

# UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

## RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS 2015-2016

(where offered as a stand-alone awards)

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Postgraduate Diploma Periodontology (24 months – part -time)**

**Postgraduate Diploma Periodontal Practice (24months – part -time)**

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#### 1 PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to part time (24 months) postgraduate diploma 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.
  - b) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.
  - c) A Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded with distinction or merit if the student has transferred on to the course before the student has commenced module HS982 Dissertation (but not for an exit award).
  - d) 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 components of the postgraduate diploma is 50.
  - b) For the purposes of these rules taught module averages and the overall weighted average for the taught modules -will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.
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#### 3 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD

##### THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

##### Pass

To be awarded a pass in the Postgraduate Diploma a student should:

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level.
- b) Pass all the taught core modules.

### **3.1 A Pass with Merit or Distinction**

Results for a Pass with Merit or Distinction are calculated by two methods, known as 'Dominant Quality' and 'Arithmetic Average'. Students will receive the more favourable result of the two.

#### **3.1.1 Pass with Merit**

##### **a) *Dominant Quality***

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 105 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 80 credits at 60 or above;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50.

##### **b) *Arithmetic Average***

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 105 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 60 credits at 60 or above;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50.

#### **3.1.2 Pass with Distinction**

##### **a) *Dominant Quality***

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 105 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 80 credits at 70 or above;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50.

##### **b) *Arithmetic Average***

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 105 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 60 credits at 70 or above;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50.

## **3.2 THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE**

Where a student is either unable to complete their studies or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma, then the award of a Postgraduate Certificate will be considered.

### **3.2.1 Pass**

The pass mark for all Postgraduate Certificate modules is 50.

### **3.2.2 To be awarded a pass in the **Postgraduate Certificate** a student should:**

- a) Subject to (d), obtain 60 taught module credits at Masters level.
  - b) Pass all taught core modules.
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## **4 SECOND ATTEMPTS**

### **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) concerned.
- b) The maximum mark that will 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.

### **4.1 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.**

#### **4.1.1 When a student is given an academic offences penalty of resubmitting work for credit purposes only with a mark of zero to be retained for all calculations, the raw mark achieved for the resubmitted work will be used initially to calculate the module aggregate mark. Credit will be awarded where a student achieves an overall module aggregate mark of 50. The penalty mark of zero will then be applied and included in calculations of the mark for the overall weighted average for all the taught modules and the overall weighted average mark, which includes the dissertation.**

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## **5 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

### **5.1 POWERS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

A Board of Examiners Meeting shall be held with the purpose of:

- a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved to date, including any resit marks presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- c) Determining the award of any Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate.
- d) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

## **5.2 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

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

## **5.3 EXAMINATION BOARD DISCRETION**

Except in the case of extenuating circumstances (see 5.2 above), the Board of Examiners does not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the rules of assessment.

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**End**

**SENATE JUNE 2015**