

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT
(Academic Year 2009-2010)

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.

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	NORMAL LENGTH OF PROGRAMME	MAXIMUM PERIOD OF STUDY PERMITTED
Five-Year Honours Degree	6	600 credits	A minimum of 570 Credits, including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included. Follows Four-year Model One pattern (see table in 4.3.2 on Four-Year Honours Degrees)	5 years f/t	7 years f/t
Four-Year Honours Degree	6	480 credits	A minimum of 450 Credits, including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included. (see table in 4.3.2 on Four-Year Honours Degrees)	4 years f/t	6 years f/t
Three-Year Honours Degree (Final year is Stage Three)	6	360 credits	A minimum of 330 Credits including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included.	3 years f/t	5 years f/t
Three-Year Ordinary Degree (Final year is Stage Three)	6	300 credits	A minimum of 300 credits including a minimum of 60 credits at level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at level 4 are included.	3 years f/t	5 years f/t
Foundation Degree (Final year is Stage Two)	5	240 credits	225 Credits at level 4 or above, including a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above (may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 6)	2 years f/t	4 years f/t
Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE - Stage Two)*	5	240 credits	225 Credits at level 4 or above, including a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above (may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 6)	2 years f/t	4 years f/t
Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE - Stage One)*	4	120 credits	120 credits at level 4 or above	1 year f/t	3 years f/t
Certificate of Continuing Education (Cert CE - Stage One)	4	60 credits	60 credits at level 4	1 year f/t	2 years f/t

*Where the student is being considered for an exit award please see the rules for obtaining an exit award for the programme on which the student is registered.

NOTES RELATING TO MAXIMUM PERIODS OF STUDY

- The maximum period of study is set from the date when the student is first admitted to an undergraduate programme at the University of Essex. Transfers of programme are still included in the original maximum period. Unless there are exceptional reasons, periods of intermission will count towards the original maximum period.
- For students enrolled on modular programmes of study, the maximum periods of study shown in the table above will apply unless a variation has been approved for the programme.
- For students on part-time programmes of study, the maximum period of study will be the normal length of study plus half the normal length of time.

2.4) Each module has a final **module mark** derived from coursework and/or exam marks, rounded to the nearest whole number. The mark for the coursework and/or the exam

element will be displayed to one decimal place. However, in cases where there is a published variation to the rules of assessment which states that a student must pass the coursework and/or exam element separately, the mark for each element will be treated as if it is rounded to the nearest whole number for the purposes of determining whether the element has been passed.

- 2.5) Each component has a final **component mark** derived from the mark for each module within the component, weighted in accordance with the credit value of each module where there are two modules in the component, and rounded to the nearest whole number.
- 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.
- 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 the nearest whole number.

2.8) **For an Honours degree:**

A three-year Honours degree consists of 360 credits: at least 330 credits must be passed, including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6.

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

Stage One – consists of 120 credits at level 4. In certain circumstances as set out in the Rules of Assessment it may be possible for students to proceed having passed only 90 credits. No level 4 credits may be taken beyond this stage.

Stage Two – consists of 120 credits. If 120 credits have been passed at Stage One, then a minimum of 90 credits must be passed in Stage Two in order to progress. If only 90 credits have been passed at Stage One, then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Two. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 and a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

Stage Three/Final Stage – consists of 120 credits. If 120 credits have been passed at Stage One and Stage Two, then a minimum of 90 credits must be passed at Stage Three in order to progress. Where a maximum of 30 credits have been failed across Stage One and Stage Two, then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Three. Stage Three must include at least 90 credits at level 6 and may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 5.

A four-year Honours degree consists of 480 credits of which a minimum of 450 credits must be passed, including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. 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 – consists of 120 credits at level 4. In certain circumstances as set out in the Rules of Assessment it may be possible for students to proceed having passed only 90 credits. No level 4 credits may be taken beyond this stage.

Stage Two – consists of 120 credits. If 120 credits have been passed at Stage One, then a minimum of 90 credits must be passed in Stage Two in order to progress. If only 90

credits have been passed at Stage One, then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Two. 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. Where a maximum of 30 credits have been failed across Stage One and Stage Two, an additional 30 credits at level 5 must be passed in Stage Three (final year).

2.11) **For a Foundation degree:**

A Foundation Degree consists of 240 credits: at least 225 credits must be passed at level 4 or above, including a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above.

Stage One – consists of 120 credits at level 4. In certain circumstances as set out in the Rules of Assessment it may be possible for students to proceed having passed only 105 credits.

Stage Two - consists of 120 credits. If only 105 credits are passed at Stage One then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Two in order to progress. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 or above, and may include 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 at level 4 or above, including a minimum of 105 credits at level 5 or above

Stage One consists of 120 credits at level 4. Of these at least 105 credits must be passed in order to progress.

Stage Two - consists of 120 credits. If only 105 credits are passed at Stage One then 120 credits must be passed in Stage Two in order to progress. Stage Two must include at least 90 credits at level 5 or above, and may include a maximum of 30 credits at level 6.

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

the award of a **Certificate of Higher Education** consists of 120 credits at level 4 or above, all of which must be passed.

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

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