

# External Referencing of Standards (EROS) Selecting Student Work



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## Selecting Student Work for External Referencing

Student coursework for external referencing should be selected to represent *graduate level outcomes*, which characterise the knowledge and capabilities students should have acquired and demonstrated at the completion of their course. It is recognised that samples will not be able to cover the full range of possible learning outcomes. Assessed student work samples should be randomly selected from within defined grade ranges, based on the final mark achieved as described below. Student work must be de-identified prior to the external referencing process, but otherwise the work is left unaltered, complete with any annotations made by the original assessor. If assessor comments/marks are on a separate document, such as a rubric, this should be included alongside the student work. It is also important to avoid selecting any samples that might have intellectual property implications (e.g. commercial-in-confidence).

### Stratified Random Sampling

To enable a focus on threshold standards, and to provide a consistent format for the comparison of student work across institutions that may use different grade band boundaries, samples for external referencing should represent a random selection of assessed work to include the mark ranges as follows:

1. A minimal pass (selecting a sample at random from student work that achieved the minimum pass mark up to no more than 5% above this. If there is no student work that falls into this category, the work with the lowest passing mark should be submitted for review.)
2. A fail (selecting a sample at random from student work that did not meet the pass mark, but did not fail by more than 10% below the minimum pass mark. If there is no student work that falls into this category, then the work with the highest failing mark should be submitted.) If there are no failing students then a second sample from the 'minimal pass' category should be added.
3. A strong pass (selecting a sample at random from student work that achieved a mark that is higher than that which falls within the grade range associated with a 'Pass'. [e.g. Credit, Distinction, High Distinction] If there are no students achieving a strong pass then do not submit work in this category.)

The procedure above is designed to produce at least two and normally three samples of work for review. Work should be selected using some form of random selection procedure (i.e. selecting a sample at random from a sub-list of eligible samples, or selecting samples at random from the full cohort until the three sample criteria are met).

## Selection of Student Work Examples

### Example 1:

University X has five grade bands within their institution, as follows:

High Distinction	80-100
Distinction	70-79
Credit	60-69
Pass	50-59
Fail	0-49

X1 has the following distribution of marks for the final assessments:

Student	Mark	Grade Band
1	14	Fail
2	23	Fail
3	40	Fail
4	43	Fail
5	45	Fail
6	50	Pass
7	52	Pass
8	55	Pass
9	58	Pass
10	59	Pass
11	60	Credit
12	63	Credit
13	67	Credit
14	70	Distinction
15	71	Distinction
16	76	Distinction
17	80	High Distinction
18	86	High Distinction

One sample of assessed work for external referencing should be randomly selected from within the:

1. green strata (representing a minimal pass)
2. red strata (representing a fail)
3. blue strata (representing a strong pass)

If there had been no failing students, then two samples would have been drawn from the green strata.

### Example 2:

University Y also has five grade bands, but with different boundaries compared with University X:

High Distinction	85-100
Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64
Fail	0-49

Unit Y1 has the following distribution of marks for the final assessments:

Student	Percent	Grade Band
1	29	Fail
2	32	Fail
3	36	Fail
4	50	Pass
5	53	Pass
6	55	Pass
7	58	Pass
8	59	Pass
9	60	Pass
10	63	Pass
11	67	Credit
12	65	Credit
13	66	Credit
14	70	Credit
15	71	Credit
16	76	Distinction
17	80	Distinction
18	86	High Distinction

One sample of assessed work for external referencing should be randomly selected from within the:

1. green strata (representing a minimal pass)
2. red strata (representing a fail – but in this case there are no students with a score between 40-50%, so the highest failing mark [36%] is selected instead.)
3. blue strata (representing a strong pass)

If there had been no students scoring 65% or more, then only samples 1) and 2) would be selected and put forward for review.

## Resources Used

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Level 4: Standards Across Courses (Internal and External)

- <http://app.griffith.edu.au/assessment-matters/docs/consensus-moderation/model/level4>

Assessment, Reporting and Moderation

- <http://catholic.tas.edu.au/our-schools/curriculum/assessment-reporting-and-moderation>

Level 3: Grading Student Work

- <http://app.griffith.edu.au/assessment-matters/docs/consensus-moderation/model/level3>

Guidelines for random selection of student work for external moderation

- <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Providers-and-partners/Assessment-and-moderation/sec-mod-selection-guidelines.pdf>

Using consensus moderation to ensure appropriate academic standards when grading

- <http://app.griffith.edu.au/assessment-matters/pdfs/AcademicStandards-Grading01.pdf>

Reporting on Australian Curriculum

- [http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingandlearning/files/links/C\\_326\\_REPORTING\\_Policy\\_Gui.pdf](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingandlearning/files/links/C_326_REPORTING_Policy_Gui.pdf)