

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2025-2026

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) (24 months – full-time)

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 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, which for this programme is HS859: Research Activity. 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) Successful completion of the MSc also leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are two exit awards of Postgraduate Diploma – the Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) and the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies. Only the Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

- e) 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 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 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) Placements are marked on a pass/fail basis.

3. PROGRESSION

3.1. Progression to Year 2

Students are permitted to progress to Year 2 while trailing a maximum of 30 credits. This means carrying forward the reassessment in up to 30 credits and undertaking it at the earliest opportunity offered by the School during the next year of study.

3.2. In-year Board of Examiners meetings

An in-year Board of Examiners meeting may be convened where a student has failed an assignment on second submission or failed a second placement on first submission.

The Board of Examiners will either withdraw the student or, 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. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AWARD

4.1. THE MASTERS DEGREE

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

- a) Obtain 180 credits at Masters level (Level 7);
- b) Pass all assessment components in core modules.

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 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 can be considered for the award of a Distinction and 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. In many cases it will be possible to obtain the necessary credits for a PG Diploma by using dissertation or equivalent credits as well as taught module credits.

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

4.2.1. To be awarded a POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (PRE-REGISTRATION) a student should:

- a) Obtain 150 credits at Masters level (Level 7);
- b) Pass all assessment components in core modules.

This award leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

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 150 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 150 PG Diploma credits of 70 or more.

4.2.2. To be awarded a POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH STUDIES 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 (b);
- b) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 30 credits in non-core modules will be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 PG Diploma credits is 50 or above.

This award **does not** lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

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.

For purposes of this exit award, all modules are considered to be compulsory.

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 HEALTH STUDIES
a student should:**

- a) Attempt 60 module credits at Masters level (Level 7) of which 40 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (b);
- b) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits in non-core modules will be condoned.

This award **does not** lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

For the purposes of this exit award, all modules are considered to be compulsory.

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.

5. REASSESSMENT

5.1. Reassessment for taught modules

- a) Students who have failed any taught modules 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) Failed work will normally be resubmitted within four weeks of students receiving their marked work for the original attempt. Placement resubmissions will take place in the next available placement slot;
- d) A second submission does not need to be approved by the Board of Examiners before it takes place;
- e) 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;
- f) 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 the pass mark;
 - ii) When presented to the Board of Examiners at the end of the year, marks for resubmissions will be subject to capping in the following way. 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-resubmission aggregate.

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

5.1.1. 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 unless there are extenuating circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners.

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

5.2. Reassessment for a placement

- a) Students must pass all placements and will be required to retake any failed placement;
- b) A retrieval placement does not need to be approved by the Board of Examiners before it takes place;
- c) Students who fail a placement on substantiated grounds of fitness to practice concerns will be denied a retrieval attempt. Completed hours of a failed placement do not count towards the overall minimum requirement of 1000 placement hours. Students are withdrawn from a pre-registration programme if

they fail their second attempt at any placement unless there are extenuating circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners.

5.3. Resubmission of Dissertation 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 achieve a 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 resubmission because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.

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.

6.2. 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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