UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2023-2024

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MSc Periodontology (36 months – part-time)

MSc Advanced Periodontal Practice (36 months – part-time)

1. PREAMBLE

a) These rules apply to the part-time (36 months) Masters programmes 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. 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) 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.

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.

3. PROGRESSION

3.1. Progression to Year 2 & Year 3

Students are permitted to progress to Year 2 or Year 3 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.

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.

The Board 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 AN AWARD

The Masters Degree

Pass

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;
c) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation or equivalent.

4.1. A Pass with Merit or Distinction

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.

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

Students who have chosen to transfer to the standalone Postgraduate Diploma before commencing module HS982 Dissertation will be considered under separate rules.

4.2.1. To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA** student should:

a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
b) Pass all assessment components;
c) Pass all taught core modules.

For the purposes of this exit award all year one and two modules are **core.**

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.

4.2.2. To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE** a student should

a) Obtain 60 credits at Masters level (level 7);
b) Pass all assessment components;
c) Pass all taught core modules.

For the purposes of this exit award all year one modules are **core.**

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

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) 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;

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 50;
   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 50.

g) 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.

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 original mark awarded 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 resubmissions 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;

d) Considering each student's marks profile so that they can be advised on the range of possible award outcomes;

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 or third year;

h) Requiring any student who fails the second attempt for a module to withdraw.

6.1.1. An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of each academic year.

6.1.2. 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.

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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