

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT

Academic Year 2017-18 (cohort first registered in this year)

5. *Foundation Degrees*

5.1 PROGRESSION

5.1.1 In order to progress from *Year One* to the *Final Year* students must:

- a) achieve 120 credits at level 4. [NB where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 15 credits' worth of non-core modules it is possible for a student to progress to the next Year of study in the circumstances set out in section 5.1.4]

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.

End of Year Examination Boards may also be used as progression boards for part-time students, and re-submission opportunities considered.

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

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

5.1.3 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 Year of study full-time for uncapped module marks

or

- b) to repeat the Year of study part-time, and the module aggregate mark will be capped at 40¹

or

- c) to undertake the necessary reassessment at the next available opportunity. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.

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) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
 - where the Year 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 exam board 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 Year for uncapped marks. In such cases the marks achieved at the end of the repeat Year will stand.

5.1.4 Following an attempt at reassessment for all the required modules, where a student has a fail mark below 40 in a maximum of 15 credits' worth of non-core modules, the Board will treat the fail in the following way:

- a) Where the module aggregate mark is in the range 35-39 and the mark for the Year is 45 or above, the student will be permitted to proceed to the next Year of study. The credits will be awarded.
- b) Where the module aggregate mark is in the range 20-34 and the mark for the Year is 40 or above, the student will be permitted to proceed to the next Year of study. However, the credits will not be awarded and the student will not be permitted to fail any more credits towards their award. Where a student has not had three attempts at the assessment for the Year, the Board

¹ This option is only permissible where the student's UK immigration permission allows part-time study.

will offer the student the choice of either undertaking reassessment in Year One or proceeding to Year Two carrying the fail.

- c) Students will not be permitted to transfer to a course which regards the failed modules as core. 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 Year.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD (Final Year of Foundation Degree)

5.2.1 For the award of a Foundation degree, 240 credits must be attempted, of which 225 credits must be passed.

5.2.2 To be eligible for a foundation degree, students must:

- a) attempt 120 credits in the Final Year and pass at least 105 credits at level 5 or above:
 - where only 105 credits are passed at Year One, 120 credits must be passed in the Final Year.
 - where 120 credits are passed in Year One, a minimum of 105 credits must be passed at level 5 or above in the Final Year, including any work-based learning credits (work placement credits).
- and**
- b) pass core modules and meet any additional requirements outlined in the variations to the Rules of Assessment, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

5.2.3 If a student does not meet the requirements for a Foundation Degree:

- a) where the student has failed **a maximum of 60 credits**, they must undertake the necessary reassessment. The module aggregate mark will be capped at 40.
- b) where the student has failed **more than 60 credits** and has a year mark greater than 20, they must repeat the Year of study on a full-time or part time basis for uncapped marks, **or** undertake the necessary reassessment the following year with the module aggregate mark capped at 40.
- c) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
 - where the Year 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.
- d) if 120 credits have been achieved at level 4 or above, the student may be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education.

5.2.4 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 Year of study full-time for uncapped module marks
or
- b) to repeat the Year of study part-time for uncapped module marks.²
or
- c) to undertake the necessary reassessment at the next available opportunity and the module aggregate mark will be capped at 40
or
- d) where a student has no substantiated extenuating circumstances, they must withdraw from the University in either of the following situations:
 - where the Year 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**
- e) where the student has not met the requirements for the award having had three opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, they would be required to withdraw from the University.
or
- f) if 120 credits at level 4 or above have been achieved, the student will be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education.

Note: An undergraduate exam board 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 Year for uncapped marks. In such cases the marks achieved at the end of the repeat Year will stand.

5.3 AWARD CLASSIFICATION

5.3.1 Foundation degree awards are classified on the completion of Year Two, using an arithmetic average of Year Two marks only (weighted according to the credit weighting of the modules) as follows:

Distinction will be awarded to a candidate who has:

- Either a Year Two mark of 70 and over; or
- 60 credits at 70 or more and a Year Two mark of at least 68

² This option is only permissible where the student's UK immigration permission allows part-time study.

Merit will be awarded to a candidate who has:

- Either a Year Two mark of 60 and over; or
- 60 credits at 60 or more and a Year Two mark of at least 58

Pass will be awarded to a candidate who: meets the criteria for the award of a Foundation degree (see 5.2 above) but who does not qualify for any other class of degree.

SENATE JULY 2019