

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2013-2014

HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

MSc Nursing (Adult) (pre-registration)

MSc Nursing (Mental Health) (pre-registration)

1. PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the two full-time (24 months) Masters 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, which for this programme is HS859: Research Activity.
 - c) All Masters degrees can be awarded with distinction or merit.
 - d) Successful completion of either MSc or the exit awards Post-Graduate Diploma Nursing (Adult) or (Mental Health) (pre-registration) also lead to registration as a nurse on the appropriate part of the register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
 - e) The exit awards of Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies and Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies are academic awards but do not lead to professional registration.
 - f) 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 of the Masters degree is 50.
 - b) For the purposes of these rules taught module averages, the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the mark for the dissertation will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.
 - c) Clinical assessments are marked on a pass/fail basis.
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3. PROGRESSION

To progress at Progression Point 1 a student must:

- a) Obtain 30 credits at Masters level in HS860 Foundations in Nursing Practice;
- b) Pass HS865 Nursing Skills A;

- c) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board;
- d) Normally meet all required outcomes for progress point 1. Any outstanding outcomes must be within 12 weeks of entering the next stage of the programme. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will not be permitted to continue on the current stage of the programme. Depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outstanding outcomes, the Board will decide whether the student must either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.
- e) If, despite having had a second attempt at the modules, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

3.1 To proceed from Year 1 to Year 2 a student must:

- a) Have successfully completed at Progression Point 1
- b) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board
- c) Normally have successfully completed all Year 1 modules
- d) If, despite having had a second attempt at an assignment or placement, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

3.2 To progress at Progression Point 2 a student must:

- a) Have successfully obtained 90 credits in Stage 1 of the course
- b) Obtain 15 credits in, dependent on field, either HS880 Care of people with acute needs or HS881 Organising nursing care in acute settings
- c) Pass HS866 Nursing Skills B
- d) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board
- e) Normally meet all required outcomes for progress point 2. Any outstanding outcomes must be within 12 weeks of entering the next stage of the programme. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will not be permitted to continue on the current stage of the programme. Depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outstanding outcomes, the Board will decide whether the student must either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.
- f) If, despite having had a second attempt at the modules, a student does not meet the requirements to progress the Board of Examiners shall require the candidate to withdraw.

4 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD - THE MASTERS DEGREE

Pass

To be awarded a pass in the Masters a student should:

- a) Obtain 180 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- c) Complete the required placement hours;
- d) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board;
- e) Meet any outstanding outcomes within 12 weeks of the final exam board. A student who fails to achieve the outstanding outcomes within the 12-week period will, depending on the reason for the failure to meet the outcomes be required by the Board to either return to the previous part of the programme to meet the shortfall or be discontinued.

4.1 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.

4.1.1 Pass with Merit

a) *Dominant Quality*

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 120 credits at 60 or above, including the dissertation;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50;
- iv) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- v) Complete the required placement hours;
- vi) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

b) *Arithmetic Average*

To obtain a merit a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 90 credits at 60 or above, which must include the dissertation;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50;
- v) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- vi) Complete the required placement hours;
- vii) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

4.1.2 Pass with Distinction

a) *Dominant Quality*

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt, except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 120 credits at 70 or above, including the dissertation;
- iii) Have no module mark below 50;
- iv) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- v) Complete the required placement hours;
- vi) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

b) *Arithmetic Average*

To obtain a distinction a student should:

- i) Obtain 150 credits at the first attempt except in the case of substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- ii) Obtain 90 credits at 70 or above, which must include the dissertation;
- iii) Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more;
- iv) Have no module mark below 50;
- v) Pass all the clinical assessments;
- vi) Complete the required placement hours;
- vii) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board.

4.2 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE

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

To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (ADULT) (PRE-REGISTRATION)** or a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (MENTAL HEALTH) (PRE-REGISTRATION)** which leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council, a student must:

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- b) Pass all the clinical assessments
- c) Must attempt all MSc modules
- d) Pass all taught core modules for the Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Adult) (Pre-registration) or Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Mental Health) (Pre-registration)
- e) Be assessed as remaining of good health and character by the School's Professional Suitability Group/Examination Board

4.2.1 The following awards DO NOT lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council:

a) To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH STUDIES** a student should:

- i) subject to c), obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7);
- ii) Pass all taught core modules;
- iii) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 30 credits in non-core modules will be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 PG Diploma credits is 50 or above.

- b) To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH STUDIES** a student should:
- i) Obtain 60 credits at Masters level (level 7);
 - ii) Pass all taught core modules.
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5 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);
- 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.

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

If the student has initially achieved a mark of 40-49 for the module aggregate (including the raw mark achieved) no credit will be awarded, but the module can be considered for condonement if the average for the taught course modules is 50 after the mark of zero has been included in the calculation.

If the student has initially achieved a mark of less than 40 for the module aggregate then no credit will be awarded and no condonement can be applied. Note that for the awards leading to professional registration all modules are core and condonement cannot be applied. Condonement can only be considered for the non-registerable exit awards.

5.3 Second attempts at the assessment for a clinical placement

- a) Only two failed clinical placements are permitted to be retaken as a second attempt;
- b) If a student, who has already had two second attempts, fails a third clinical placement, they will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners;
- c) If a student fails a clinical placement 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.

5.4 Re-submission of Dissertation/Project

- a) Re-submission of dissertations is only permitted in the following circumstances:

- i) Either substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, or;
 - ii) Where the original mark awarded is at least 40.
- b)** Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:
- i) A dissertation must normally be re-submitted within two months of the formal notification of permission to resubmit; in cases of extenuating circumstances, this may be extended to a maximum of twelve months;
 - ii) A dissertation which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than the minimum pass mark; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.
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6. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

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 dissertation/project marks.
- c) Confirming the assessment for the clinical elements.
- d) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- e) Consider reports on good health and good character
- f) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- g) Requiring any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of progression point 1 during Year 1 and at the end of progression point 2 during Year 2. .

6.1 Progression and End of Year 1 Boards

The Board of Examiners shall meet at the end of progression point 1, Year 1 and progression point 2 to consider the students' performance on all modules completed at that point. The Board shall have the power to:

- a) Confirm the taught module marks achieved, including any resit marks presented to the Board, and award credit.
- b) Determining whether each student may proceed through Progression points 1 and 2.
- c) Determining whether each student may proceed to Year 2. (d) Confirm the assessment for the clinical elements completed.
- d) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- e) Consider reports on good health and good character.
- f) Require any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

6.2 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.

6.3 EXAMINATION BOARD DISCRETION

Except in the case of extenuating circumstances (see 6.2 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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