

# UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

## RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2016-2017

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### HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

MSc Periodontology (36 months – part -time)

MSc Advanced Periodontal Practice (36 months – part -time)

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#### 1 PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the part-time (36 months) Masters course 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 detail of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the Course.
  - b) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.
  - c) All Masters degrees can be awarded with distinction or merit.
  - d) 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 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 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD

##### THE MASTERS DEGREE

##### Pass

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

- a) Obtain 180 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation

### **3.1 A Pass with Merit or Distinction**

Results for a Pass with Merit or Distinction are calculated by two methods, known as 'Dominant Quality' and 'Arithmetic Average'. Students will receive the more favourable result of the two.

#### **3.1.1 Pass with Merit**

##### **a) *Dominant Quality***

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 120 credits at 60 or above, including the dissertation;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50;

##### **b) *Arithmetic Average***

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 90 credits at 60 or above, which must include the dissertation;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50;

#### **3.1.2 Pass with Distinction**

##### **a) *Dominant Quality***

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt, except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 120 credits at 70 or above, including the dissertation;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50;

**b) *Arithmetic Average***

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 90 credits at 70 or above, which must include the dissertation;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50;

### **3.2 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE**

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 or a Postgraduate Certificate will be considered. Students who have chosen to transfer to the standalone Postgraduate Diploma before commencing module HS982 Dissertation will be considered under separate rules

#### **3.2.1 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA** student should:**

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all taught core modules

#### **3.2.3 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE** a student should:**

- a) Obtain 60 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all taught core modules.

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## **4 SECOND ATTEMPTS**

### **Second attempts at the assessment for taught modules**

- a) Students who have failed any taught module may have a second attempt at the assessment for the module(s) concerned.
- b) 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.
- c) The mark for the second attempt will count even where it is lower than the original mark.

#### **4.1 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.**

## **4.2 Re-submission of Dissertation/ Project**

- a) Re-submission of dissertations 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.
  - b) Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:
    - i) A dissertation 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 which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than the minimum pass mark; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.
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## **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 resit marks presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Confirming dissertation/project marks.
- c) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- d) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- e) Requiring any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

**5.1.1** An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment or at the end of a stage of study for a part-time course

**5.1.2** 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**

Extenuating circumstances can only be considered by the Board of Examiners if the student has submitted an extenuating circumstances form by the agreed deadline. When substantial extenuating circumstances are accepted by the Board of Examiners it may use its discretion to depart from the rules of assessment where this is necessary to achieve a fair result.

### **5.3 EXAMINATION BOARD DISCRETION**

Except in the case of extenuating circumstances (see 5.2 above), the Board of Examiners does not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the rules of assessment.

**End**

**SENATE JUNE 2016, title corrected April 17**