

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQs

HNC SOCIAL CARE GRADED UNIT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADED UNIT?

The graded unit is a project in the form of a practical assignment, which is used to assess the **application of knowledge and skills** in a real work situation. It should take you approximately 40 hours to complete.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADED UNIT?

The purpose of the Graded Unit is to

- Assess your ability to retain and integrate the knowledge and skills you have gained by studying the mandatory units of the HNC Social Care
- Grade your achievement of the above at A B or C
- Assess whether you have met the principal aims of the HNC Social Care

WHAT ARE THE MANDATORY UNITS?

They are

- Psychology for social care practice
- Sociology for social care practice
- Protection of individuals from possible harm or abuse
- Social care theory for practice
- Social policy and its application to social services provision
- Promote Effective Communication for and about Individuals (SVQ Unit)
- Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security in the Working Environment (SVQ Unit)
- Reflect on and Develop your Practice (SVQ Unit)

WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF THE HNC SOCIAL CARE SPECIFIED IN THE GRADED UNIT?

They are

- To integrate knowledge, theory and practice effectively in a care setting
- To develop skills appropriate for working with individuals in a care setting
- To have a service user and carer focus in your practice
- To prepare for or develop in employment
- To critically evaluate your practice and become a reflective practitioner
- To facilitate progression to higher education

WHO MARKS IT?

The graded unit will be assessed by your course tutors and marked out of 100. There are marks allocated to each part of the project and you will know how many marks are allocated to each stage. You will also be given a completion date to hand in your project.

WHAT ARE THE GRADES?

Your project will be marked out of 100 and graded as follows

- A = 70-100%
- B= 60-69%
- C = 50-59%

WHAT HAPPENS IF FAIL?

If you fail the project you cannot achieve your HNC. You can request to be assessed for the unit again, however, this **must** be done using a *substantially different* project, ie all stages are undertaken using a new project. In this case, your grade will be based on the achievement in the **reassessment, if this results in a higher grade.**

If you are unhappy with the assessment decision you should use your Centre's Appeals Process.

WILL I BE ABLE TO REMEDIATE?

Yes. Remediation is possible within the project. However, as the Graded Unit is intended to be a piece of work which demonstrates your ability to work autonomously with minimal support, remediation will be reflected in the grade you are given. Once the centre marks the project you will be notified of your grade. All group award Graded Units will be subject to external moderation by SQA and this means that SQA moderators will sample candidates' projects from all centres to ensure that national standards are being maintained.

WILL I BE GIVEN ANY HELP BEFORE I START?

Yes. You will be given instructions on how to complete the project in plenty of time. Your tutor will answer any questions you may have to provide clarification and guidance. You must ensure that you ask all the questions you need to, so that you are quite clear about what it is you have to do.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

The project is in the form of a practical assignment, which requires you to work with an individual client/ service user to plan, develop and evaluate an activity, which promotes the development of that individual. The project is in three stages; planning, developing and evaluating the activity. The planning stage is assessed by a short planning document and discussions with your tutor.

You are required to produce a report of the activity which

- is based on the plan
- Is authenticated by your placement supervisor or manager as an authentic record of what took place
- Includes an evaluation of the activity

The project should be about 3500-4500 words in total

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY IS SUITABLE?

You and the individual in receipt of care/support should plan the activity together and it must be consistent with the plan of care and be approved by the key worker/ placement supervisor /manager

Some suggested topics are

- A therapeutic activity with an individual or group

- An outing with an individual or group
- An activity of daily living with an individual or group
- A recreational activity with an individual or group

WILL I BE GIVEN ANY HELP ONCE I HAVE STARTED?

The role of your tutor is as a facilitator and you should work independently on your project. Your tutor will ask you questions at various stages to check your knowledge and understanding of the project. In order to gain high marks, you must show that you have been able to work on your own to plan and carry out the activity. If you need a lot of extra help with the project then your marks will reflect this

CAN I GET EXTRA TIME IF I NEED IT?

No. Not unless there are exceptional circumstances. The setting of deadlines in project-based Graded Units is imposed to ensure fairness so that all candidates are given the same time to complete either the entire project or phases within the project. Your Centre should take into consideration any exceptional personal circumstances in line with their centre's own policy and SQA's guidance on special assessment arrangements if necessary. If you don't submit your project on time your grading will be affected as stated in the Unit Specification.

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