

LTC14D074

Title: *FMH LTQC Course Approvals*
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Issue

To receive proposal for changes to MBBS regulations from the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Teaching and Quality Committee.

Recommendation

Approval of the proposals

Resource Implications

None.

Risk Implications

None.

Equality and Diversity

None.

Timing of decisions

FMH LTQC approved 01.10.14

Further Information

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Background

N/A

Discussion

N/A

Attachments

Proposal and rationale

MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Longcroft, TPPG
From: Professor Richard Holland, MED
Re: MB BS - Addition of an additional overall year grade

The MB BS assessment group have recommended the introduction of an additional year grade for students.

Who does this apply to?

This would apply to students arriving in the 2015/16 cohort.

Concession request

This change was initially proposed for the 2014-15 cohort but the change could not be processed in time prior to the publication of the regulations. As the 2014/15 have had information in their handbook about a change to stage criteria and has been discussed in lectures with them about impending changes, the School would like to request a concession for this new rule to also be applied to the 2014/15 cohort.

YEAR GRADE

Current position

Students receive an overall year grade of Pass or Distinction for each year of the course.

For years 1-4 the criteria to achieve a distinction is currently as follows:

- a distinction in the overall OSCE
- at least one other distinction in another assessment element e.g. written examination, or coursework
- no summative fails in any assessment

For the final year the criteria to achieve a distinction is currently as follows:

- a distinction in Finals
- no summative fails in any assessment.

Proposed revision

The School would like to introduce the category of "merit" as a year grade. Currently, the excellent work of some students cannot be recognized if they do not have a distinction in the OSCE. For instance, a student may have a distinction in the written exam and two other assessed elements, but not the OSCE, and would currently only gain a pass in the year.

The introduction of a new merit category would address this and provide evidence of performance over and above a general pass grade.

At the same time, we would like to refine the distinction grade to be truly distinctive. This is partly at the recommendation of several external examiners who have commented that too high proportions of our students gain distinctions in certain years (this can exceed 20%). We would therefore like in future to reward students who have shown excellence (i.e. gained a distinction) at both their OSCE exam and their written (knowledge exam) rather than the OSCE plus one other (unspecified) assessment.

Summary of planned rules for year 1 forwards:

Years 1-4

- Distinction if distinction in Overall OSCE and written examination and no summative fails
- Merit - distinction in either overall OSCE or written examination plus one other distinction (e.g. in course work) and no summative fails

Year 5

- Distinction - distinction in Clinical Finals and Finals written examination and no summative fails
- Merit - distinction in either Clinical Finals or Finals written examination

COURSE DISTINCTION/ COURSE MERIT – rules as below which will remain the same.

The **current criteria** for awarding a course merit or distinction is as follows:

Distinction:

Students in the top 15% of Education Performance Measure (EPM)* ranking and in the top 15% of Finals receive a Course Distinction.

Merit

Students in the top 25% of EPM and top 25% of Finals receive a Course Merit.

** a formal ranking submitted at the end of year 4 to the Foundation Programme as part of the student's formal F1 application. The EPM counts for between 34 and 43 marks out of 100.*