Economics Faculty

Rules for the Final Dissertation and for the Graduation Exam (Second-Cycle Degree - *Magistrale*)

1. Graduation Exam and Final Dissertation
   The graduation exam or final interview consists in discussing a written dissertation prepared by the student under the guide of a Supervisor. The issue has to deal with one of the disciplines of the degree course and the Supervisor is a teacher of the Faculty. Upon authorization of the Didactic Commission the student will be able to apply for an issue comprised among the disciplines selected among the activities at choice.

2. Assigning the Final Dissertation
   The issue of the final dissertation is chosen by the student among those suggested by the Supervisor, unless this last one decides to accept a proposal made by the student that is justified by a specific professional experience or by a particular study interest. The assigning of the issue of the dissertation is requested by the student directly to the Supervisor submitting a structured abstract of 1,000 words maximum including the following elements:
   
   1. Introduction to the issue
   2. Objective of the study
   3. Method
   4. Expected results
   5. Brief bibliographical references

   Where it was impossible to identify a Supervisor for the requested graduation session, the student can submit an application to the Dean’s Office that will assign a supervisor, based on the teachers’ availability. Subject to provisions of the concerned Administrative Offices (Students Secretariat, Faculty Dean’s Office), the student can ask for the assignment of an issue for his final interview once he has not more than two exams left to complete his study program.

3. Typology of Final Dissertation
   The final paper consists in a written dissertation, unless different provisions made by the Supervisor, including 120 typewritten pages of 3,000 characters each, whose content can deal with a collection and revision of known research results, a critical review of bibliographical references and documentary sources, drafting of research paths, also by acquiring direct sources or data. It is strongly recommended that the final dissertation meet the following requirements: conceptual overview of the assigned issue, clear formulation of the basic assumptions, of the aims and expected results, presentation of the methodological options adopted, bibliographical references and webographies focused on the issue being treated.

Approved by: Faculty Council
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Anyhow, the student will have to demonstrate that he is capable of analyzing the fundamental aspects of the issue chosen for his final dissertation showing good abilities to synthetize.

Notwithstanding these characterizing requirements, in the assessment, high merit will go to the students who demonstrate high skills for in-depth study, critical appreciation and ability for autonomous work.

4. Conducting the Final Interview
For each applicant, the final interview can be structured on four steps:

I. Preliminary presentation of the applicant and of his dissertation;
II. Discussion of the dissertation with the applicant;
III. Assessment of the final interview (dissertation + discussion) and grade assignment;
IV. Communication of the grade and statement of the awarding of the study title.

The applicant and the audience participate only in the second and fourth phase. The Commission of the Graduation Exam shall be free to regroup more applicants in the various phases for each one of its session or section.

In the phase of preliminary presentation of the applicant and of his paper, the President of the Exam Commission illustrates the applicant’s career to the members of the Commission. The Supervisor illustrates the issue of the final paper, the work done by the applicant and submits a proposal of assessment and, if applicable, the honors (based on the recommendations provided in paragraph 5 below).

While assessing the final interview and assignment of the degree grade, the President of the Commission reminds the members of the Commission of the proposal made by the Supervisor and submits it to the judgement of the Commission.

5. Assessing the Final Interview
The degree grade is expressed in 110 points. In the respect of the autonomy of the Graduation Commission, provided by the laws currently in force, it is recommended that the degree grade be assigned, based on the Supervisor’s proposal, according the following procedure, obviously applicable only if the exam of the final interview is considered, anyhow, passed:

a) They calculate the weighted average for ECTS credits of each exam of the grades expressed in 30 points earned by the student in the exams of the related study program; the so calculated average is transformed into a 110-point scale and rounded up or down to the nearest whole number, and it is defined as grade of presentation;

b) The final paper and its discussion are assigned a grade in function of the quality of the paper itself and of the explanation made by the applicant up to a maximum of 10=(ten) points. In the cases in which the master’s degree dissertation deals with contents of particular originality or value and in all
cases in which the Supervisor establishes the awarding of more than 7 points to final dissertation a Counter-Supervisor is envisaged. The Counter-Supervisor is identified by the Supervisor who communicates him to the graduation student and to the Dean’s Office at least 30 days before the date fixed for the discussion of the dissertation.

c) The grade of the final exam results from adding the grades obtained with the assessment of the final interview to the grade of presentation;

d) The honors can be assigned, by unanimity, to students having a grade of presentation not lower than 105/110, except for the case of theses having particular aspects of originality.

6. Composition of the Commissions: modes and timing
Each Graduation Commission is composed of five members, selected among the Area Professors and Tutors of the Faculty and is appointed by the Dean, including the relative Chairperson. Each Area Professor and Tutor receives formally, and in due time (at least thirty days beforehand), the notification of the days of the graduation session for each period; after that, he has to communicate the days (at least two) in which he will be available to take part in the above-mentioned Commissions no later than fifteen days and in writing. Having this time elapsed, any failure to communicate on the professors’ and researchers’ part is intended as an availability for all the sittings of that specific graduation session.