

**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX  
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2008/9**

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**HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES**

MSc Adult Nursing

MSc Mental Health Nursing

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**1. PREAMBLE**

These rules apply to the two full-time (24 months) Masters courses 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 Course.

A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation.

All Masters degrees can be awarded with distinction or merit.

Successful completion of either MSc also leads to registration as a nurse on the appropriate part of the register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The exit awards of Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies and Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies are academic awards but do not lead to professional registration.

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**

The pass mark for all components of the Masters degree is 50.

For the purposes of these rules taught module averages will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.

Clinical assessments are marked on a pass/fail basis.

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**3. PROGRESSION FROM FOUNDATION TO BRANCH**

To progress from the Foundation programme to the Branch programme a student must:

- (a) Obtain 20 credits at Masters level in the Foundation Studies module;
- (b) Pass the Core Nursing Skills module.

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 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 the clinical assessments.
- (c) Complete the required placement hours

#### **Pass with Merit**

To obtain a merit a student should:

- (a) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- (b) Obtain 120 credits at 60 or above, including the dissertation;
- (c) Have no module mark below 50;
- (d) Pass all the clinical assessments.
- (e) Complete the required placement hours

#### **Pass with Distinction**

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- (a) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt, except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- (b) Obtain 120 credits at 70 or above, including the dissertation;
- (c) Have no module mark below 50;
- (d) Pass all the clinical assessments.
- (e) Complete the required placement hours

### **3.2 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.

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

- a) subject to c), obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7).
- b) Pass all taught modules that are core components of the Postgraduate Diploma.
- 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.

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

- a) Subject to c), obtain 60 module credits at Masters level (level 7).
- b) Pass all taught modules that are core components for the Postgraduate Certificate.
- c) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits in non-core modules will be condoned.

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## **4. SECOND ATTEMPTS**

#### **4.1 Second attempts at the assessment for taught modules**

- (a) Students who have failed any taught module may have a second attempt at the assessment for the module(s).
- (b) The maximum mark that may 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.
- (c) The mark for the second attempt will count even where it is lower than the original mark.

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.

When a student is required to resubmit work as a result of an academic offence, this should count as a second attempt. This meaning that the student would not be eligible for a merit or distinction. If the student fails the module after having had this reassessment opportunity s/he should not be permitted further reassessment.

#### **4.2 Second attempts at the assessment for a clinical placement**

- (a) Only two failed clinical placements are permitted to be retaken as a second attempt.
- (b) If a student, who has already had two second attempts, fails a third clinical placement, they will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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.

#### **4.2 Re-submission of Dissertation/Project**

- (a) Re-submission of dissertations 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.
- (b) Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) A dissertation 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 which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than the minimum pass mark; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.

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## **5. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

### **5.1 Powers of the Board of Examiners**

The Board of Examiners shall have the following powers:

- (a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved, including any resit marks presented to the Board, and awarding credit.

- (b) Determining whether each student may proceed from the Foundation Programme to the Branch Programme.
- (c) Determining whether each student may proceed to Year 2.
- (d) Confirming dissertation/project marks.
- (e) Confirming the assessment for the clinical elements
- (f) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- (g) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- (g) Requiring any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of the Foundation programme during Year 1.

### **5.2 End of Year 1 Board**

The Board of Examiners shall meet at the end of Year 1 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 resit marks presented to the Board, and award credit.
- (b) Confirm the assessment for the clinical elements completed.
- (c) Require any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

### **5.3 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

Extenuating circumstances can only be considered by the Examination Board if the student has submitted an extenuating circumstances form by the agreed deadline. When substantiated extenuating circumstances are accepted by the Board of Examiners it may use its discretion to depart from the above rules where this is necessary to achieve a fair result.

### **5.4 DISCRETION**

Except in the case of extenuating circumstances (see 5.3 above), the Board of Examiners should restrict its use of discretion to exceptional circumstances. Where the Board of Examiners agrees to exercise its discretion the reasons must be documented as part of the Examination Board report, setting out the reason for exercising discretion and the reason for the decision taken, and a copy sent to the Graduate School.

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**End**