



What should I do if I fail a course?

Failing a course at university can feel like a huge setback, especially if you worked hard all semester. Maybe the subject matter was too complex? Maybe you had too much going on in your personal life? If you're a new student, you may have been facing challenges adjusting to tertiary study. Whichever is the case for you, rest assured that you can get back on track to finish your course.

Check your institution's policies

First up, check with your institution to see if there is a possibility to re-sit an exam, complete a supplementary assessment, or have your assessments looked at again. If you have run out of options, get in touch with your academic adviser or your course coordinator to see if you will need to repeat the subject. Generally, this is only the case if it's a core unit, a prerequisite for a subject, or part of the unit sequence for your major. You can still attempt to re-sit the subject if it's not compulsory, but you may prefer to try your luck with another unit to make up the credits.

Consider the implications

You may not be able to proceed in your course or qualify for your major if you do not complete the course. If you're at the end of your course, you may not be able to graduate until you have completed the required number of credits. The failed subject will also be displayed on your transcript and count towards your grade-point average (GPA), which can affect your chances of getting into student exchange or further study (honours programs). Future employers may also request a copy of your academic transcript, particularly if you take up a position in a graduate program or enter a highly regulated profession such as accounting or engineering. Financially, you will still need to pay fees for any subjects you fail. This could see you paying additional fees to make up your credits. Even if you have taken out a HELP loan, this is a significant cost to bear.

Explore support services

Your education institution will have support services in place to assist you with any academic or personal issues you are experiencing. If the problem is academic (e.g. you don't understand a certain theory or writing style), your institution will offer services such as tutors and workshops that can help you improve your skills to bring up your grades. If you failed because you've lost interest in your course or have been affected by personal



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circumstances, it is best to seek advice about adjusting your enrolment or course load. You might be able to choose a less demanding subject, take some time away from university, or simply drop down to part-time mode.

Plan your next steps

Once you've had a chat to International Students Access (ISA) and looked at the consequences, it's time to think about your next step. You may want to adjust your enrolment, take some time out from university, start the subject again or explore something new altogether. Whatever option you choose, you will be able to access support at ISA anytime. If you are worried about falling behind in your course or having to graduate later than your cohort, explore your institution's catch-up options. Look for summer semesters and intensive units, as you may be able to study an extra subject over the holidays to make up your credits and still graduate along with your friends!

(Source: <http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/Latest-news/Life-at-university/What-to-do-if-you-fail-a-subject#.WAVPduh942x>)