

**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX**

**RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2020/2021**

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL AND PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES**

**MA PSYCHODYNAMIC COUNSELLING**

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**1 PREAMBLE**

- a) In addition to the standard Rules of Assessment for students on Taught Masters Degrees, the following rules are applicable in relation to the MA Psychodynamic Counselling (24 months). These rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and Module Directory entries. The Module Directory will give detail of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the programmes.
  - b) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.
  - c) It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.
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**2 PASS MARK**

- a) The pass mark for all modules of the Masters degree is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed. In cases where failure with a mark of 40 is condoned, the credits are not awarded.
  - b) For the purposes of these rules taught module averages, the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the mark for the dissertation\_or equivalent will be rounded to the nearest whole number - i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.
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**3 PROGRESSION FROM YEAR ONE TO YEAR TWO**

**3.1** To progress from year one to year two, students should:

- a) Pass a minimum of 15 credits at the first attempt, in addition to passing core modules, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- b) Complete a minimum of 40 clinical hours;
- c) Be in weekly personal therapy sessions throughout the academic year

Where the Board accepts a student's extenuating circumstances, the requirements to pass Year 1 must be satisfied before progressing to Year 2.

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## **4 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD**

### **4.1 THE MASTERS DEGREE**

#### **4.1.1 Pass**

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

- a) Attempt 195 credits, of which 155 must be passed, with remaining credits condoned subject to (f);
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation or equivalent;
- c) Pass at least 60 taught module credits at the first attempt unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- d) Complete 100 clinical hours over the course of the degree;
- e) Be in weekly personal therapy in each year of the degree;
- f) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 40 credits in non-core taught modules will be condoned provided the overall weighted average for all the taught modules is 50.

#### **4.1.2 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.

#### **4.1.3 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.
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## **5 REASSESSMENT**

### **5.1 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) No second attempt at the assessment for a module is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners meeting where marks are confirmed.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

**5.1.2** 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.

**5.1.3** 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.

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

**5.1.5** Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment across the summer and/or, in the final year, waiting until the final board when the dissertation or equivalent outcome is known.

## **5.2 Re-submission of Dissertations or equivalent**

- a) Re-submission of dissertations or equivalent is only permitted in the following circumstances:
  - i) Either substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners; or
  - ii) Where the original mark awarded is at least 40 and the Board of Examiners judges that the work required to achieve a pass does not include any additional experimental or practical work.
- b) Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:
  - i) A dissertation or equivalent must normally be re-submitted within two months of the formal notification of permission to resubmit; in cases of extenuating circumstances, this may be extended to a maximum of twelve months;
  - ii) A dissertation or equivalent which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than a maximum mark of 50; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.

## **5.3 Clinical Hours Requirements**

- a) In order to receive accreditation, students must complete 100 clinical hours across the course of the degree.
- b) If a student has not completed the required clinical hours by the time modules have been completed, they will not be eligible to graduate. When determining eligibility for an award, the Board of Examiners may allow students to complete the required clinical hours within a specified period of months in order to complete the degree.

# **6 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

## **6.1 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 the mark for the dissertation or equivalent, including any mark for resubmission.
- c) Confirming any opportunities for reassessment for modules, including resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent; and any opportunities for condonement.
- d) 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.
- e) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- f) Determining the appropriate award for each student.

- g) Determining whether a student can progress to the second year.
- h) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

**6.1.1** An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of a year of study and at the end of the taught module assessment.

**6.1.2** Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment across the summer and/or, in the final year, waiting until the final board when the dissertation or equivalent outcome is known.

**6.1.3** 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.

### **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.

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**End**

**SENATE July 2019 Updated May 2020**