

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2019-2020

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

MSc Nursing (Adult) (pre-registration)

MSc Nursing (Mental Health) (pre-registration)

1. PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the two full-time (24 months) Masters programmes named above. The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and on-line 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.
 - c) All Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction and Merit.
 - d) Successful completion of either MSc or the exit awards Postgraduate Diploma Nursing (Adult) or (Mental Health) (pre-registration) also lead to registration as a nurse on the appropriate part of the register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
 - e) The exit awards of MSc Health Studies, Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies and Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies are academic awards but do not lead to professional registration.
 - f) It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.
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2. PASS MARK

- a) The pass mark for all modules of the Masters degree is 50.
 - 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) Clinical assessments are marked on a pass/fail basis.
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3. PROGRESSION

To progress at Progression Point 1 a student must:

- a) A student will only be permitted to progress from Progression Point 1 if they pass a minimum of 15 credits at the first attempt, in addition to passing core modules, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners. Where the Board accepts a student's extenuating circumstances, the requirements to progress from Progression Point 1 must be satisfied before progressing.
- b) Pass HS823 Nursing Practice 1.
- c) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board;
- d) Normally meet all required outcomes for progress point 1. Any outstanding outcomes must be achieved within 12 weeks of entering the next stage of the programme. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will not be permitted to continue on the current stage of the programme. Depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outstanding outcomes, the Board will decide whether the student must either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.
- e) If, despite having had a second attempt at the modules, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

3.1 To proceed from Year 1 to Year 2 a student must:

- a) Have successfully completed at Progression Point 1.
- b) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.
- c) Normally have successfully completed all Year 1 modules.
- d) If, despite having had a second attempt at an assignment or placement, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

3.2 To progress at Progression Point 2 a student must:

- a) Have successfully obtained 90 credits in Stage 1 of the programme.
- b) Pass-HS826 Nursing Practice 2.
- c) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.
- d) Normally meet all required outcomes for progress point 2. Any outstanding outcomes must be achieved within 12 weeks of entering the next stage of the programme. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will not be permitted to continue on the current stage of the programme. Depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outstanding outcomes, the Board will decide whether the student must either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.

- e) If, despite having had a second attempt at the modules, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

4 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD - THE MASTERS DEGREE

Pass

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

- a) Obtained 180 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- c) Complete the required placement hours;
- d) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board;
- e) Meet any outstanding outcomes within 12 weeks of the final exam board. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will, depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outcomes be required by the Board to either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.

4.1 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.

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.

Dissertation credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (ADULT) (PRE-REGISTRATION)** or a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (MENTAL HEALTH) (PRE-REGISTRATION)** which leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council, a student must:

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- c) Must attempt all MSc modules;

- d) Pass all taught core modules for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Adult) (Pre-registration) or Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Mental Health) (Pre-registration);
- e) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

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.

4.2.1 The following awards DO NOT lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council:

- i) To be awarded the **MSc HEALTH STUDIES** a student must:
 - 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 core modules.
 - c) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 40 credits in non-core modules will be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 MSc Health Studies credits is 50 or above.
The only non-core module for which condonement is permissible is: HS827 Leadership and Preparation.
 - d) Must pass all clinical placements, although failure in the 12 week final placement can be condoned for the MSc Health Studies only.

This award can be passed with a Merit or Distinction. For qualifying criteria, please see above (4.2).

- ii) 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 (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 will be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 PG Diploma credits is 50 or above.

This award can be passed with a Merit of Distinction. For qualifying criteria, please see above (4.1).

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

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

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) 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.
- d) 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) 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-submission aggregate.

5.1 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 substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

5.2 Reassessment for a clinical placement

- a) Only one failed clinical placements is permitted to be retaken as a second attempt;
- b) If a student, who has already had one second attempt, fails a second clinical placement, they will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- c) If a student fails a clinical placement on the second attempt at the assessment, no further attempt is allowed and the student will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

5.3 Re-submission of Dissertation 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 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) 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) 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.
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6. 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 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) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of progression point 1 during Year 1 and at the end of progression point 2 during Year 2.

6.1 Progression and End of Year 1 Boards

The Board of Examiners shall meet at the end of progression point 1, Year 1 and progression point 2 to consider the students' performance on all modules completed at that point. The Board shall have the power to:

- a) Confirm the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment-presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Determine whether each student may proceed through Progression points 1 and 2.
- c) Determine whether each student may proceed to Year 2.
- d) Confirm the assessment for the clinical elements completed.
- e) Consider extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- f) Consider reports on good health and good character.
- g) Require any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a second placement to withdraw.

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

Approved by Senate July 2019