

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2019-2020

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MA Social Work (including the pathway MA Social Work (with Human Rights))

1. PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the full-time (24 months) Masters Programme named above. The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and on-line Module Directory entries. The Module Directory will give details of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the Programme.
 - b) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent, which for these programmes are HS659 Social Work Dissertation or HS657 Rights Based Research and Dissertation.
 - c) All Masters Degrees can be awarded with Distinction and Merit.
 - d) Successful completion of either MA or the exit award Postgraduate Diploma Social Work entail eligibility for registration with the professional regulator (currently, Health Care Professionals Council but due to be transferred to Social Work England) under the protected title of Social Worker.
 - e) The exit award of Postgraduate Certificate in Social Care is an academic award and does not entail eligibility for professional registration.
 - f) 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.
 - 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.
 - c) Practice-based assessments are marked on a pass/fail basis.
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3. PROGRESSION

3.1 To progress from Year 1 to Year 2 a student must:

- a) A student must not be subject to restrictions imposed on them by a Fitness to Practise (FTP) Committee or an exclusion that prevents them from engaging in direct work with service users as a consequence of concerns over their fitness to practice or their professional conduct.
- b) Have successfully completed all Year 1 modules unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

If, despite having had a second attempt at an assignment or placement, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

4 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD - THE MASTERS DEGREE

Pass

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

- a) Obtained 180 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the practice-based assessments and all assignments in the core modules of the programme.
- c) Complete the required number of placement days;
- d) Either not be the subject of concerns about fitness to practice or have met the conditions required by a FTP Committee in consequence of having been the subject of such concerns;

4.1 Pass with Merit or Distinction

4.1.1 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.

4.1.2 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.

4.2 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK AND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL CARE

Where a student is either unable to complete their studies or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded a Masters, then the award of either a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work or a Postgraduate Certificate in Social Care will be considered. Students can be considered for the award of a Distinction and Merit for either exit award.

- 4.2.1** Credits obtained for the dissertation or equivalent cannot be used when considering whether a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work can be awarded as the award entails eligibility for professional registration and so can only be made on the basis of having successfully completed all the core components of the programme.

4.2.2 Dissertation credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK** which entails eligibility for professional registration, a student must:

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Undertake and successfully complete all practice placement activities;
- c) Must at least have attempted the option modules leading to the award of either Masters in Social Work or Masters in Social Work with Human Rights;
- d) Pass all taught core modules for the Postgraduate Diploma Social Work;
- e) Either not be the subject of concerns about fitness to practice or to have met the conditions required by a FTP Committee in consequence of having been the subject of such concerns.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 120 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Diploma giving at least 120 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

Pass with Merit

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

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 60 or more.

Pass with Distinction

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

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 70 or more.

4.2.3 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL CARE** a student should:

- a) Attempt 60 credits at Masters level (level 7) of which 40 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (d).
- b) Pass all taught core modules.
- c) Pass 15 credits at the first attempt unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.
- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits, in non-core modules, may be condoned.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 60 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Certificate giving at least 60 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

Pass with Merit

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

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 60 or more.

Pass with Distinction

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

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 70 or more.

NB the exit award of Postgraduate Certificate in Social Care is an academic award and does not entail eligibility for professional registration.

5 REASSESSMENT

Reassessment for taught modules

- a) Students who have failed any taught module may have a second attempt at the assessment for the module(s);
- b) Where all individual components of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module only one opportunity to resubmit the failed component will be offered;
- c) The Board of Examiners will reinstate the module mark for a previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt.
- d) When a reassessment opportunity in a component leading to a numerical mark is offered the module aggregate will be calculated as follows:
 - i) Where students are not required to pass all the individual components of a module, the maximum mark that will be recorded for a module as a result of a second attempt is 50;
 - ii) Where students are required to pass all individual components of assessment, a pre-resubmission module aggregate will be calculated using the failed mark(s):
 - If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was below the pass mark then the resubmission can improve the module aggregate mark up to the pass mark only.
 - If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was above the pass mark then the resubmission cannot improve the module aggregate mark. The module aggregate is capped at the pre-submission aggregate.

5.1 If a student fails a module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed and the student will be required to withdraw unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

5.2 Reassessment for a practice placement

- a) Only one failed practice placement is permitted to be retaken as a second attempt;
- b) If a student, who has already had one second attempt, fails a second practice placement, they will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- c) If a student fails a practice placement on the second attempt at the assessment, no further attempt is allowed and the student will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

5.3 Re-submission of Dissertation 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 primary data collection.
 - 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.
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6. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

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) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

6.1 Progression and End of Year 1 Boards

The Board of Examiners shall meet at the end of Year 1 to consider the students' performance on all modules completed at that point. The Board shall have the power to:

- a) Confirm the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Determine whether each student may proceed to Year 2.
- c) Confirm the assessment for the practice-based elements completed.
- d) Consider extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- e) Consider reports on good health and good character.
- f) Require any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a second placement to withdraw.

6.2 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.

End

SENATE JULY 2019