UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FOUR YEAR FULL-TIME INTEGRATED MASTERS AWARDS

Academic Year 2023-24

(cohort first registered in this Year and those transferring into Year Three)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MSci Nursing

1 PREAMBLE

a) These rules apply to the full-time Integrated 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 HS717 Research Activity.

c) Successful completion of the MSci also leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as Registered Nurse Dual Award (Adult & Mental Health). To obtain a registerable degree, students must be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board. Students who do not meet these criteria may be eligible for a non-registerable exit award.

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 modules in Years One, Two and Three is 40. The pass mark for modules in Year Four is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed.

b) A core module is one which must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed. Students are required to pass all individual components of assessment in core modules.

3 PROGRESSION

Progression and award of credits is based on passing all individual components of assessment, including practice-based assessment, in core modules, except where a variation is specified below.

Failed assessment components will normally be resubmitted, in-year, within four weeks of students receiving their mark for the original attempt. Students are granted a maximum of two attempts at an assessment component, with the exception of Person-Centred Care modules, see below. If a student fails an assessment, including a practice-based assessment, on the final attempt they will be required to withdraw from the programme except in the case of valid Extenuating Circumstances. Where a student has submitted Extenuating Circumstances which are accepted as valid, the School will be able to offer one additional attempt in-year.

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

Students must pass all placements and will be required to retake any failed placement. A retrieval placement will be offered at the next available placement opportunity. If a student fails a placement on reassessment or fails two placements at first attempt they will be required to withdraw from the programme unless there are Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners. Students may not trail more than one placement over the course of their programme.

Progression from Year One

3.1 In order to progress from Year One to Year Two students must:

a) Achieve 120 credits at Level 4, except where point d) or e) applies; and
b) Achieve a Year Mark of 50 and pass core modules and meet any additional programme or module specific requirements, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements;
c) Students must achieve a minimum mark of 80% in the Drug Calculation Exam component of HS184;
d) HS184 can be trailed into Year Two providing that students pass all ‘Professional Values in Practice’ on at least one placement.
e) Where a student has accepted Extenuating Circumstances, the Board of Examiners may consider permitting a student to trail an additional attempt for HS185 into Year Two (as detailed in the published reassessment strategy).

3.1.1 To achieve a Distinction in Year One, you must have the following, either:

(a) A Year Mark of 70 or above; or

(b) 60 Credits at 70 or above with a Year Mark of 68 or 69.

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

a) Where the student has a Year Mark of less than 50 they will not be permitted to proceed on the integrated Masters programme. However, they can be considered for a transfer to an Honours Degree programme. The normal Rules of Assessment for progressing on a Three-Year Honours programme will then apply.

b) Reassessment in Person-Centred Care modules - These modules are assessed using a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and Drug Calculations Exam. The modules are credit-bearing but ungraded and awarded a pass/fail mark only. Students must achieve a pass in all components of the PAD(s), and the minimum marks for the Drug Calculation Exam, as specified in the progression section. Students are permitted a maximum of three in-year attempts at the Drug Calculations Exam. If a student fails more than one Professional Values component of the PAD(s) across the programme of study they will be required to withdraw from the programme.

c) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, they must withdraw from the University in any 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.

3.1.3 When the Board of Examiners meets after reassessments are completed, and the student has not met the requirements to proceed the Board of Examiners will take the following action. (The Board of Examiners cannot offer more than two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module on the Integrated Masters programme). Where appropriate the Board will offer more than one option to the student.

a) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, to undertake the necessary reassessment in the following Year without attendance with marks capped at 40;

or

b) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, to repeat the Year of study part-time for uncapped Module Marks;

or

c) To consider the student for a transfer to a Three-Year Honours Degree programme;

or

d) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, they must withdraw from the University in any 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;
- Where a student fails an assessment, including practice assessment, on the final attempt.

Note: An Undergraduate 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. 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.

3.2 Progression from Year Two

3.2.1 In order to progress from Year Two to Year Three students must:

a) Pass 120 credits at Level 5 or above, except where points e) and/or f) apply;
and
b) Achieve a Year Mark of 50;
and
c) Pass core modules and meet any additional programme or module specific requirements, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements;
and
d) Achieve a minimum mark of 90% in the Drug Calculation Exam component of HS187;
e) HS187 can be trailed into Year Three providing that students pass all 'Professional Values in Practice' on at least one placement;
f) A second attempt for module HS186 can be trailed into Year Three without affecting the student's progression.

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

a) Where the student has a Year Mark of less than 50 they will not be permitted to proceed on the Integrated Masters programme. However, they can be considered for a transfer to an Honours Degree programme. The normal Rules of Assessment for progressing on a Three-Year Honours programme will then apply.
b) Reassessment in Person-Centred Care modules - These modules are assessed using a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and Drug Calculations Exam. The modules are credit-bearing but ungraded and awarded a pass/fail mark only. Students must achieve a pass in all

components of the PAD(s), and the minimum marks for the Drug Calculation Exam, as specified in the progression section above. Students are permitted a maximum of three in-year attempts at the Drug Calculations Exam. If a student fails more than one Professional Values component of the PAD(s) across the programme of study they will be required to withdraw from the programme.

c) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, 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;
   - Where a student fails an assessment, including practice assessment, on the final attempt.

d) If 120 credits at Level 4 or above have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education in Health Studies. This is an academic award only and does not provide recipients with the eligibility to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

3.2.3 When the Board of Examiners meets after reassessments are completed, and the student has not met the requirements to proceed the Board of Examiners will take the following action. (The Board of Examiners cannot offer more than two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module on the Integrated Masters programme). Where appropriate, the Board will offer more than one option to the student.

a) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, to undertake the necessary reassessment the following Year without attendance with marks capped at 40;
   or
b) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the

assessment for a module, to repeat the Year of study part-time for uncapped Module Marks;

or

c) To consider the student for a transfer to a Three-Year Honours Degree programme;

or

d) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, they must withdraw from the University in any 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) If 120 credits at Level 4 or above have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education in Health Studies. This is an academic award only and does not provide recipients with the eligibility to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Note: An Undergraduate 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. 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.

3.3 Progression from Year Three

3.3.1 In order to progress from Year Three to Year Four students must:

a) Pass 120 credits in Year Three. At least 90 credits must be at Level 6, except where point e) applies;

and

b) Achieve a Year Mark of 50;
   and
c) Pass core modules and meet any additional programme specific requirements, including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements;
   and
d) Achieve a mark of 100% in the Drug Calculation Exam component of HS196/HS228 to pass the module;
e) HS196/HS228 can be trailed into Year Four providing that students pass all 'Professional Values in Practice' on at least one placement.

3.3.2 If a student does not meet the requirements to progress to Year Four:

a) Where the student has a Year Mark of less than 50 they will not be permitted to proceed on the Integrated Masters programme. However, they can be considered for a transfer to an Honours Degree programme. The normal Rules of Assessment for classifying degrees on a Three-Year Honours programme will then apply.
b) Reassessment in Person-Centred Care modules - These modules are assessed using a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and Drug Calculations Exam. The modules are credit-bearing but ungraded and awarded a pass/fail mark only. Students must achieve a pass in all components of the PAD(s), and the minimum marks for the Drug Calculation Exam as specified in the progression section above. Students are permitted a maximum of three in-year attempts at the Drug Calculations Exam. If a student fails more than one Professional Values component of the PAD(s) across the programme of study they will be required to withdraw from the programme.
c) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, they must withdraw from the University in any 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;
- Where a student fails an assessment, including practice assessment, on the final attempt.

e) If 240 credits (including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5 or above) have been attempted, and 225 have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Diploma of Higher Education in Health Studies. This is an academic award only and does not provide recipients with the eligibility to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

f) If 300 credits or more, with 60 credits at Level 6, have been awarded, the Board of Examiners will consider the student for the award of Ordinary Degree in Health Studies (unclassified Level 6 award).

g) If a student has obtained 340 credits they will be considered for the award of BSc (Hons) Health Studies (classified Level 6 award). For this exit award all final year modules are compulsory except the 60-credit placement module (HS198/HS241) which is core.

h) To obtain an exit award, students do not need to pass each individual assessment component within a module but must pass the minimum number of credits needed for the relevant level of exit award. The higher pass mark for the Drug Calculations exam is not required. For the Diploma and Certificate all modules are compulsory rather than core. These are academic awards only and do not provide recipients with the eligibility to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. See point 4.3 below regarding the Rules of Assessment that will be applied where students are being considered for an exit award.

3.3.3 When the Board of Examiners meets after reassessments are completed, and the student has not met the requirements to proceed the Board of Examiners will take the following action. (Boards cannot offer more than two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module on the Integrated Masters programme). Where appropriate the Board will offer more than one option to the student.

a) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, to undertake the necessary reassessment the following Year without attendance with marks capped at 40. This option

cannot be offered where a student has already resat the exams without attendance;

or

b) Where the student has not already had two opportunities to undertake the assessment for a module, to repeat the Year of study part-time for uncapped Module Marks;

or

c) To consider the student for a transfer to a Three-Year Honours Degree programme;

or

d) Where a student has no Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners, they must withdraw from the University in any 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.

e) If 240 credits (including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5 or above) have been attempted, and 225 have been passed, the student will be considered for the award of a Diploma of Higher Education in Health Studies.

f) If 300 credits or more, with 60 credits at Level 6, have been awarded, the Board of Examiners will consider the student for the award of Ordinary Degree in Health Studies (unclassified Level 6 award).

g) If a student has obtained 340 credits they will be considered for the award of BSc (Hons) Health Studies (classified Level 6 award). For this exit award all Final Year modules are compulsory except the 60-credit placement module (HS198/HS241) which is core.

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the Nursing and Midwifery Council. See point 4.3 below regarding the Rules of Assessment that will be applied where students are being considered for an exit award.

Note: An Undergraduate 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. 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.

4 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE MASTERS AWARD

4.1 Pass

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

a) Obtain 480 credits including an attempt at 120 credits at Masters Level (Level 7);
b) Pass all taught core modules;
c) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

4.2 A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit a student should:

- Have an Overall Weighted Average mark of 60 or more across Year Two, Year Three and Year Four. The weighting between the years of study will be as follows:

Year of Study	Weighting
Year Two	20%
Year Three	30%
Year Four	50%

Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction a student should:

- Have an Overall Weighted Average mark of 70 or more across Years Two, Three and Four. The weighting between the Years of Study will be as follows:

Year of Study	Weighting
Year Two	20%
Year Three	30%
Year Four	50%

4.3 Students who do not meet the requirements for an Integrated Masters Degree

Where a student is either unable to complete their studies in Year Four, or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded a Masters award, the student will be considered for an Undergraduate Honours Degree in accordance with the Rules of Assessment for Three-Year Honours programmes.

Students will also be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies if they meet the criteria below.

4.3.1 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH STUDIES** a student should:

a) Attempt 60 taught module credits in Year Four at Masters Level (Level 7).
b) Pass all taught core modules.

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.

5 REASSESSMENT IN YEAR FOUR

5.1 Reassessment for taught modules in Year Four

a) Students may have a second attempt for module(s) that have been failed in-year.
b) The maximum mark that will be recorded for a module as a result of a second attempt is 50, unless there are Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners.
c) 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.

5.2 If a student fails a module, including practice assessment, on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed unless there are Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners.

5.3 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 there are Extenuating Circumstances accepted as valid by the Board of Examiners.

6 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

If a student submits 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, voluntary reassessment, or additional placement opportunities 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

SENATE APRIL 2024

Document Review Information	
Document owner	Assessment Team
Document author	Assessment Team
Document last reviewed by	Claire Watts
Date last reviewed	June 2024
Review frequency	Annually