



**Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery
University College Cork
and
Participating Health Service Providers**

Policy for Repeating a Clinical Practice Module

BSc in Midwifery Years 1-4

Agreed by:

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1. Background

The *Midwife Registration Programmes Standards and Requirements (NMBI 2016)* specify competencies for entry to the register in line with EU Directives on Midwifery Education.

The provision of midwifery education involves a working partnership between the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork, other departments within the University, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI), and Health Service Providers.

2. Clinical Instruction

For clinical practice modules, students must submit their Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT) on or before the agreed submission date.

Pass and progression criteria for each year of the BSc Midwifery programme are outlined within the clinical practice module descriptors [UCC Book of Modules](#)

Confirmed completion of mandatory scheduled clinical placement time is required in order to receive a pass judgement in clinical practice modules for each year of the programme as per the Clinical Practice Placement Guidelines ([Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery](#)) and module descriptors in the [UCC Book of Modules](#)

For students who are repeating their clinical practice module and are unable to submit their CAT on or before the agreed submission date, it is the student's responsibility to submit an extension request form directly to the relevant executive assistant in G03 (see form for details) in advance of the submission date.

The extension request form ([CATHERINE McAULEY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY](#)) must detail the reason for which an extension is required. Failure to complete an extension request form will result in a student's CAT not being processed in time for consideration at the relevant examination board.

If a student is repeating clinical time/module due to certified leave, their CAT is to be submitted within a 24-48 hour timeframe of completing the time unless otherwise directed. If a student has any queries in this regard, please email the relevant Practice Module Lead or Programme Director.

The clinical practice module is assessed (as outlined within the module descriptor in [UCC Book of Modules](#)) when the CATs are examined and when evidence of completion of scheduled time (timesheet) is received by the Allocations Office, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC. Results are then considered by the relevant examination board.

3. Years1-4

3.1. Results for Year 1-3 clinical placement are presented to a **Summer Examination Board**. Prior to the Autumn Examination Board, the student will be provided with a **supplemental opportunity** to achieve their CAT if they have received a fail judgement.

3.2. Results for Year 4 clinical placement are presented to an **Autumn Examination Board**. Prior to the **next relevant examination board**, the student will be provided with a **supplemental opportunity** to achieve their CAT.

3.3. In providing a **supplemental opportunity** the following principles apply:

3.3.1 For Years 1-3, if a student fails to achieve competence in their CAT the student will be required to repeat the CAT prior to the **Autumn Examination Board**.

3.3.2 For Year 4 if a student fails to achieve competence in their CAT the student will be offered an opportunity to repeat the CAT prior to the **next relevant Examination Board**.

Please Note: Any supernumerary time missed in Year 4 of the Programme will need to be completed **before** internship period. The opportunity to avail of a supplemental clinical placement is dependent on the number of clinical weeks available and clinical placement capacity prior to the **next relevant Examination Board**.

3.4. For Years 1-3 if a **Fail Judgement** is returned for a **Clinical Practice Module** at the **Autumn Examination Board**, the student will be required to repeat the failed CAT in a repeat year, as prescribed by the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

3.5. For Year 4 of the Programme, if a **Fail Judgement** is returned for a **Clinical Practice Module** at the **Winter Examination Board or next relevant Examination Board**, the student will be required to repeat the

failed CAT in a repeat year, as prescribed by the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

3.6. In the event that a student has achieved their CAT but has been absent from clinical placement, and as a result has a deficit in the allocated clinical time, the student will be facilitated to repay this time as arranged by the SoNM & HSP Allocation Personnel within the constraints of the current course structure and prior to the next **relevant Examination Board**.

Principles which apply to students being provided with supplemental time or repeating time

1. Supplemental or repeat clinical time relating to the achievement of their CAT is surplus to minimum NMBI requirements.
2. Facilitation of supplemental or repeat clinical weeks/time is subject to clinical capacity of the parent Health Service Provider (i.e. availability of a clinical placement with the respective HSP). UCC and the Health Service Provider will make every effort to ensure the availability of clinical placement.
3. When being provided with supplemental opportunity or repeating the clinical placement module, students will be placed where possible, in the original failed placement category (i.e. core midwifery/specialist).
4. Students repaying 'time only' will be placed when possible in the original placement category (i.e. core midwifery/specialist).
5. All specified requirements are as prescribed within *Midwife Registration Programmes Standards and Requirements* (NMBI 2016) [and/or Response to the Oversight Committee of the Department of Health from NMBI Education, Training and Standards Committee Dated 18th February 2021](#)
6. Submission of required timesheet as per usual procedures.
7. Sickness reporting during supplemental/repeat time is as per usual HSP/UCC procedures and a medical certificate submitted to allocations office UCC is required to record certified leave.

8. **No additional time** outside the prescribed supplemental opportunity or repeat clinical time will be permitted.
9. **Only in mitigating circumstances** (e.g. certified leave) will a student be given any further opportunity to make up the outstanding placement time [UCC Mitigation Guidelines](#)
10. If a student is absent for one academic year while still carrying a failed clinical judgement the student will be offered an additional week of placement time in order to familiarise and re-orientate themselves to the clinical learning environment prior to formally commencing their scheduled repeat clinical placement. To avail of this opportunity the student must contact the allocations office SoNM UCC/Senior Programme Administrator to confirm their intention to take up this opportunity at least 8 weeks in advance of their return to the programme.
11. It is the student's responsibility to link with the BSc in Midwifery Practice Module Lead/Programme Director, to ensure their Mandatory Skills for year and specific skills are up to date. However, where these are not available, students will need to source such training updates externally, at their own expense. Please find policy document here: [SoNM Mandatory and Essential Skills Policy \(MandatoryandEssentialSkillsPolicy.pdf\)](#). If mandatory skills remain incomplete, then the student will not be permitted to attend clinical practice placement. Completing missed time due to incompleteness of any of the above will have to be negotiated with the Allocations Office in the SoNM.
12. **Repeat Year:** Any individual year can be repeated only once, however, a maximum of two failed years may be repeated during a student's programme of studies (see *Two Year Rule* below). **A student can only repeat their clinical module once in a repeat year.** Results of the repeat year clinical practice module (Part B) will be presented to the next appropriate Examination Board. If a Fail judgement for a clinical placement module (Part B) is returned in a repeat year, this is the final opportunity for the student to repeat, and the student must exit the programme.

Please Note: Given that a student can only repeat their clinical module once in a repeat year, students will be offered a maximum of 3 opportunities to complete their Clinical Practice Module **1st opportunity; 2nd Opportunity** (Supplemental); **3rd Opportunity**

(Repeat Year). If the student fails the clinical practice module on the 3rd attempt, the student will be required to exit the midwifery registration programme.

Two Year Rule: Midwifery students must pass/progress within two academic years of first registration for each year of the programme, otherwise they cannot continue in the programme. Thus, students must complete their studies ordinarily within six years of registering for the First Year of the BSc (Hons) in Midwifery Degree programme.

13. *Appeal process of examination results:* Any student may request an appeal of their results within 2 weeks of the posting of their examination results available through their student portal. Details of procedures for appeal of examinations are available from: [Details of Procedures for Appeal of Examinations](#)
14. *Mitigation:* Any student with extenuating circumstances interfering with their commitment to their course can make an application to the Mitigation Committee. Confidentiality is assured unless permission is given to discuss the issue with other relevant personnel. Where possible, individual difficulties or extenuating circumstances are taken into consideration [Details of Mitigation Process](#)

Note: For further details for repeating a clinical module please refer to the following:

- [UCC Book of Modules](#)
- [Marks and Standards](#)