

**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX**  
**UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT**  
(Academic Year 2008-2009)

**2. *Framework for University of Essex Undergraduate Awards***

- 2.1) Each undergraduate Stage (equivalent to a full-time year) of study normally consists of 120 credits made up of 15 and/or 30 credit modules.
- 2.2) Each undergraduate Stage is normally divided into four components of 30 credits each, eight components of 15 credits each, or any combination of these to a total of 120 credits. A 30 credit component may be filled with one 30 credit module or two 15 credit modules.
- 2.3) Credit is awarded in recognition of achieved learning at the level of the component. A pass mark of 40% is required to achieve credit (unless otherwise specified in the award's programme specification). A component is allocated credit on the basis of the component mark rounded to the nearest whole number, with marks of .5 being rounded up (e.g. 39.5% = the award of credit).

Some modules have variations to the generic rules which must also be achieved in order to award credit. These variations could for example, take the form of a higher pass mark or have an additional requirement to pass individual parts of assessment such as an exam. In such cases, the additional requirement(s) must be met for credit to be awarded.

**TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX AWARDS FRAMEWORK**

QUALIFICATION	LEVEL	MINIMUM OVERALL CREDITS TO BE STUDIED	RANGE OF CREDITS REQUIRED
Five-Year Honours Degree	6	600 credits	Follows Four-year <b>Model One</b> pattern (see table in 4.3.2 on Four-Year Honours Degrees)
Four-Year Honours Degree	6	480 credits	(see table in 4.3.2 on Four-Year Honours Degrees )
Three-Year Honours Degree (Final year is Stage Three)	6	360 credits	Credits from Stage One and Two plus a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included.
Three-Year Ordinary Degree (Final year is Stage Three)	6	300 credits	Credits from a Stage One and Two award plus a minimum of 60 credits at level 6 A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included
Foundation Degree (Final year is Stage Two)	5	240 credits	Credits from Stage One plus a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above (may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 6)
Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE - Stage Two)	5	240 credits	Credits from Stage One plus a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above (may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 6)
Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE - Stage One)	4	120 credits	120 credits at level 4
Certificate of Continuing Education (Cert CE - Stage One)	4	60 credits	60 credits at level 4

- 2.4) Each module has a final **module mark** derived from coursework and/or exam marks, rounded to one decimal place.
- 2.5) Each component has a final **component mark** derived from the mark for each course within the component, weighted in accordance with the credit value of each module where there are two modules in the component, and rounded to one decimal place.
- 2.6) In second and subsequent Stages of study, each component is allocated a class on the basis of the component mark rounded to the nearest whole number, with marks of .5 being rounded up (e.g. 59.5 = Class 2.1).
- 2.7) A stage mark is derived from the component marks for the purposes of determining progression and degree classification, weighted in line with the credit value of each component and rounded to one decimal place.
- 2.8) **For an Honours degree:**

A three-year Honours degree consists of 360 credits: at least 330 credits must be passed.

Preliminary Stage (where applicable) – 120 credits must be passed at level 3. No level 3 credits may be taken beyond this stage.

Stage One – 120 credits must be passed at level 4. No level 4 credits may be taken beyond this stage.

Stage Two – Students must attempt 120 credits. Of these at least 90 credits must be passed in order to progress. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 and a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

Stage Three/Final Stage – Students must attempt 120 credits. If 120 credits have been passed in Stage Two, then a minimum of 90 credits must be passed at Stage Three. If only 90 credits have been passed in Stage Two, then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three. Stage Three must include at least 90 credits at level 6 and a maximum of 30 credits at level 5.

A four-year Honours degree consists of 480 credits of which 450 must be passed. In general the Stage requirements outlined for a three-year Honours degree apply. There are different models of four-year degrees, as outlined in Table 2 in 4.3.2, and each has different requirements.

- 2.9) Students not eligible for an Honours Degree may be eligible for other awards in accordance with the requirements of the University's Awards Framework (see Progression and Eligibility sections of the relevant award).

**2.10) For an Ordinary degree:**

An Ordinary degree consists of a minimum of 300 credits, all of which must be passed.

Stage One – 120 credits must be passed at level 4. No level 4 credits may be taken beyond this stage.

Stage Two – Students must attempt 120 credits. Of these at least 90 credits must be passed in order to progress. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 and a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

Stage Three/Final Stage – Students must pass a minimum of 60 credits at level 6.

**2.11) For a Foundation degree:**

a Foundation Degree consists of 240 credits: at least 225 credits must be passed.

Stage One - 120 credits must be passed at level 4

Stage Two - Students must attempt 120 credits of which at least 105 credits must be passed. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 or above and a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

**2.12) For a Diploma of Higher Education:**

a Diploma of Higher Education consists of 240 credits: at least 225 credits must be passed.

Stage One - 120 credits must be passed at level 4

Stage Two - Students must attempt 120 credits of which a minimum of 105 credits must be passed. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 or above and a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

2.13) **For a Certificate of Higher Education:**

for the award of a **Certificate of Higher Education** students must attempt 120 credits at level 4, all of which must be passed.

2.14) **For a Certificate of Continuing Education:**

for the award of a **Certificate of Continuing Education** students must attempt 60 credits at level 4, all of which must be passed.