UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT

(Academic Year 2008-2009)

Undergraduate Rules of Assessment – Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Award
Also referred to as Programme
A qualification conferred upon a student who has achieved the intended learning outcomes and passed the assessments required to meet the academic standards set for the award. Awards may be divided into modules, units or elements at various levels and with different volumes of study, each of which has attached to it intended learning outcomes and academic standards to be achieved by students in order to receive the final award.

Capped Mark
Limited to the pass mark of 40%. Where work has been re-submitted and/or a resit examination has been taken, both the mark for the re-assessed element(s) and the module aggregate will be capped at 40.

Classification of awards
At the completion of a programme of study, an award will normally be given a classification indicating the level of achievement which the student has demonstrated overall. This may be indicated by a numeric classification (e.g. 2.1, 2.2) or by terms such as ‘pass’, ‘merit’ or ‘distinction’.

Condonement
There is no condonement in the first stage of an award. Condonement does not entail the award of credit. Following a re-sit/re-submission, where a student has not redeemed a fail, they may still proceed to the next stage. The amount of credit which may be condoned is specified for each award. The Rules of Assessment require that a student “attempts” all the credits for each stage. This means that a student must have completed and been assessed for each module.

Component
The number of components at each Stage/year of undergraduate study ranges from 4 to 8, and students are awarded credit when they have achieved the learning outcomes within a component. Each component may consist of one module of either 15 or 30 credits, or of two 15-credit modules which share learning outcomes. As learning outcomes are shared, the component as a whole must be passed (i.e. both contributory module marks are taken together to arrive at the component mark).
Credit

Credit is an indicator of equivalence of workload. Credit value attaches to learning outcomes, and the achievement of these outcomes (evidenced by gaining at least a pass mark in the required assessments) allows the award of credit. For this reason, a credit rating is attached to each module, and these accumulate to allow awards (evidence of both volume and level of study) to be made.

(Note that marks above a pass mark do not affect the award of credit, but do determine the award classification (e.g. 2.2, Merit, etc.)

Credits are also transportable and can be transferred between institutions, according to their rules of assessment.

Learning Outcomes

These identify what a successful student is expected to know and understand, together with the skills that they should be able to demonstrate on successful completion of the award. Learning outcomes can be attached to both modules and awards.

Level

This is an expression of the intellectual demands placed on the learner at different Stages of study, or the difficulty of the concepts to be engaged with and skills required at each Stage.

If qualifications share the same level this means that they are broadly similar in terms of the demand they place on the learner. Information in Programme Specifications and modules will be expressed in terms of levels.

Broadly speaking Level 4 equates to Stage One, Level 5 equates to Stage Two, and Level 6 equates to Stage Three.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framework for Higher Education Qualifications levels (FHEQ)</th>
<th>Types of award</th>
<th>National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Certificate C level</td>
<td>Certificates of Higher Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Intermediate I level</td>
<td>Foundation degrees, ordinary (Bachelors) degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education and other higher diplomas</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Honours H level</td>
<td>Bachelors degrees with Honours, Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas</td>
<td>4-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module

A module is a unit of study complete in itself, with a unique set of learning outcomes and credits attached to it. Usually, several modules are combined to lead to an award. (See also “component”)
Outside Option
A module taken as part of a programme of study which is not run by the student’s main
department, or by either of the departments contributing to a joint programme. This is
normally taken in the first Stage of study. The module will be among several optional
modules which can be taken as one component of the award. There are exceptional modules
which can be regarded as outside options regardless of whether or not they lie within the
student’s department(s), namely CS101, MA123 and LG and LA modules.

Part-time study
Programmes of study are designated as full-time or part-time. In some cases students who are
enrolled on full-time programmes may be given the opportunity by the Board of Examiners to
retrieve failure in assessment by studying modules again on a part-time basis. In the rules of
assessment this is referred to as repeating the stage of study part-time. As International
student are not permitted by the Home office to study part-time, this option is only
permissible where the student’s UK immigration status allows part-time study.

Placement
The University operates a range of work-based learning/placement arrangements where
students will study for a period of time outside the University in order to achieve learning
outcomes defined by the Programme which cannot otherwise be achieved, for example for
practice-based Health or Project Management awards, or study abroad years. Learning
opportunities are provided by an outside placement provider, working in conjunction with the
University.

Programme
See under Award.

Programme Specification
A document that defines the learning outcomes and structure associated with a course.

PSB/PSRB – Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies
 Discipline-based professional bodies and associations which regulate and accredit
qualifications which relate to their own standards and/or Continuing Professional
Development professional requirements.
 Some courses subject to accreditation by PSRBs, for example:
Law - Law Society/Bar Council;
CES – Institution of Engineering and Technology, and British Computer Society
East 15 - National Council for Drama Training
The courses involved have had variations to the standard Rules of Assessment approved to
take account of these PSRB requirements.

Preliminary Stage
Students enrolled on a preliminary year are undertaking a preparatory year, enabling them to
become familiar with a discipline which they may not have previously studied, before joining
a three-year course.

Repeat Stage
The term “repeat Stage” (or “repeat year”) refers to the repeat of a Stage of study whether
full-time, or part-time before progression to the next Stage is allowed. Students repeating
study part-time will carry forward marks from passed modules and repeat failed modules
only, which are capped. Students repeating study either full- or part-time will not be allowed
another repeat Stage within their course.
Resit/Resubmission of Coursework Without Attendance
An Exam Board may offer resits or resubmission of coursework without attendance as an alternative to a repeat year.

Stage
A Stage of study is a unit of learning following which assessment will be scrutinised by an examination board, and marks confirmed or an award made. The most usual “Stage” of study for undergraduates at Essex is one year of full-time study.