

I failed an exam - what can I start doing differently?

Failing an examination could be overwhelming and you might feel that it is difficult to continue with your studies. Reflection will help you to gain perspective about your situation: what do I need to do in order to pass my examinations next time? Reflection questions focus on what you did before the exams and how you prepared, as well as what happened during the exams.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- 1 Listen to the [Exam Self-reflection podcast](#).
- 2 Answer the following questions. If you download this document and open it in Adobe Reader, you can type your answers in this document and save it on your PC.
- 3 Submit your completed document and then have a follow-up conversation with a counsellor or send your answers to counselling@unisa.ac.za.

Did I complete the exam?

Yes

No

Did most of the exam questions come from the content and activities of the study guide, the textbook or the assignments?

How were the questions different from those in the study guide, textbook or assignments?

Where was the greatest source of error? (careless errors; lack of time; lack of understanding the material; uncertainty of which method to choose; lack of prerequisite information; exam anxiety)

How can I change my study habits to adjust for the errors that have been made?

Should I have studied more? If yes, what should I have concentrated on?

Should I have approached the work differently? If yes, what should I have done?

How much time did I spend preparing for each module (during the semester/ year)?

How many times did I work through all the study material?

How did I use the activities in the study guide to test my knowledge?

Did I make effective notes? What type of notes did I make?

What was my emotional state like on the day of the exam?

What was my emotional state/ personal circumstances like during the semester/ year?

Do I know what to do differently next time I write this module/ paper? Please write down the plan of action:

This is the support I will need to manage this module more effectively and this is who I would need it from:

Checklist for next steps

If you failed this module previously, contact your lecturer for the module to have a conversation about how you could prepare differently for the examination.

Before you register for the next semester, think about your circumstances and how many modules would be realistic for you to take.

Have a follow-up conversation with a counsellor to help you formulate a learning plan for the next semester and to explore effective study methods.

A counsellor will contact you shortly to have a discussion about the way forward.

Directorate: Counselling and Career Development

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<http://www.unisa.ac.za/counselling>