

## UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

### EDGE HOTEL SCHOOL

# HONOURS DEGREES (ACCELERATED DELIVERY MODE) UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT

**Academic Year 2021-22**

**(cohort first registered in this Year)**

**3. *Honours Degrees (Accelerated Delivery Mode)***  
*(Including Ordinary Degree (Exit Award), Foundation Degree (Exit Award), Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award) and Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Award)).*

***PREAMBLE***

(a) These rules of assessment apply to the EHS honours courses which are taught over an accelerated timeframe of 24 months. They should be read in conjunction with the relevant Course Structure, Programme Specification and module outlines. The Course Structure will identify which modules are core for the course.

(b) Students will be considered under the Rules of Assessment that are current at the time of the Board of Examiners meeting, irrespective of the start date of their course. However, if the current Rules of Assessment are deemed to be disadvantageous to the student, the Rules of Assessment which were in place at the time that they started their course would be applied.

(c) EHS Honours Degree students study a full Honours course (360 credits) over an accelerated timeframe of 24 months. Level 4 (120 credits) is delivered over an 8month period, Level 5 (120 credits) is delivered over an 8-month period and Level 6 (120 credits) is delivered over an 8-month period.

(d) Where a student cannot progress because they have failed to meet the requirements of the PCC they will be required to repeat the year either full or part-time as appropriate. Where the failure occurs in year, the Board will require students to intermit for the remainder of the academic year and to return to repeat the same stage of study in the following academic year.

Where a student has recorded a year mark below 20, the student will not be withdrawn, as would normally be the case in line with the standard Rules of Assessment.

At the point where the student is required to stop their studies, the Board of Examiners will ratify any existing marks and issue any exit awards as appropriate.

(e) Due to the accelerated timeframe of delivery for the EHS Honours degrees, the maximum periods of study are shorter than for those delivered over a standard timeframe, as shown in the table below.

*EHS Maximum Periods of Study*

EHS QUALIFICATION	LEVEL	MINIMUM OVERALL CREDITS TO BE STUDIED	NORMAL LENGTH OF PROGRAMME	MAXIMUM PERIOD OF STUDY PERMITTED
BA Honours Degree	6	360 credits	2 years	4 years
BA Honours Degree (Top-Up)	6	120 credits	8 months	2 years
Foundation Degree	5	240 credits	16 months	3 years

**3.1 PROGRESSION****Progression from Stage One****3.1.1 In order to progress from Stage One to Stage Two students must:**

- a) achieve 120 credits at level 4. [NB where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 30 credits' worth of non-core modules it is possible for a student to progress to the next stage of study in the circumstances set out in section 3.1.2]

**and**

- b) pass core modules and meet any additional course or module specific requirements outlined in the variations to the Rules of Assessment, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

In order to be awarded a **Distinction** in Stage One, students must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Achieve an overall Stage mark of 69.5 at the first attempt, or;
- Achieve marks of 69.5 in at least 60 credits at the first attempt, with no credits below 59.5.

**3.1.2 If a student does not meet the requirements to progress:**

- where the student has failed a **maximum of 30 non-core credits**, they must either:
  - undertake the necessary reassessment in Stage One in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.
- or
- progress to Stage Two and undertake reassessment at the first opportunity. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.

- where the student has failed core credits, or between 30 and 60 credits, they must undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic Stage in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.
- **where the student has failed more than 60 credits** and has a Stage mark greater than 20, they must repeat the Stage- of study on a full-time or part-time basis for uncapped marks
- where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
  - where the Stage mark is **below 20**;
  - where a student was absent from all examinations which were due to be sat in the most recent examination period.
  - where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.

**3.1.3 When the Board meets after re-sits/resubmissions are completed, the Board will consider the following options (Boards cannot offer more than three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module). Where appropriate, the Board will offer more than one option to the student.**

- a) to repeat the Stage- of study full-time or part-time for uncapped module marks
- or**
- b) to undertake the necessary reassessment at the next available opportunity, with the module aggregate mark capped at 40
- or**
- c) where the student has not met the requirements to proceed having had three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, they would be required to withdraw from the University.
- or**
- d) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
  - where the Stage- mark is **below 20**;
  - where a student has undertaken none of the required reassessment;
  - where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.

Note: An Undergraduate 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. This will not apply where students are repeating an entire Stage for uncapped marks. In such cases the marks achieved at the end of the repeat Stage will stand.

**3.1.4 Following reassessment, where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 30 credits' worth of non-core modules, the Board will treat the fail in the following way:**

- a) Where a student has not had three attempts at the assessment for the failed module(s), the Board will offer the student the choice of either undertaking reassessment in Stage One, proceeding to Stage Two and undertaking reassessment at the first opportunity (as outlined in Section 3.1.2, this option only applies to students who have failed a maximum of 30 non-core credits), or proceeding to Stage Two carrying the fail(s).
- b) Where a student has already had three attempts at the assessment for the failed module(s) the Board will permit the student to proceed to Stage Two carrying the fail(s).
- c) Students will not be permitted to transfer to a course which regards the failed modules as core.

**3.1.5** Students who, after reassessment, still fail to achieve sufficient marks in an optional module to progress may choose an alternative optional module during their repeat Stage.

## **Progression from Stage Two**

**3.1.6 In order to progress from Stage Two to the Final Stage (Stage Three) students must:**

- a) achieve 120 credits at level 5 or above [NB where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 30 credits' worth of non-core modules it will be possible for a student to progress to the next Stage of study in the circumstances set out in section 3.1.7a]:
    - where only 90 credits have been passed at Stage One, 120 credits must be passed in Stage Two.
    - where 120 credits have been passed at Stage One, a minimum of 90 credits must be passed in Stage Two. [NB if only 90 credits are passed at Stage Two, then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three (Final Year)]
- and**
- b) pass core modules and meet any additional course or module specific requirements outlined in the variations to the Rules of Assessment, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

### **3.1.7**

**If a student does not meet the requirements to progress:**

- a) where the student has failed **a maximum of 30 non-core credits and passed a minimum of 105 credits at Stage One**, they must either undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic Stage, or progress to Stage Three and undertake reassessment at the first opportunity, in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.
  - where the student has failed core credits, or between 30 and 60 credits, **they must undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic Stage in order to fulfil the requirements to progress.** The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40
  - **where the student has failed more than 60 credits** and has a Stage mark greater than 20, they must repeat the Stage of study on a full-time or part-time basis for uncapped marks **or** undertake the necessary reassessment the following Year without attendance with the module aggregate mark capped at 40.
- b) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:

- where the Stage mark is **below 20**;
- where a student was absent from all examinations which were due to be sat in the most recent examination period.
- where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.
  - if 120 credits at level 4 or above have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education.
  - If 240 credits have been attempted and 225 have been passed but the student has not met the professional code of conduct the student may be considered for the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

### 3.1.8

**When the Board meets after re-sits/resubmissions are completed, the Board will consider the following options (Boards cannot offer more than three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module). Where appropriate the Board will offer more than one option to the student:**

- a) to repeat the Stage of study full-time or part-time for uncapped module marks.  
**or**
- b) to undertake the necessary reassessment at the next available opportunity where the module aggregate mark recorded will be capped at 40.  
**or**
- c) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
  - where the **Stage** mark is **below 20**;
  - where a student has undertaken none of the required reassessment;
  - where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.**or**
- d) where the student has not met the requirements to proceed having had three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, they would be required to withdraw from the University.  
**or**
- e) if 120 credits at level 4 or above have been passed, the student may be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education.

Note: An Undergraduate 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. This will not apply where students are repeating an entire Stage for uncapped marks. In such cases the marks achieved at the end of the repeat Stage will stand.

### 3.1.9

**Following reassessment, where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 30 credits' worth of non-core modules and has passed 120 credits at Stage One, or has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 15 credits' worth of non-core modules and has passed 105 credits at Stage One, the Board will treat the fail in the following way:**

- a) Where a student has not had three attempts at the assessment for the failed module the Board will offer the student the choice of either undertaking reassessment in Stage Two or proceeding to Stage Three and undertaking the reassessment at the first opportunity (this only applies to students who have failed a maximum of 30 non-core credits) or they could proceed to Stage Three carrying the fail.
- b) Where a student has already had three attempts at the assessment for the failed module the Board will permit the student to proceed to Stage Three carrying the fail.

## 3.2 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD (Final Stage)

**3.2.1 For the award of an Honours degree, a total of 360 credits must be attempted, of which 330 credits must be passed.** However, Boards of Examiners will offer one voluntary reassessment attempt in all failed final Stage modules no later than the start of the next Academic Year, provided the student has not already had three attempts at the assessment for the module. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.

**3.2.2 To be eligible for an Honours degree, students must <sup>2</sup>:**

- a) attempt 120 credits in the final Stage and pass at least 90 credits at level 6:
  - where 30 credits have been failed across Stage One and Stage Two, 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three (Final Year)
  - where 15 credits have been failed across Stage One and Stage Two, a minimum of 105 credits must be passed in Year Three (Final Year)
  - where 120 credits have been passed at both Stage One and Stage Two, a minimum of 90 credits at level 6 must be passed in Stage Three (Final Year)

**and**

- b) a total of 210 credits must be passed across stage 2 and the final stage

**and**

- c) pass core modules and meet any additional course-specific requirements outlined in the variations to the Rules of Assessment, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

**3.2.3 Students progressing from Foundation degrees or Diplomas of Higher Education to the final Stage of Honours degrees, or being admitted directly to the final Stage of Honours degrees**

- a) For the award of an Honours degree for students with a University of Essex Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education, a minimum of 105 credits must be passed in Stage Two (the final Stage of the Foundation degree or Diploma of Higher Education). A minimum of 210 credits must be passed over Stage Two and Stage Three (Final Year) combined. 90 credits must be passed at level 6.

- b) For the award of an Honours degree for students with a level 5 award (including Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education) awarded by another institution, 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three (Final Year). 90 credits must be passed at level 6.
- c) For the award of an Honours degree for students admitted directly to the Final Stage, 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three (Final Year), 90 credits' worth of which must be passed at level 6.
- d) For the purpose of considering whether a student will be permitted to repeat Stage Three, the Board of Examiners will regard Stage Three as a new award.

### 3.2.4 If a student does not meet the requirements for an Honours degree<sup>1</sup>:

- a) if 360 credits have been attempted and 300 credits or more have been passed, with 60 credits at Level 6, the student will be considered for the award of an Ordinary Degree, which is unclassified. This includes any credits achieved during a term abroad; however, credits from a foundation year, year abroad or placement year cannot be included. If a student has been given direct entry to the Final Year of a University of Essex degree with a Level 5 award (including Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education) awarded by another institution, and they pass 100 credits or more in the Final Year including at least 60 credits at Level 6, the Board of Examiners will consider them for an Ordinary Degree, which is unclassified.
- b) where the student has failed a **maximum of 60 credits**, or has failed a maximum of 90 credits but the Board determines that they can only be required to undertake compulsory reassessment in a maximum of 60 credits, they must undertake the necessary reassessment/repeat the stage of study. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.
- c) where the student has failed **more than 60 credits** and the Board determines that the student must undertake compulsory reassessment in more than 60 credits, and the student has a Stage mark greater than 20 they must repeat the Stage of study on a full-time or part-time basis for uncapped marks.
- d) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
  - where the Stage mark is **below 20**;
  - where a student was absent from all examinations which were due to be sat in the most recent examination period;
  - where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.
- e) if 240 credits (including a minimum of 120 at level 5 or above) have been attempted, and 225 have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Foundation Degree which can be awarded at the level of Pass, Merit, Distinction in accordance with the EHS Foundation Degree Rules of Assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Boards of Examiners will offer a voluntary reassessment opportunity to Final Stage students who have met the requirements to graduate with an honours degree but have failed Final Stage module(s), provided the students have not already had three attempts at the assessment for the module. In cases where students have not met the requirements to graduate the Board of Examiners will specify the minimum volume of compulsory reassessment that is required, and will offer a voluntary reassessment opportunity in the other failed Final Stage modules. However, students will not be permitted reassessment across the summer in more than 60 credits' worth of modules.

**3.2.5 When the Board meets after re-sits/resubmissions are completed, the Board will consider the following options (Boards cannot offer more than three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, and no more than one opportunity to take exams without attendance). Where appropriate the Board will offer more than one option to the student<sup>2</sup>:**

- a) to repeat the Stage of study full-time or part-time for uncapped module marks.
- or**
- b) to undertake the necessary reassessment at the next available opportunity where the module aggregate mark recorded will be capped at 40. This option cannot be offered where a student has already resat the exams without attendance.
- or**
- c) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
- where the stage mark is **below 20**;
  - where a student has undertaken none of the required reassessment;
  - where a student cannot complete their studies within the maximum period.
- or**
- d) where the student has not met the requirements for the award having had three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module (Boards cannot offer more than one opportunity to take exams without attendance), they would be required to withdraw from the University.
- or**
- e) if 360 credits have been attempted and 300 credits or more have been passed, with 60 credits at Level 6, the student will be considered for the award of an Ordinary Degree, which is unclassified. This includes any credits achieved during a term abroad; however, credits from a foundation year, year abroad or placement year cannot be included. If a student has been given direct entry to the Final Year of a University of Essex degree with a Level 5 award (including Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education) awarded by another institution, and they pass 100 credits or more in the Final Year including at least 60 credits at Level 6, the Board of Examiners will consider them for an Ordinary Degree, which is unclassified.
- or**
- f) if 240 credits (including a minimum of 120 at level 5) have been attempted and 225 have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Foundation Degree which can be awarded at the level of Pass, Merit, Distinction in accordance with the EHS Foundation Degree Rules of Assessment.

Note: An undergraduate 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. This will not apply where students are repeating an entire Stage for uncapped marks. In such cases the marks achieved at the end of the repeat Stage will stand.

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<sup>2</sup> Students cannot be offered further voluntary reassessment so Boards of Examiners will only offer reassessment to Final Year students who have not met the minimum criteria for the award on which they are studying. Furthermore, Boards will only offer reassessment in a sufficient number of modules to enable students to meet the minimum criteria for the award. For example, if a student has failed 60 credits' worth of non-core modules in the Final Stage, they will only be offered reassessment in 30 credits.

### 3.3 AWARD CLASSIFICATION FOR THREE-YEAR DEGREES (INCLUDING DEGREES WITH A PRELIMINARY STAGE.)

3.3.1 A student's degree class is based upon Stage **Two** and Stage **Three** marks. Stage **Two** and Stage **Three** marks are weighted 40 and 60 respectively and combined to give the Degree Mark.

3.3.2 **First Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:

- *Either* a Degree Mark of 70 or more; *or*
- 120 credits at 70 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 68.

**Upper Second Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:

- *Either* a Degree Mark of 60 or more; *or*
- 120 credits at 60 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 58.

**Lower Second Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:

- *Either* a Degree Mark of 50 or more; *or*
- 120 credits at 50 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 48.

**Third Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who meets the criteria for the award of an Honours degree (see 3.2 above) but who does not qualify for any other class of degree.

3.3.3 **For students progressing from a University of Essex Foundation degree or Diploma of Higher Education<sup>3</sup> to the final Stage of a University of Essex Honours degree**, the marks from Stage Two of the Foundation degree are used in the calculation of the Honours degree. Stage marks from Stage Two of the Foundation degree and from the final Stage of the Honours degree are weighted 40 and 60 respectively to give the Degree Mark. The degree class is calculated in accordance with the normal rules for Three-Year Honours degrees (see 3.3.2 above).

3.3.4 **For students given direct entry into the Final Stage or for students progressing from Foundation degrees at other institutions into the Final Stage of a University of Essex Honours degree**, Final Stage marks only will be used in calculating the Degree Mark. The degree class is calculated in the following way:

- **First Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:  
*Either* a Degree Mark of 70 or more; *or*  
60 credits at 70 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 68
- **Upper Second Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:  
*Either* a Degree Mark of 60 or more; *or*  
60 credits at 60 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 58
- **Lower Second Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who has:  
*Either* a Degree Mark of 50 or more; *or*  
60 credits at 50 or more and a Degree Mark of at least 48
- **Third Class Honours** will be awarded to a candidate who meets the criteria for the award of an Honours degree (see 3.2 above) but who does not qualify for any other class of degree.

SENATE July 2022

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<sup>3</sup> References to University of Essex Foundation degrees or Diplomas of Higher Education also refer to validated awards (i.e. awards taken at the University or through a partner institution with a validated award).

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