

## Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Undergraduate Committee

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### Policy on Late Work

#### ***I. Rationale and principles***

It is in the interest of cohesion, clarity and student equity within the Faculty to have a single policy on late work.

While it is acknowledged that marks and grades are a matter of academic standards, meeting deadlines is essential, for three reasons:

- It ensures equity of treatment among students. There is a range of procedures already in place - extensions, disability management and special consideration processes, along with programs for students who are not meeting progression requirements - to enable any difficulties encountered by students to be taken into account. Where such difficulties cannot be demonstrated to exist, students deserve equity of treatment in terms of all conditions of assessment.
- It enables timely and coherent management of teaching and learning and administration of courses within the Faculty.
- It is an important aspect of training students in the acquisition of graduate attributes. Being able to organise one's work coherently and meet deadlines is part of taking responsibility as a member of a team or as a professional providing services to a client, and is part of any work environment, not to mention part of life as an adult in society.

Students who believe they have been unfairly penalised for lateness are still able to appeal via the University student appeals policy

[http://www.usyd.edu.au/senate/policies/Ac\\_Appeals\\_Rule.pdf](http://www.usyd.edu.au/senate/policies/Ac_Appeals_Rule.pdf)

#### ***II. Late work, extensions and special consideration***

Students and staff should refer to the University policy on extensions, special consideration and special arrangement [http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/policies/Assess\\_Exam\\_Coursework.pdf](http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/policies/Assess_Exam_Coursework.pdf) but any student who hands in work late (that is, at any time following the published due date), and does not meet criteria for an extension, special consideration, or special arrangement, and who does not have a special case under disability or students at risk programs, will be penalised according to the criteria set out in (III) below.

#### ***III. Procedures for handing in work, due dates and late work penalty***

1. Students must keep a copy of all assignments handed in.
2. All assignments, whatever the form of submission, must be accompanied by the cover sheet fully filled in, signed (in writing or electronically) and dated.
3. Assignments should normally be handed in at the relevant School office, either over the counter or in the assignment submission box. Online submission or submission during

classes is permissible *only* by prior arrangement with the tutor or coordinator. *Under no circumstances* should assignments be slid under tutors' office door.

4. No assignment will fall due during a mid-semester non-teaching week, during any Common Week or during Stuvac week.
5. Late penalties apply from the day after the published due date.
6. The penalty applied is two *marks (out of 100) per day*. The Academic Board Policy mandates that 'day' refer only to working days (i.e. week days). So, an assignment due on Thursday 4 September and handed in on Tuesday 9 September, will count as 3 days late.
7. For the purposes of this policy, "two marks" means two full points off the awarded mark, not two percent of the awarded mark.<sup>1</sup> So, an assignment due on Thursday 4 September and handed in on Tuesday 9 September, and awarded a before-penalty mark of 68%, will be awarded a final, penalised mark of 62%.
8. For assignments marked out of a maximum total other than 100, the penalty will apply pro rata. For example, for assignments marked out of 40, the penalty will be 0.8 marks per day.
9. Late essays or assignments will not be accepted (except where applications for special consideration are lodged) beyond the designated return date for the relevant written work. In cases where documented misadventure or serious illness prevents students from submitting work before the designated return date an alternative assessment task will be set.

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<sup>1</sup> The latter would result in a greater penalty being applied to higher-performing students, and there is no evidence to suggest that lateness automatically results in better performance on an assignment. Conversely, lower-performing students would have a reduced penalty, and there is no reason for mediocre students to receive a lighter penalty than others.