

## UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

### PARTNER INSTITUTION: TAVISTOCK AND PORTMAN NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

#### RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS 2016-17 (where offered as a standalone award)

DATE OF ISSUE: JULY 2016

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#### 1. PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to full-time and part-time study and should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and module outlines. The module outlines will give details of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the Course.
  - b) A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed. A compulsory module must be taken but can be condoned.
  - c) All Postgraduate Diplomas (where offered as a standalone award) can be awarded with distinction or merit.
  - d) No classification can be given to Postgraduate Certificates that are exit awards from the Postgraduate Diploma course.
  - e) 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 modules is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed. In cases where failure with a mark of 40 is condoned, the credits are not awarded.
  - b) For modules which contain a clinical component with a Pass/Fail outcome, the module can only be passed if the clinical component is completed and passed. If the clinical component is not passed the mark for any coursework component(s) within the module will be recorded, but the module aggregate mark will be zero and any credits for the module will not be awarded.
  - c) 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. PROGRESSION FROM YEAR ONE

- 3.1 In order to progress **from Year One to Year Two**, a student must normally successfully complete all Year One modules, including passing all taught core modules.

- 3.2 If a student does not meet the requirements to progress, he/she must undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic Stage in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. The reassessment must be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.
- 3.3 If, following reassessment, a student has failed a core module for the Postgraduate Diploma, but the module is not designated as core for the Postgraduate Certificate, then he/she may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year; however, the student must be informed that they can only be considered for an exit award of a Postgraduate Certificate.
- 3.4 If, following reassessment, a student has failed a core module for the Postgraduate Diploma, which is also designated as core for the Postgraduate Certificate, the student will not be permitted to proceed, as outlined in 7.1.2.
- 3.5 If following reassessment, a student has failed a non-core module, then he/she may be permitted to proceed to the next academic year. The student must be informed that failure to pass all Year One modules may mean that the student will not be able to achieve the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. In this instance the student would then be considered for the exit award of either a Postgraduate Certificate.
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#### 4. OBSERVATIONS

- 4.1 Where applicable, if a student has been unable to achieve the required number of hours of observation for a module, which in certain circumstances may have prevented the student from completing the assessment, then the Board of Examiners may defer the decision and permit the student to proceed to the next year of study.
- 4.2 The student will be required to complete the outstanding observation hours and the assessment for the module, during the next academic year.
- 4.3 Any outstanding hours of observation and assessment must be completed and passed within two academic years of the student starting the module or the module will be failed.
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#### 5. REASSESSMENT

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

- a) Students may have a second attempt for module(s) that have been failed, **up to a maximum of 60 taught credits across the course.**
  - b) No second attempt at the assessment for a module is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners meeting where marks are confirmed.
  - c) 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.
  - d) The mark for the second attempt will count even where it is lower than the original mark.
- 5.1.2 If a student fails a module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

- 5.1.3** Where the Board of Examiners permits a student to have a second attempt at the assessment for a module this only applies to an individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed. A student cannot be permitted to retake a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.
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## **6. ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD**

### **6.1 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA**

#### **6.1.1 Pass**

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

- a) Subject to (d), obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7).
- b) Pass all the taught core modules.
- c) Pass at least 60 taught module credits at the first attempt unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.
- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 40 credits in non-core taught modules, will be condoned provided the overall weighted average for all the taught modules is 50.

#### **6.1.2 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.

#### **6.1.3 Pass with Merit**

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

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 120 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 120 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.

#### 6.1.4 Pass with Distinction

##### a) *Dominant Quality*

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 120 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 120 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.

## 6.2 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.

### 6.2.1 Pass

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

- i) Subject to (d), obtain 60 taught module credits at Masters level (level 7).
  - ii) Pass all taught core modules.
  - iii) Pass 20 credits at the first attempt.
  - iv) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits, in non-core units will be condoned.
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## **7. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

### **7.1 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) Confirming any opportunities for second attempts at the assessment for modules
- c) Considering each student's marks' profile so that they can be advised on progression and the range of possible award outcomes.
- d) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for progression and results.
- e) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- f) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to progress or achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

**7.1.1** An interim Board of Examiners meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment or at the end of a stage of study for a part-time course.

**7.1.2** Students will be required to withdraw where the accumulation of further credit would not result in the achievement of any postgraduate award according to the Rules of Assessment.

### **7.2 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

Extenuating circumstances can only be considered by the Board of Examiners if the student has completed an extenuating circumstances report by the agreed deadline. When substantiated 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.

### **7.3 EXAMINATION BOARD DISCRETION**

Except in the case of extenuating circumstances (see 7.2 above), the Board of Examiners does not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the Rules of Assessment.

Approved Senate July 16