



We often start new commitments – new degrees and courses – with the best intentions. Then life happens. We fall ill. A family member dies. We hit hard times. And all our well-intentioned plans start to unravel, often resulting in a negative effect on our studies and overall performance. If you ever find yourself in a position where life is starting to affect your ability to study or come to class, then we encourage you to speak to your lecturer or course convener as soon as possible.

They're there to help – and are the people to speak to, to negotiate a late submission or explain an absence. They're also the people who give you your DP ('duly performed'), the recognition that you have completed all your coursework, have attended all the necessary lectures, and can write your exams.

What is a DP?

- DP ('duly performed') is the recognition that you have completed your assignments, attended the necessary classes, and can write your exam.
- Each course has different DP requirements, which will be explained at the start of your course, on handouts, or on Vula. Details are also available in your faculty handbook. If you have any questions, chat to your lecturer or course convenor.

What happens if I don't get my DP?

- If you don't meet your coursework requirements, you will be marked as DPR ('duly performed refused') – which means you can't write the exam for that course (and even if you did write the exam, your paper would not be marked).
- A DPR on your record counts as a fail, and contributes a 0 towards your overall average in your year or degree.



How do I avoid a DPR?

- If you have good reasons for missing tutorials or handing in work late, you can sometimes negotiate late submissions with your department. Remember: it helps to negotiate extensions in advance.
- If, within the first six weeks of your course, it's clear you're not going to meet your DP requirements, it is often better to deregister from your course than to have the DPR mark appear on your record (keeping in mind that the UCT Fees Office also have deadlines for dropping courses).
- If you have good reasons for missing your DP and can show this (for example, with a medical note booking you off for an extended period), you can appeal to your course convenor to have a DP restored.
- If you're unhappy with the course convenor's response, you can appeal to the head of department. If you are still denied your DP and you feel that the department is treating you unfairly, you can make a written submission to the deputy dean in undergraduate affairs.

Being given DPR is not ideal for any student and if you find yourself in a situation where you have been given one, then we urge you to follow the necessary process as outlined above. These processes have been put in place to ensure that you're given the best opportunity at making your studies work. However, it is also your responsibility to seize the opportunities by making them work for you.