

Repair of failed modules

The ground rule

If you are already taking modules of year 2 or year 3, but you still have to “repair” a failed module of the year (or even two years) before, please beware that it is **impossible to combine the repair of a previous fail with studying in a new module at the same time.**

The exam of a module is a combination of a number of tests. So you could imagine that it would be enough just to redo the tests you failed (and not the ones you already passed) in order to repair the fail for the entire exam. **This is *not* the case.** Test results which contribute to an exam have a very limited term of validity; their validity ends at the end of the academic year in which you took them. **If you have to redo an exam which is a combination of tests, you start with a clean slate, none of the previous test results still counts.**

The rare exceptions

The Teaching and Examination Regulations contain a clause which offers an escape. The term of validity of test results can be extended. But **only in individual cases**, where starting with a clean slate meets with **objections of an overriding nature.** Neither the fact that you don’t understand why you would have to start with a clean slate, nor the fact that previous generations of students were never confronted with similar problems, count as objections of an overriding nature.

The Examination Board might consider a **disproportionate extension of the study** to be an objection of an overriding nature. If you are entitled to adaptations of your programme for medical or other such personal reasons, the Examination Board may also see grounds to grant you an exception of the ground rule. (But only after consultation and upon advice of the study adviser).

Catching up policy

The consequence of failing a module is an extension of the study. Obviously you want to avoid that, and even more so if the extension is disproportionate. Therefore the standard interpretation of your request to extend the term of validity of test results in a module is that you want to “catch up”. You plan to combine parts of the older module with the entire new module, and take them both in one quarter. But even if the Board recognizes your exceptional circumstances, they will be **very hesitant** to make it possible for you **to combine a module of a later year with parts of a module of a previous year.** They fear (and they have reason to do so) that such a combination may end in a double failure, and not in the double success that you intended.. Passing a module is difficult, there is ample evidence to suggest that it is. To work simultaneously on one entire module and parts of another module is even more difficult. It feels irresponsible for the Exam Board to give a student permission for such a hazardous undertaking. What if you fail the module of this year, and you fail the module of previous year as well (for the second time)?

An additional rule which stands in the way of catching up

Finally, please be aware that the Teaching and Examination Regulations contain a provision that says *To participate in one of the modules of the second year, a student must have completed the corresponding module of the first year. (Corresponding means: taught in the same quarter). The module examiner of the second year module may grant exemption of this rule.*

So, if you **have to repair a fail for a module of a previous year, you cannot participate in the module of this year**, unless the coordinator of this year's module explicitly gives you permission.

You need that permission even before you can start a discussion about breaking the ground rule.

NOTE: if you want to take the module of the next year and postpone the repair of the fail of the previous year until later, please inform all authorities involved (module coordinator and Exam Board) of your intentions. That is a different situation, without a conflict with the ground rule.