (SMS).

5.5 Extensions

5.5.1 To ensure fairness of assessment an extension to a submission deadline will not normally be allowed.

5.5.2 Requests for extensions are informal and can be negotiated with the assessor. They must be requested at least five (5) working days in advance of the specified assessment date.

5.5.3 A maximum of 5 days extension will be granted for each assessment task. Only one extension will be approved per task.

5.5.4 Any student repeatedly requesting extensions may be identified as a potential Student at Academic Risk and may be placed on a Performance Management Plan.

5.5.5 Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the assessor in consultation with the relevant Head of Department.

5.5.6 There will be no grading penalty for assessment tasks submitted with an approved extension.

5.5.7 The decision to not grant an Extension does not constitute an academic decision and therefore there is no access to appeal under the Student Grievance – Academic Matters Policy and Procedure.

5.6 Late Submission

5.6.1 Late submission of assessments will result in a penalty being applied after the submitted work has been graded in the normal manner. The purpose of applying a penalty for late work is to ensure fair, consistent and transparent treatment of late submission of assessment tasks.

5.6.2 The penalty for late submission is 5 percent of the awarded mark per day for up to ten (10) working days after the due date for submission, or, where an extension has been granted, for up to ten (10) working days after the nominated extension deadline. The original mark and the penalty will both be clearly indicated in the assessment records. The pre-penalty mark will be used as part of NIDA's feedback and moderation processes and the post-penalty mark will be used in any progression or award determination.

5.6.3 Assessments will not be accepted after 10 working days. In such an instance a mark of zero and a result of Fail will be assigned.

5.6.4 If a student is concerned that their assessment will be impacted in some way because of circumstances beyond their control they can submit before, or as soon as practical after the due date an application for Special Consideration.

5.7 Special Consideration

5.7.1 Special Consideration is available for students who believe that exceptional circumstances beyond their control, serious illness or misadventure have adversely affected their ability to undertake an assessment or their performance in an assessment. It provides an opportunity to have the impact of that circumstance taken into account in the determination of marks/results and or consideration of an alternative submission date.

5.7.2 To be considered eligible for Special Consideration applications must be made in writing using the current version of the Special Consideration Application form, available online.

5.7.3 Submitting an application for Special Consideration does not guarantee it will be granted.

5.7.4 Requests for special consideration must be genuine and made in good faith. Should it be determined that a request is not genuine or not made in good faith action may be taken under the Misconduct Policy and Procedure.

5.7.5 Even when granted Special Consideration a student is still required to demonstrate achievement of the designated learning outcomes.

5.7.6 Special Consideration granted to one or more students must not disadvantage other students.

5.8 Reasonable Adjustment

5.8.1 Where appropriate reasonable adjustment can be made to an assessment to support a student with a disability or to support a student who has been granted Special Consideration. It is a requirement that the learning outcomes of the course are still met once a reasonable adjustment process has been undertaken.

5.8.2 Reasonable adjustment must be made in a timely manner to support student learning and to ensure equity and fairness in the assessment process.

5.8.3 Consultation with the student must be undertaken before a reasonable adjustment is made to an assessment.

5.9 Plagiarism

Academic work that is suspected of being plagiarised will be subject to NIDA's Plagiarism Policy and Procedure and the Misconduct Policy and Procedure

5.10 Appeals

Students have the right to lodge an appeal for an assessment. Applications must be in writing and follow the Grievance and Appeals – Academic Matters Policy and Procedure

6. CHANGE HISTORY

Date	Change Description	Reason for Change	Author	Version
01 June 2018	Incorporated late submission (13 Dec 2013), extensions and special consideration into the assessment policy and procedure	Late submission, extensions and special consideration are subsets of assessment	Learning and Teaching	1.0

7. CONSULTATION/BENCHMARKING

Benchmarked against policies and practice from a number of higher education providers and other sources

Relevant policy documents from the following are gratefully acknowledged:

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- Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS)
- Edith Cowan University Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAAPA)
- University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- The Juilliard School

Consultation: Academic Heads of Courses, students

Legislation and Regulatory Frameworks	Australian Qualifications Framework HE Threshold Standards 2015 TEQSA Guidance Notes HE Support Act 2003 Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 National Code 2108 Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Disability Standards for Education 2005 Standards for RTOs 2015 ASQA Directions
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