

**University of Essex**

**Rules of Assessment for Taught Masters Degrees 2024-2025**

**Aegean Omiros College**

**Postgraduate Taught Courses (Non-Standard)**

## **1. Preamble**

1.1 These variations apply to all current and future “Non-Standard” postgraduate taught courses delivered in Greece by Aegean Omiros College. The Non-Standard programme requirements to achieve a module pass mark are shown in 2.1 and 2.2 below. Please refer to Appendix A which outlines the courses which these Non-Standard rules of assessment apply to.

1.2 The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and Module Outlines. The Module Outlines will give details of assessment arrangements.

1.3 A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent.

1.4 All Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction or Merit

1.5 It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.

1.6 The Rules of Assessment in place at the time of the meeting of a Board of Examiners are applied for all students, regardless of when they started their course, provided that any revisions that have been made will not negatively impact students.

## **2. Pass Mark**

2.1 The pass mark for all modules of the Masters degree is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed.

2.2 The award of credits is based on meeting all individual learning outcomes in any given module. To demonstrate achievement of each of the learning outcomes for a module, students must achieve a pass mark of 50 in each module assessment component and an overall pass mark of 50 for the module (see 2.1 above). See the Programme Specification and Module Outlines for further information.

2.3 For the purposes of these rules taught module averages, the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the mark for the dissertation or equivalent will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.

## **3. Eligibility for an Award**

### **The Masters Degree**

#### **3.1 Pass**

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

- a) Pass all taught modules and the dissertation or equivalent and achieve 180 credits at Masters Level (Level 7).
- b) Pass at least 40 taught module credits at the first attempt, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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

Where a student has more than 120 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Diploma giving at least 120 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

### **3.2.1 Pass with Merit**

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more.

### **3.2.2 Pass with Distinction**

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more.

### **3.3 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. Students can be considered for the award of a Distinction and Merit for an exit award.

Aegean Omiros College will identify on the published programme structure which taught modules have to be passed in order to obtain a PG Certificate or PG Diploma. In many cases it will be possible to obtain the necessary credits for a PG Diploma by using dissertation or equivalent credits as well as taught module credits.

Dissertation or equivalent credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

3.3.1 To be awarded a **Postgraduate Diploma** a student should:

a) Achieve 120 credits at Masters Level (Level 7).

b) Pass at least 40 taught module credits at the first attempt unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

Credits obtained for the dissertation or equivalent can normally be used when considering whether a Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded, provided that the above criteria have been met.

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

Where a student has more than 120 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Diploma giving at least 120 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

#### **3.3.2.1 Pass with Merit**

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 60 or more.

#### **3.3.2.2 Pass with Distinction**

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 70 or more.

3.3.3 To be awarded a **Postgraduate Certificate** a student should:

- Achieve 60 credits at Masters Level (Level 7).
- Pass 10 credits at the first attempt unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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

Where a student has more than 60 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for the Postgraduate Certificate giving at least 60 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

#### **3.3.3.2 Pass with Merit**

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Certificate, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 60 or more.

#### **3.3.3.3 Pass with Distinction**

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Certificate, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 70 or more.

## 4. Reassessment

### 4.1 Reassessment for taught modules

4.1.1 Students may have a second attempt for module(s) that have been failed, up to a maximum of the total number of taught credits across the programme minus the 40 taught credits which must be passed at the first attempt as follows:

<b>Number of Taught Credits</b>	<b>Number of Dissertation Credits</b>	<b>Number of Taught Credits in Which Students Can Undertake Reassessment</b>
120	60	80
135	45	95
140	40	100
240	40	200 (this only applies to the MSc Systemic Psychotherapy programme)

a) No second attempt at the assessment for a module is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners meeting where marks are confirmed.

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 Board of Examiners will reinstate the module mark for the previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt.

4.1.2 Students are required to pass each individual module assessment component and will be offered only one opportunity to resubmit these where they are failed, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

In such cases, a pre-resubmission module aggregate will be calculated using the failed mark(s) and:

a) If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was below the pass mark, then the resubmission can improve the module aggregate mark, up to the capped pass mark of 50 only.

b) If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was above the pass mark, then the resubmission cannot improve the module aggregate mark. The module aggregate is capped at the pre-resubmission aggregate.

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 Where the Board of Examiners permits a student to have a second attempt at the assessment for a module this only applies to any individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed.

4.1.5 A student cannot be permitted to repeat a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.

4.1.6 Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment. The timing of the reassessment opportunity will depend on the point the student has reached on the course and the type of module(s) failed.

## **4.2 Re-submission of Dissertations or equivalent**

a) Re-submission of dissertations or equivalent 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 and the Board of Examiners judges that the work required to achieve a pass does not include any additional experimental or practical work.

b) Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:

(i) A dissertation or equivalent 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 or equivalent which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than a maximum mark of 50; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.

## **5. Assessment Procedures**

### **5.1 Powers of The Board of Examiners**

The Board of Examiners shall have the following powers:

a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment presented to the Board, and awarding credit.



- b) Confirming the mark for the dissertation or equivalent, including any mark for resubmission.
- c) Confirming any opportunities for reassessment for modules, including resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent.
- d) Considering each student's marks' profile so that they can be advised on the range of possible award outcomes, including whether it is possible for them to make use of dissertation or equivalent credits.
- e) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- f) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- g) Determining whether a student can progress to the next year, where relevant.
- h) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the College.

5.1.1 An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment.

5.1.2 Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment, the Board of Examiners will give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment. The timing of the reassessment opportunity will depend on the point the student has reached on the course and the type of module(s) failed.

5.1.3 Students who fail a module after having been offered all permitted reassessment attempts (a first attempt plus two reassessment attempts) will be required to withdraw.

## 5.2 Extenuating Circumstances

If you submit Extenuating Circumstances and they are accepted as valid, the Board of Examiners may be able to offer additional assessment opportunities, such as reassessment for uncapped module marks or voluntary reassessment, in line with the Extenuating Circumstances [Policy](#) and [guidelines](#). When extenuating circumstances are accepted, the Board of Examiners will use its discretion to determine what if any action should be taken in accordance with the powers set out in the Policy. Except in the case of accepted extenuating circumstances, Boards of Examiners do not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the rules of assessment.

End

Appendix A

<b>Courses Covered by the Non-Standard Rules of Assessment</b>
MSc Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Biomarkers
MSc Industrial and Commercial Biotechnology

Partnerships Team

Senate – January 2023

<b>Document Review Information</b>	
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