

Special Consideration and Extension Policy and Procedure		
Code: A1.20	Area: Academic	
Policy Owner: Academic Board	Version #: 1.9	Date: 6 May 2024
Policy Developer/Reviewer: CEO	Review date: 6 May 2027	

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Updated by	Approval Date	Details
1.0	AB	8 Mar 2018	New document
1.1	PRG	24 Apr 2018	Addends to Supporting Documentation.
1.2	PRG	26 Jun 2018	Additional information added for Appeals.
1.3	AB	29 Sep 2020	Disadvantaged groups eligible for special consideration; late applications allowed for serious illness. Clarified how SITCM processes applications.
1.4	PRG	1 Dec 2020	Adjusted the timeframes to allow applications more than 5 days before the assessment deadline; allowed extensions of up to 9 months for clinic assessments in exceptional circumstances.
1.5	PRG	2 Jun 2021	Special consideration invalidated by a student submitting the assessment or sitting the exam.
1.6	AB	29 Nov 2021	Allowed deadlines to be extended up to 1 year for exceptional circumstances; transferred extensions to this policy for conciseness.
1.7	PRG	15 Sep 2022	Revised to merge the special consideration & extension application forms into 1 single form.
1.8	AB	24 Nov 2022	All live assessment (not just exams) can be deferred.
1.9	AB	6 May 2024	Revised to allow Office Manager to approve assignment extensions of up to 72 hours.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The aim of this policy is to:

- Equitably and fairly treat students who are unable to complete assignments or exams on time due to unexpected circumstances beyond their control.
- Define the minimum criteria for granting special consideration and extensions.
- Outline the special consideration and extension procedures of SITCM.

This policy applies to all students in the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) at the Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SITCM).

1 OVERVIEW

The Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SITCM) is committed to equity and fairness in learning. It recognises that extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control may adversely affect their ability to complete assessment tasks by normal due dates.

This policy has been informed by the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021*, in particular Standard 1.4 Learning Outcomes and Assessment.

2 POLICY

2.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 1) No application can be approved if the student has already submitted the assessment or completed the exam.
- 2) There are three pathways to postponing an assessment deadline: assignment extension, deferral or special consideration.

2.1.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSIGNMENT EXTENSIONS

- 1) If minor extenuating circumstances require a student to submit an assignment up to 72 hours after the original due date, they may apply for an assignment extension.
- 2) Minor extenuating circumstances are:
 - a. Unexpected;
 - b. Outside a student's control; and
 - c. Likely to impact the student for between one and three consecutive calendar days in the two weeks before the original assignment due date.
- 3) An assignment is any assessment that the student must complete and submit in their own time and without supervision.
- 4) It is recommended that the application be accompanied by evidence as described in Section 2.1.5 below.
- 5) A student can only apply for an assignment extension before its original due date.

2.1.2 ELIGIBILITY FOR DEFERRALS

- 1) If minor extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing a live assessment on the assigned date, they may apply for a deferral.
- 2) Minor extenuating circumstances are:
 - a. Unexpected;
 - b. Outside a student's control; and
 - c. Likely to impact the student at the designated assessment time.
- 3) Live assessment is any assessment that the student must complete under continuous supervision, such as an exam, in-class test, roleplay, presentation or practical assessment.
- 4) The application must be accompanied by evidence as described in Section 2.1.5 below.
- 5) A student can only apply for a deferral:
 - a. Before the designated assessment time; or
 - b. No more than three calendar days after the designated assessment time, if:
 - i. They did not attend the live assessment event, and contacted the Administration Office by the day following the live assessment and provided a valid reason for not being able to attend; or
 - ii. They attended the live assessment event, but were unable to complete the assessment due to a genuine emergency that occurred during the attempt (e.g., a natural disaster).
- 6) A student is permitted to complete a live assessment only once, unless the student is invited to take a supplementary exam in accordance with the *Student Assessment Policy and Procedure*.

2.1.3 ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- 1) If a significant impairment prevents a student from completing an assessment by the original due date, they may apply for special consideration.
- 2) Significant impairments are:
 - a. Unexpected;

- b. Outside a student's control; and
 - c. Likely to impact the student for more than three calendar days in the two weeks before the original due date.
- 3) The application must be accompanied by evidence as described in Section 2.1.5 below.
- 4) A student can only apply for special consideration before, on or up to seven calendar days after the original assessment due date.
- a. Special consideration applications made more than seven calendar days after the original due assessment date will be automatically rejected, unless a significant impairment (e.g., critical illness or injury) renders it impossible for the applicant to apply by the original due date.

2.1.4 EXAMPLES OF GROUNDS FOR AN APPLICATION

- 1) Circumstances that are grounds for an extension, deferral or special consideration include, but are not limited to:
- a. A medical condition or medical event that impairs a student's ability to actively engage in their studies.
 - b. Psychological trauma arising from an event, such as:
 - i. Being the victim of a crime; or
 - ii. Extraordinary natural event (e.g., earthquake, bushfire or flooding).
 - c. Physical trauma leading to impairment or incapacity.
 - d. Personal hardship, significant loss or bereavement, such as:
 - i. Death of an immediate family member; or
 - ii. Relationship breakdown when cohabiting.
 - e. Active participation in elite sporting or cultural events, military service, or jury duty.
 - f. Completing enrolment into a unit after the first day of the study period.
- 3) The following are not grounds for special consideration, deferral or extension:
- a. Misreading the *Unit Guide*.
 - b. Organising conflicting travel arrangements.
 - c. Poor time management.
 - d. Social or 'weekend' sporting activities.
 - e. Loss of data or assessment work.
 - f. Workload, including study, paid/volunteer employment and ongoing care-giving duties.
 - g. Planned events such as weddings or moving house.
 - h. Minor illness such as mild colds or minor injuries (such as mild sprains).

2.1.5 EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Supporting evidence is required for special consideration or deferral applications, and is recommended for extension applications.
- a. Applications for special consideration or deferral without supporting evidence will be automatically rejected.
 - b. Supporting evidence may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. For a medical condition, illness or injury:
 - 1. The Medical Certificate section of the *Special Consideration and Extension Form*, completed by a registered health practitioner.
 - 2. A medical certificate, which must include:
 - A. The name, register number and contact details of the health practitioner.
 - B. The date and location of the medical examination.

- C. The severity and duration of the medical issue.
 - D. The practitioner's opinion on the impact or effect of the impairment on the student's study.
 - 3. Letter(s) from a counsellor or other mental health practitioner.
 - 4. An accident report.
 - ii. For personal hardship, significant loss or bereavement:
 - 1. Death certificate.
 - 2. Bereavement notice.
 - iii. For trauma:
 - 1. Photographs of natural disaster impact.
 - 2. Police report.
 - iv. For active participation in elite sporting or cultural events, military service, or jury duty:
 - 1. A letter from an organising body (e.g. sporting or cultural).
 - 2. Military documentation.
 - 3. Jury duty attendance documentation.
 - c. SITCM may accept a Statutory Declaration if no other supporting evidence is available.
 - d. A pharmacist certificate is not accepted by SITCM as supporting evidence.
 - e. The falsification or fabrication of supporting evidence is a form of major academic misconduct, with penalties outlined in the *Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure*.
- 2) Any impact duration indicated in the supporting evidence will be used to determine the duration of the extension, deferral or special consideration.
- a. If no impact duration is provided in the supporting evidence, then the SITCM employee responsible for assessing the application (the assessor) has sole and total authority to determine a suitable duration of the extension, deferral or special consideration.

2.2 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

- 1) An application is only considered submitted when the Administration Office receives both a completed *Special Consideration and Extension Form* and supporting evidence from the student at the email address administration@sitcm.edu.au.
- a. The *Special Consideration and Extension Form* is available from the Administration Office or the SITCM website's [HE Manual, Policies & Forms](#) page.
 - b. The *Special Consideration and Extension Form* must clearly specify that the student will automatically fail the unit if:
 - a. An extension or special consideration allows a student to complete an assessment after the last day of Week 16, and the student does not submit that assessment within two weeks of their extended deadline; or
 - b. An assessment is not submitted within one year of the original due date set for the class.
- 2) Whatever assignment is submitted by an extended deadline will be deemed the student's final submission and marked accordingly.
- a. If no assignment is submitted by the extended deadline, the first assignment to be submitted in the ten calendar days after the deadline will be deemed the student's final submission and marked accordingly.

- b. If no assignment is submitted by ten calendar days after the extended deadline, the assignment will automatically receive a grade of 0 in accordance with the *Student Assessment Policy and Procedure*.

2.3 PRELIMINARY REVIEWS

- 1) Upon receiving an application for a deferral or special consideration, the Administration Office conducts a preliminary review to ensure that:
 - a. The *Special Consideration and Extension Form* is complete;
 - b. All relevant application deadlines were met; and
 - c. Valid supporting evidence is provided.
- 2) The preliminary review must produce one of the following outcomes within one business day of the student submitting the application.
 - a. The application passes the preliminary review, and the Administration Office provides it to the Course Coordinator for assessment.
 - b. The application does not pass the preliminary review, and the Administration Office emails the student to:
 - i. Notify them of the outcome;
 - ii. Explain why the application did not pass the preliminary review; and
 - iii. Inform them that they can re-apply within three business days if the re-application addresses all issues that caused the application to fail the preliminary review.

2.4 ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

- 1) The Office Manager or their nominated delegate assesses all assignment extension applications, and informs the student of the outcome within two business days.
- 2) The Course Coordinator or their nominated delegate assesses all deferral and special consideration applications, and informs the Administration Office of the outcome within three business days.
 - a. The Administration Office then informs the student of the outcome within one business day.
- 3) Criteria which are considered when assessing an application include (but are not limited to):
 - a. The severity of the event, as demonstrated by submitted evidence, and consequent impact on the student's capacity for study.
 - b. The student's performance in other assessment tasks in the unit that they are applying for an extension.
 - c. The student's academic standing in other units and in the course overall.
 - d. Any history of previous applications for extensions, especially where they highlight a chronic problem.
 - e. Whether the student is a member of a disadvantaged group, as defined in the *Diversity and Equity Policy and Procedure*.
- 4) If the outcome is approval:
 - a. The assessor decides the appropriate adjustment:
 - i. For assignment extensions, the student can be granted an extension of up to 72 hours after the original assignment due date.
 - ii. For deferrals, the student can be permitted to complete the live assessment at a later date.
 1. If completing the live assessment at a later date is not practical, the student can be granted alternative assessment tasks or marks for the unit's other assessment tasks can be pro-rated for a final percentage result.

- iii. For special consideration, any combination of the following adjustments can be chosen:
 1. The deadline(s) for one or more affected assignments are reset to a period of up to six months after their respective original due dates.
 2. The student is permitted to complete a deferred exam.
 3. The student is granted alternative assessment tasks to replace the original assessment tasks.
 4. Marks obtained for all other assessment tasks that the student completed in the unit are pro-rated for a final percentage result.
 5. The student is allowed to discontinue from the unit without failure.
 - b. The Administration Office notifies the relevant unit lecturer of the adjustment.
 - c. If the adjustment involves the deferral of a final exam, the Administration Office also arranges for the student to complete the deferred exam in the Deferred and Supplementary Exam Period.
- 5) If the outcome is rejection, the notification must inform the student of their right to appeal within five business days.
 - 6) The Administration Office stores the *Special Consideration and Extension Form* and any evidence in the student file.
 - 7) The Administration Office records the details of all decisions in the *Special Consideration and Extension Register*, which is reviewed at every Teaching and Learning Committee meeting.

2.4.1 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

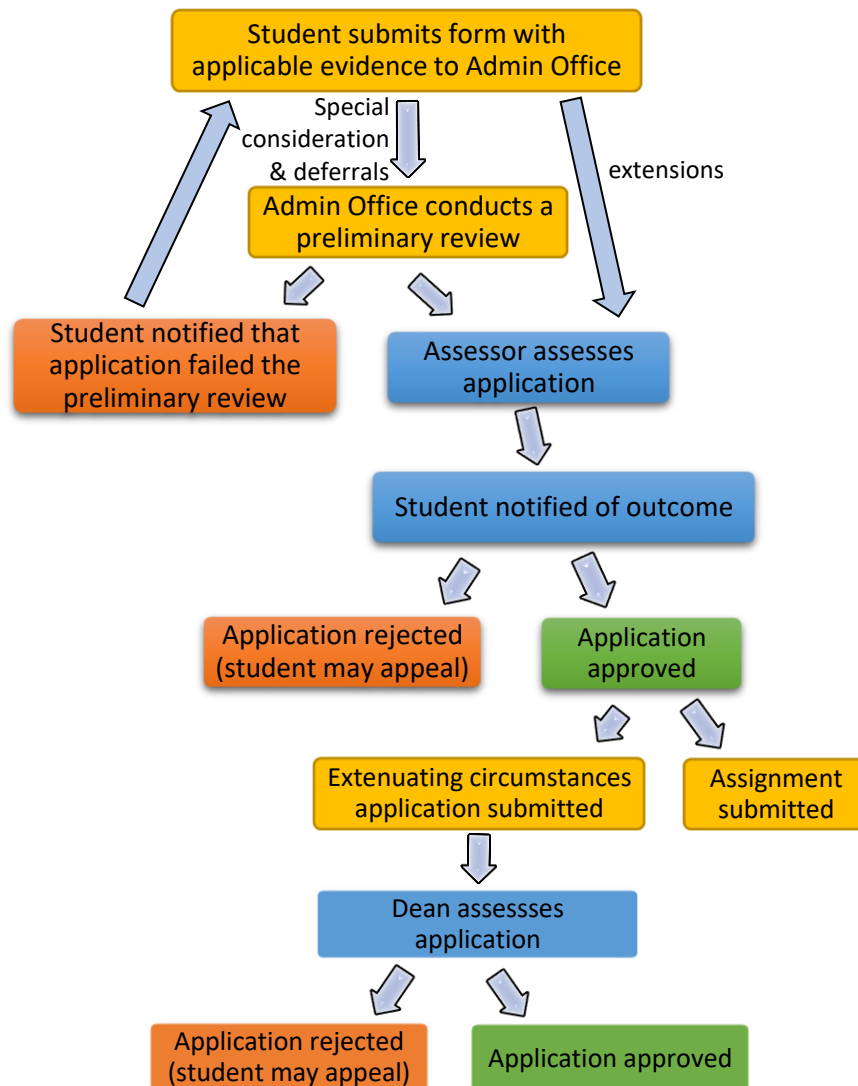
- 1) If a student receives an extension, deferral or special consideration, but is still unable to complete an assessment within the required timeframe for reasons outside their control (e.g., their illness or injury requires longer recovery time), then they may be allowed a longer timeframe to complete that assessment.
- 2) Applications for extenuating circumstances must be made to the Dean by email no more than seven calendar days after the extended assessment deadline that was granted for the original extension, deferral or special consideration.
 - a. All applications must be in writing and must have supporting documentation.
 - b. The Dean may follow up with the student's health practitioner before making a determination.
- 3) The criteria by which the Dean determines the application outcome are the same as those for normal applications as detailed in Section 2.4 above.
- 4) If exceptional circumstances (relative to other special consideration cases) apply, the maximum time allowed to complete the assessment becomes 12 months after the original assignment due date that was set for the class.
 - a. If an assessment is not submitted within 12 months of the original assignment due date, the student automatically fails the unit.

2.5 APPEALS

- 1) Students may appeal a decision made by an assessor under this policy.
 - a. Appeals must be made within seven calendar days of the outcome being emailed to the student.
- 2) Appeals begin at Stage 3 of the *Academic Grievance Policy and Procedure*.

3 PROCEDURE

3.1 GENERAL PROCEDURE



4 RELATED POLICY AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION

- 1) Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021.
- 2) Student Assessment Policy and Procedure.
- 3) Academic Grievance Policy and Procedure.
- 4) Special Consideration and Extension Form.
- 5) Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure.
- 6) Diversity and Equity Policy and Procedure.
- 7) Special Consideration and Extension Register.