

University of Essex

Rules of Assessment for Full-Time Taught Masters Degrees 2023-2024

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (MCAP) – Direct Route

1 Preamble

1.1 These rules apply to the full-time Direct Route Masters programme pathways named below. The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and module outlines. The module outlines will give details of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the Programme.

- a) MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Health, Ageing and Disability) – Direct Route
- b) MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Mental Health) – Direct Route

1.2 A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent, which for this programme is the Clinical Practice and Further Clinical Practice modules.

1.3 A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed. A compulsory module must be taken but can be condoned.

1.4 All Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction or Merit.

1.5 It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.

2. Pass Mark

2.1 The pass mark for all modules of the Masters degree is 50, with the exception of the Demonstration of Competencies module which is credit-bearing but awarded as Fail, Pass or Distinction only. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed.

2.2 For modules which contain clinical components with a pass/fail outcome, the module can only be passed if the clinical components are completed and passed. If the clinical components are not passed the mark for any coursework component(s) within the module will be recorded, but the module aggregate mark will be zero and any credits for the module will not be awarded.

2.3 For the purposes of these rules taught module averages, the overall weighted average for the taught modules will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.

2.4 The Demonstration of Competencies module-will be graded as a Fail, Pass or Distinction.

3. Eligibility for an Award

The Masters Degree

3.1 Pass

To be awarded a pass in the Masters a student should:

- a) Pass all the modules including the Demonstration of Competencies module.
- b) Pass at least 60 taught module credits at the first attempt, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

3.2 A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Degree class is based upon the marks for all modules, excluding the Demonstration of Competencies module.

3.2.1 Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more.

3.2.2 Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more.

4 Reassessment

4.1 Reassessment for taught modules

a) Students may have a second attempt for module(s) that have been failed, up to a maximum of 60 taught module credits.

b) Where a provisional mark for the first attempt at assessment indicates that a student has failed the module, the student will be permitted to undertake the second attempt prior to the next meeting of the Board of Examiners.

c) The marks for the first and second attempts at assessment will be presented to the Board of Examiners to ratify the fail of the first attempt and confirm the outcome of the second attempt at reassessment.

d) The maximum mark that will be recorded for a module as a result of a second attempt is 50, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

e) The Board of Examiners will reinstate the module mark for the previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt.

f) If a student fails a module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

g) Where the Board of Examiners permits a student to have a second attempt at the assessment for a module this only applies to any individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed.

h) A student cannot be permitted to repeat a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.

4.2 Clinical Practice Placement modules

a) Students may have a second attempt at a failed course work assignment on the placement modules in accordance with the regulations in section 4.1 above.

b) Where the supervisor evaluation of clinical practice is failed, this may be resubmitted after a further period of additional placement-based clinical practice up to a maximum of 300 hours. This is marked on a pass/fail basis.

c) Where the learning log of clinical practice experience is failed, this may be resubmitted after a further period of additional placement-based clinical practice up to a maximum of 300 hours. This is marked on a pass/fail basis.

d) If a student fails a placement module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

e) Only one placement module may be retaken unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

4.3 Demonstration of Competencies

In line with the Demonstration of Competencies module assessment plan:

a) Students who fail one or more assessment method will be offered the opportunity for re-assessment in any failed elements.

b) The timing of the re-assessment will be agreed between the employer, student and EPUT.

c) Any successful re-assessment in the Demonstration of Competencies will be awarded up to the maximum outcome of distinction.

d) A student cannot be offered re-assessment to improve their result from pass to distinction.

5. Assessment Procedures

5.1 Powers of The Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners shall have the following powers:

a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment presented to the Board, and awarding credit.

b) Confirming whether the placement modules have been passed.

c) Confirming the mark for the dissertation or equivalent, including any mark for resubmission.

- d) Confirming any opportunities for reassessment for modules, including resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent, and any opportunities for condonement.
- e) Considering each student's marks' profile so that they can be advised on the range of possible award outcomes, including whether it is possible for them to make use of dissertation or equivalent credits.
- f) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- g) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- h) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the programme.

An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment.

The Interim Board will also determine whether the student is still on track to be eligible for a Masters' award and can therefore proceed with the programme.

Students will be required to withdraw where the accumulation of further credit would not result in the achievement of any postgraduate award according to the Rules of Assessment.

5.2 Extenuating Circumstances

If you submit Extenuating Circumstances and they are accepted as valid, the Board of Examiners may be able to offer additional assessment opportunities, such as reassessment for uncapped module marks or voluntary reassessment, in line with the Extenuating Circumstances [Policy](#) and [guidelines](#). When extenuating circumstances are accepted, the Board of Examiners will use its discretion to determine what if any action should be taken in accordance with the powers set out

in the Policy. Except in the case of accepted extenuating circumstances, Boards of Examiners do not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the Rules of Assessment.

6 Option to Transfer from the Direct Route Pathway to the Apprenticeship Route Pathway

6.1 All taught modules (Modules 1 to 6) are identical between the Direct Route pathway and the Apprenticeship Route pathway. Consequently, students may be permitted to transfer from their MCAP Direct Route pathway to the corresponding MCAP Apprenticeship route pathway, as outlined in Table 1: Permitted Transfer Routes below, prior to commencement of Module 7: End Point Assessment. Approval to transfer will be dependent on the student having met all of the requirements for registration as an apprentice and having the support of their employer.

6.2 From the point of transferring from the Direct Route to the Apprenticeship Route, students will be considered under the Apprenticeship Route Rules of Assessment.

Table 1: Permitted Transfer Routes:

Direct Route Course	Permitted Transfer Route
MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Health, Ageing and Disability) – Direct Route	MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Health, Ageing and Disability) - Apprenticeship Route
MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Mental Health) - Direct Route	MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Mental Health) – Apprenticeship Route

Document Review Information	
Document owner	Assessment Team
Document author	Assessment Team
Document last reviewed by	Deniece Fisher
Date last reviewed	02/01/2024
Review frequency	Annually