

University of Essex

Partner Institution: Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust Rules of Assessment for Taught Masters Degrees 2025-2026

Applicable to:

Taught Masters Degrees

Postgraduate Diplomas (Exit Award)

Postgraduate Certificates (Exit Award)

1. Preamble

a) These rules apply to full-time and part-time programmes and should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and module outlines. The module outlines 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. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed. A compulsory module must be taken but can be condoned.

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.

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.

b) For modules which contain an observation, placement or clinical work component with a Pass/Fail outcome, the module can only be passed if the observation, placement or clinical work component is completed and passed. If the observation, placement or clinical work component is not passed the mark for any coursework component(s) within the module will be recorded, but the module aggregate mark will be zero and any credits for the module will not be awarded.

c) 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.

d) Where students have been admitted to the Masters course through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy, using credits from a Postgraduate Certificate validated by the University of Essex, the marks from modules achieved on the Postgraduate Certificate will be included when calculating the overall weighted average for all the taught modules and the overall weighted average mark which includes the dissertation. If the student has been admitted using RPL credits from a Postgraduate Certificate not validated by the University of Essex, or using any other form of Recognition of Prior Learning, the marks will not be included in these averages.

3. Progression from Year One

3.1 In order to progress **from Year One to Year Two** a student must successfully complete all Year One modules, including passing all core modules, except if the core module relates to observations, placements or clinical work, as outlined in 5.1.1. Students may only be permitted to proceed with failed modules as detailed in 3.4 and 3.6.

3.2 For part-time Masters programmes, a student will only be permitted to progress to Year Two if they pass core modules, unless there are substantiated extenuating

circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners and/or if the core module relates to observations, placements or clinical work, as outlined in 5.1.1. Where the Board accepts a student's extenuating circumstances, the requirement to pass Year One must be satisfied before progressing to Year Two.

3.3 If a student does not meet the requirements to progress, they must undertake the necessary reassessment in taught modules prior to the next academic year in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The reassessment must be undertaken in accordance with Sections 5, 6, and 7.

3.4 If, following reassessment, a student has failed a core module for the Masters degree, but the module is not designated as core for the Postgraduate Diploma and/or the Postgraduate Certificate, then they may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year; however, the student must be informed that they can only be considered for an exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate.

3.5 If, following reassessment, a student has failed a core module for the Masters degree, which is also designated as core for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, the student will not be permitted to proceed and will be withdrawn from the course.

3.6 If following reassessment, a student has failed a non-core module, then they may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year. The student must be informed that failure to pass all Year One modules may mean that the student will not be able to achieve the award of a Masters degree unless the module can be condoned as set out in paragraph 8d) or 8.2d). In this instance the student would then be considered for the exit award of either a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.

4. Progression from Year Two

4.1 In order to progress **from Year Two to Year Three** a student must successfully complete all Year Two modules, including passing all core modules, except if the core module relates to observations, placements or clinical work, as outlined in 5.1.1. Students may only be permitted to proceed with failed modules as detailed in 4.3 and 4.5.

4.2 If a student does not meet the requirements to progress, they must undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic year in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The reassessment must be undertaken in accordance with Sections 5, 6, and 7.

4.3 If, following reassessment, a student has failed a core module for the Masters degree, but the module is not designated as core for the Postgraduate Diploma and/or the Postgraduate Certificate, then they may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year; however, the student must be informed that they can only be considered for an exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate. A student can be considered for the award of a Merit or Distinction for an exit award.

4.4 If, following reassessment, a student has failed one or more core modules for the Masters degree, which is also designated as core for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, the student will not be permitted to proceed.

4.5 If following reassessment, a student has failed a non-core module, then they may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year. The student must be informed that failure to pass all Year Two modules may mean that the student will not be able to achieve the award of a Masters degree unless the module can be condoned as set out in paragraph 8.d or 8.2d). In this instance the student would then be considered for the exit award of either a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate. A student can be considered for the award of a Merit or Distinction for an exit award.

5. Observations/Placements/Clinical Work

5.1 If a student has been unable to achieve the stipulated number of hours of observation, placement or clinical work required in order to complete assessment due to circumstances beyond their control then the Board of Examiners will permit one of the following options:

5.1.1 If a student will be able to complete the required hours of observation, placement or clinical work and therefore submit the assessment by the end of the first Term of the following academic year the Board of Examiners will permit the student to defer their first assessment attempt until the end of the Autumn Term. If the

module is core, the student may be permitted to proceed to their next year of study. If as detailed in 5.2.1 the student subsequently fails the assessment at the end of the autumn term, they will not be permitted to continue with their next year of study.

5.1.2 If a student is unable to complete the required hours of observation, placement or clinical work and submit the assessment by the end of the first Term of the following academic year due to circumstances beyond their control, the Board of Examiners will require the student to repeat the module during the following academic year for an uncapped module aggregate. If the module is core the student will not be permitted to proceed to their next year of study unless the module is not designated as core for the Postgraduate Diploma and/or the Postgraduate Certificate as detailed in 3.4 or 4.3.

5.2 If a student is permitted to defer the assessment as detailed in 5.1.1 and subsequently fails the assessment, the Board of Examiners will offer the student the opportunity to undertake their final attempt at assessment as follows:

5.2.1 If the module is core the student will be required to defer their current year of study by one academic year and undertake reassessment of the failed module in the Spring Term;

5.2.2 If the module is non-core the student will be permitted to continue their current year of study and undertake reassessment in the Spring Term.

5.3 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.

5.4 If a student is required to repeat the module as outlined in 5.1.2 and subsequently passes the module, the student will be permitted to continue with their studies at the start of the following academic year.

5.5 If a student fails the observation, placement or clinical work module on the second attempt no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

5.6 If a student has not completed the required number of clinical hours after the period of ten weeks (end of the first Term) then the student will be withdrawn from the programme unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

6. Clinical Supervisor's Report

6.1 If a student has not met the requirements of the Clinical Supervisor's Report (CSR) and therefore cannot proceed to undertake the clinical portfolio assessment the following options will be permitted prior to the next meeting of the Board of Examiners.

6.1.1 If a student has not completed the required number of clinical hours due to circumstances beyond their control the first assessment of the Clinical Supervisor's Report will be deferred for a period of ten weeks (see 5.1.1).

6.1.2 If a student has completed the required number of clinical hours but has not met the Clinical Supervisor Report competencies the student will be deemed to have failed the first attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report. The second attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report will be conducted after a period of five weeks.

6.2 If the Clinical Supervisor's Report is deferred as detailed in 6.1.1 and takes place after a period of ten weeks the following options will be considered by the Board of Examiners:

6.2.1 If a student has completed the required number of hours and met the Clinical Supervisor's Report competencies then the student will be permitted to proceed with the clinical portfolio assessment.

6.2.2 If a student has completed the required number of clinical hours but has not met the Clinical Supervisor Report competencies then the student will be deemed to have failed the first attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report. The second attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report will be conducted after a further period of five weeks.

6.3 If a student has failed the first attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report as detailed in 6.1.2 or 6.2.2 the second attempt at the Clinical Supervisor's Report will take place after a period of five weeks. The following options will be considered by the Board of Examiners:

6.3.1 If a student has completed the required number of hours and met the Clinical Supervisor's Report competencies then the student will be permitted to proceed with the clinical portfolio assessment.

6.3.2 If a student has completed the required number of clinical hours but has not met the Clinical Supervisor Report competencies then the student will be withdrawn from the programme unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

7. Reassessment

7.1 Reassessment for taught modules

a) Students who have failed any taught module will have one opportunity to undertake reassessment in that module.

b) With the exception of the modules mentioned in 7.1.1 below, no second attempt at the assessment for a module is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners meeting where marks are confirmed.

c) 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.

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

e) For reassessment of clinical placement observation see sections 5 and 6

7.1.1 In respect of the programme:

MA/PGDip/PGCert Consulting and Leading in Organisations: Psychodynamic and Systemic Approaches (D10)

And the following modules:

Module 1: Theory 1

Module 2: Consulting and Leading in Practice 1

Module 5: Theory 2

Module 6: Consulting and Leading in Practice 2

a) Where a provisional mark for the first attempt at assessment indicates that a student has failed the module, the student will be permitted to undertake the second attempt at reassessment prior to the next meeting of the Board of Examiners.

b) The marks for the first and second attempts at assessment will be presented to the Board of Examiners to ratify the fail mark of the first attempt and confirm the outcome of the second attempt at reassessment.

7.1.2 If a student fails a module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

7.1.3 Where the Board of Examiners permits a student to have a second attempt at the assessment for a module this only applies to an individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed.

7.1.4 With the exception of reassessment undertaken in accordance with 5.1.2, a student cannot be permitted to repeat a module for an uncapped aggregate mark unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.

7.1.5 Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment at the next available opportunity.

7.2 Re-submission of Dissertations 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 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) 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) In respect of the programme MA/PGDip/PGCert Consulting and Leading in Organisations: Psychodynamic and Systemic Approaches (D10), students will be permitted to undertake a re-submission of a dissertation prior to the next meeting of the Board of Examiners only in the circumstances as detailed in 7.1.1(a).

iii) 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.

8. Eligibility for an Award

The Masters Degree

Pass

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

- a) Attempt 180 credits at Masters Level (Level 7) of which 140 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (c).
- b) Pass all the core modules and the dissertation or equivalent.
- c) 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.

8.1 A Pass with Merit or Distinction

8.1.1 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.

8.1.2 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.

8.2 For students that have been admitted using RPL credits from a Postgraduate Certificate not validated by the University of Essex, or using any other form of Recognition of Prior Learning, the marks and credit value from these modules will not be included when determining the eligibility and classification of the award of a Masters degree. The eligibility for an award and classification will be determined using only the credits achieved during the Masters degree as follows (see also paragraph 2d above):

Pass

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

- a) Attempt 120 credits at Masters Level (Level 7) of which 80 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (c).
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation or equivalent.
- c) 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.

8.2.1 A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Results for a Pass with Merit or Distinction are calculated by a weighted arithmetic average.

8.2.2 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.

8.2.3 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.

8.3 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 degree, then the award of either a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate will be considered. A student can be considered for the award of Merit or Distinction for an exit award.

The published programme structure will identify 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.

8.3.1 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 (c).
- b) Pass all taught core modules.
- c) 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.

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.

8.3.2 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 (c).

b) Pass all taught core modules.

c) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits, in non-core units 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 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.

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 whether a student is permitted to defer core modules relating to observations, placements or clinical work.
- d) Confirming any opportunities for reassessment for modules, including resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent; and any opportunities for condonement.
- e) Considering each student's marks' profile so that they can be advised on progression and the range of possible award outcomes, including whether it is possible for them to make use of dissertation or equivalent credits.

f) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for progression and results.

g) Determining the appropriate award for each student.

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

9.1.1 An Interim Board of Examiners meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment or at the end of a year of study for a part-time programme.

9.1.2 Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment at the next available opportunity.

9.1.3 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.

9.2 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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