

RULES AND ADVICE FOR COMPLETING MASTER'S THESIS AND DEGREE EXAM

To be admitted to the degree exam, students must have passed all the exams required by the study plan.

The degree exam consists of the defence of a written dissertation on a scientifically relevant topic and is designed to demonstrate the candidate's ability to apply the tools, methods, and techniques of the courses that characterize the candidate's educational path. The degree thesis may also focus on the development, at a multinational company or international institution, of a specific project previously agreed between the supervisor designated by the Department and a representative at the host institution.

ADMISSION TO THE THESIS DEFENSE

The student must contact the supervisor at least six months before the graduation date. The supervisor must allow the candidate to defend their thesis only after verifying that the candidate:

- has completed the dissertation topic to at least a satisfactory standard;
- has not committed plagiarism (see the relevant document)

ASSESSMENT

The final grade for the thesis is expressed out of 110 (one hundred and tenths), 66 being the minimum to graduate.

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The grade is assigned by the Degree Committee at the end of the thesis defense, taking into account the opinion on the content of the thesis expressed by the thesis-supervisor, the co-supervisor, and, if appointed, the second co-supervisor; the conduct of the defense; the weighted average of the grades earned by the candidate during the course of studies; an additional score of 0.3 points for each honor earned; and the candidate's overall educational background.

The thesis evaluation rules are as follows:

Preface

A thesis is classified in one of the following categories only if it meets all the characteristics specifically indicated in that category:

1) Thesis, rated 0 to 2 points

Graduating students present a mere summary of research on the topic. The thesis presents limitations or gaps in the literature consulted or in the models or empirical findings presented.

2) Thesis, rated 3 to 4 points

Graduating students present the specific topic based on limited knowledge of the existing research on the subject. They organize the material only adequately. They use correct language.

3) Thesis, rated 5 points

Graduating students present a clear and orderly presentation of the topic of the thesis;

demonstrate an understanding of the essential bibliography; correctly present models or empirical investigations. They have been able to construct the thesis coherently.

4) Thesis rated 6 or 7 points

in addition to having read and correctly presented the contents of the essential bibliography, graduating students adequately present revised theoretical models or original empirical investigations, and have explored topics related to the subject of the thesis. They are able to demonstrate the validity of the connections they propose, to establish comparisons, and to introduce elements of complexity.

5) Thesis eligible for more than 7 points

Graduating students demonstrate independent judgment, personal critical thinking, and originality. They have explored specific aspects of the subject, addressing issues of significant conceptual challenge in terms of modeling or the collection and processing of empirical material. Their

knowledge of the subject – including the relevant literature, modelling approaches and empirical research – is extensive. In the discussion, they demonstrate interest, competence, and thoroughness.

In this case, the supervisor must notify the Director by sending a mail to gestione-lauree.dem@unipv.it at least 15 days before the graduation session, requesting the assignment of a second supervisor. The request must be accompanied by a report from the supervisor clearly justifying the request in terms of:

- (a) conceptual challenge of the thesis;
- (b) breadth of knowledge of the literature, modeling, and empirical research techniques;
- (c) thoroughness;
- (d) evidence of critical thinking skills and originality with respect to the relevant literature. The Director selects a second co-supervisor from a different subject area than the supervisor.

6) Awarding of honors

The reference score for honors is 113/110; therefore, please note that the supervisor, in requesting the award of honors for a graduate with an average grade lower than 106/110, is awarding the thesis and/or the graduate's academic record a score equivalent to the distance between the reference score for honors (113/110) and the candidate's average grade, including any honors. If proposed for candidates with an average grade of 106/110 or higher, it is in any case subject to the presence of the characteristics considered in point 5), but does not require the presence of a second co-supervisor; If offered to candidates with an average grade lower than 106/110, it is subject to the elements considered in point 5) and requires the presence of a second co-supervisor.

Awarding honors to candidates with an average grade lower than 103 is considered exceptional and must be justified by documented evidence of outstanding originality. In any case, a candidate with an average grade lower than 100 cannot be awarded honors. For students enrolled starting in the 2013/14 academic year, the averages referred to in this point take into account the honors earned by adding 0.30 points out of 110 to the weighted average of the exams for each honor earned.

SUPERVISOR, CO-SUPERVISOR

Full- and associate professors, researchers, and tenured faculty may assign theses. The co-supervisor is appointed in the weeks preceding the graduation session.