

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR MODULAR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS AND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES 2025-26

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP)/PG Dip/PG Cert Health Care Practice (HCP)

MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship (ACP)

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Leadership in Health and Care (credit accumulation route)

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Medical & Clinical Education (MaCE)

Selected CPD modules:

- HS632 Preparation for Independent and Supplementary Prescribing V300 (NMC/HCPC)
- HS918 Developing as a Practice Educator (Social Work PEP 2)
- HS919 Practice Educator Training (Social Work PEP 1)
- HS955 Consultation and Assessment

1. PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the modular postgraduate programmes and modules listed above. The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and online Module Directory entries. The Module Directory will give detail 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. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.
- c) The maximum period for completion of studies using credit accumulation is six years (normally five years to complete all taught elements and a further one year to complete the dissertation (or equivalent)). The maximum period of study is measured from the point at which a student first registered for a module that was being used towards the award.
- d) The credit lifetime for any module is six years.
- e) Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction or Merit.
- f) It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.

2. PASS MARK

- a) The pass mark for all modules 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 however the module mark will still be used to calculate the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the overall weighted average.
- 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) All placements are assessed on a pass/fail basis. They are non-credit bearing but must be passed.

- d) For modules HS632, HS918, HS955 and for all ACP and MaCE pathway modules - Progression is based on passing all assessments and all modules. Students are required to pass all individual components of assessment.
- e) For Leadership in Health and Care – Progression is based on passing all core modules.
- f) For the HS632 Pharmacology Examination, the student must achieve a mark of 80 to be awarded a PASS.
- g) For the HS632 Numeracy Examination the student must achieve a mark of 100 to be awarded a PASS.
- h) For HS632, failed work will normally be resubmitted within four weeks of students receiving their marked work.

Progression is between modules, rather than levels or stages.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD

3.1 THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Those registered on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship are not eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate. There are no exit awards for this programme but a request to transfer to the PG Cert Health Care Practice can be made.

3.1.1 To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate 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 all placement/work-based assessments;

- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits, in non-core modules, may be condoned.

Dissertation or equivalent credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 60 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for the 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.

3.2 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Students registered on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship are not eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma. There are no exit awards for this programme but a request to transfer to the PG Dip Health Care Practice can be made.

3.2.1 To be awarded a POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA a student should:

- a) Attempt 120 credits at Masters level (Level 7) of which 90 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (d);
- b) Pass all taught core modules;
- c) Pass all placement/work-based assessments;
- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 30 credits in non-core modules may be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 PG Diploma credits is 50;
- e) Credits obtained for the dissertation or equivalent can normally be used when considering whether a Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded, provided that the above criteria have been met.

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.

3.3 THE MASTERS DEGREE

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

- a) Attempt 180 credits at Masters level (Level 7);
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation or equivalent;
- c) Pass all placement/work-based assessments;
- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more, for up to 40 credits in non-core taught modules, may be condoned provided the overall weighted average for all the taught modules is 50;
- e) Students on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship must also pass the End Point Assessment (EPA) contained within SE750. They will be confirmed as being able to progress to the EPA in their final year of study, once the dissertation has been ratified as passed by the Board of Examiners.

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 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.

3.4 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 registered on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship can request to transfer to Health Care Practice to become eligible for an exit award. Students can be considered for the award of a Distinction or Merit for an exit award.

Departments will identify on the published programme structure which taught modules have to be passed in order to obtain a PG Certificate or PG Diploma.

4. REASSESSMENT

4.1 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) Only one opportunity to resubmit the failed component will be offered;
- c) When presented to the Board of Examiners, marks for resubmissions will be subject to capping in the following way. A pre-resubmission module aggregate will be calculated using the failed mark(s):
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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-resubmission aggregate.

For assessments resubmitted in-year, when the pre-resubmission module aggregate is not known, the mark for each resubmitted component will be capped at the pass mark.

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

4.1.1 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. If they 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](#).

4.1.2 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. A student cannot be permitted to repeat a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of extenuating circumstances accepted as valid.

4.2 Resubmission of Dissertations or equivalent

- a) Resubmission of dissertations or equivalent is only permitted in the following circumstances:
 - i) Either extenuating circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners; or
 - ii) Where the current Dissertation Module Aggregate Mark is at least 40 and the Board of Examiners judges that the work required to pass does not include any additional experimental or practical work.

- b) Resubmission is subject to the following conditions:
- i) A dissertation or equivalent must normally be resubmitted 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 resubmitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than a maximum mark of 50; in the case of resubmissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.

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 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 second attempts at the assessment 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) Confirming the assessment for the clinical elements;

- f) Confirming any opportunities for resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent;
- g) Confirming the End Point Assessment for the MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship;
- h) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results;
- i) Determining the appropriate award for each student;
- j) Determining that the credit being presented for the award is current;
- k) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw.

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.

End

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