

University of Eastern Finland
Philosophical Faculty
Approved by the Faculty Council on 21 May 2014

Descriptions of the scientific licentiate thesis and doctoral dissertation as from August 2014:

LICENTIATE THESIS

Licentiate Thesis

Grading

Fail / pass / pass with distinction

Learning outcomes

The postgraduate student is able to identify a scientifically interesting problem and formulate this problem into a research question. The postgraduate student writes, under the supervision of the supervisors appointed by the faculty, a licentiate thesis in which the student demonstrates that he or she masters the relevant methods, the use of references and literature, source criticism, an analytical approach to the material, and presentation of conclusions. The postgraduate student is familiar with and observes good scientific practice.

Contents

Approved licentiate thesis

Completion

An eligible licentiate thesis may be a monograph or a collection of research articles. A collection of research articles consists of scientific publications or manuscripts, outlined in an independent summary, which examine the same set of problems. The number of articles required is determined by the Philosophical Faculty. A collection of research articles consists of at least two peer-reviewed articles approved for publication. If the publications include collaborative works, the author of the licentiate thesis must attest to his/her independent contribution either in the summary or in a separate appendix. The author of the licentiate thesis must be the main author of at least two articles. A collaborative publication may be included in no more than two person's licentiate theses or doctoral dissertations.

Grading principles

The Faculty Council approves and grades the licentiate thesis on the basis of the examiners' statements. The grade "pass with distinction" can be awarded to a thesis which has several significant merits and no shortcomings that would make them void. A public examination can be arranged in order to evaluate the licentiate thesis. The arrangement of the public examination is the responsibility of the doctoral programme concerned. If a public examination is held, the examiners are to submit their statements after the event.

Further information

This description is not applicable to licentiate theses completed within the special psychologist training, which are subject to separate instructions (available at <http://www.psykonet.fi/>).

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Dissertation

Grading

I-L

Learning outcomes

The postgraduate student is able to identify a scientifically interesting problem and formulate this problem into a research question that seeks to obtain significant and novel information. The postgraduate student writes, under the supervision of the supervisors appointed by the faculty, a doctoral dissertation in which the student demonstrates that he or she masters the relevant methods, the use of references and literature, source criticism, an analytical approach to the material, and presentation of conclusions. The postgraduate student is familiar with and observes good scientific practice. Furthermore, he or she is capable of defending the dissertation in a public examination.

Contents

A doctoral dissertation which is examined publicly and approved by the faculty.

Completion

An eligible doctoral dissertation may be a monograph or a collection of research articles. A collection of research articles consists of scientific publications or manuscripts, outlined in an independent summary, which examine the same set of problems. The number of articles required is determined by the Philosophical Faculty. A doctoral dissertation in the form of a collection of research articles contains at least three peer-reviewed articles of which two must have been published and one must have been approved for publication. An article published in advance by a publication series as an online article is considered to be published. If the publications include collaborative works, the doctoral candidate must attest to his/her independent contribution either in the summary or in a separate appendix. The doctoral candidate must be the main author of at least three articles. A collaborative publication may be included in no more than two person's licentiate theses or doctoral dissertations.

Grading principles

A public examination is held in order to evaluate the doctoral dissertation. The Faculty Council approves and decides the grade of the doctoral dissertation on the basis of the statements of the opponent(s), the faculty's representative and the custos.

EVALUATION CRITERIA OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

In grading a doctoral dissertation, the following points in particular must be taken into account:

1) *The topic and research problem of the research project and narrowing the research problem*

The topic has significant information value and generates new information in the field of research or opens a new line of research. The research tasks and questions have been appropriately narrowed down. The research project has a meaningful connection to earlier research.

2) *Conceptual clarity*

The concepts used in the research project are clear and justified. They have been analysed and assessed critically and extensively with the help of high-quality scientific literature.

3) *Research methodology and methods*

The research project is methodologically justified. The researcher demonstrates his/her knowledge of earlier theoretical and methodological discussion. The methods employed in the research project are described and their choice is explained. The researcher demonstrates that the methods can be used to solve the research problems which have been set.

4) *Material*

The material used in the research project is of high quality. It is relevant and sufficient in light of the research topic.

5) *Reporting the results and conclusions*

In light of the research tasks, the results have been reported in a logical way from multiple viewpoints. The significance of the results to the field has been assessed in a relevant manner. The research report lists the most important questions for future research. The social and international significance of the research project is assessed.

6) *The dissertation in general and its presentation*

The research project is a logical entity both in terms of structure and argumentation, and the language is clear and readable. The text focuses on essential questions. The research project has been completed independently and it demonstrates independent critical thinking towards earlier research, research methods and research concepts.

GRADING SCALE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

In the Philosophical Faculty, the following grades may be awarded to a dissertation. A requirement for all grades is that the study conducted must comply with good research ethics in all respects.

Laudatur

The dissertation has an ambitious topic and, in light of the criteria above, its merits are exceptional.

Eximia cum laude approbatur

The dissertation has several significant merits in light of the evaluation criteria above without deficiencies which would nullify them.

Magna cum laude approbatur

The dissertation has significant merits in light of the evaluation criteria above without deficiencies which would nullify them.

Cum laude approbatur

The dissertation meets the evaluation criteria above. The merits of the research may compensate for deficiencies in meeting some of the above-mentioned criteria.

Non sine laude approbatur

The dissertation meets the faculty's specifications for a doctoral dissertation. The research is mostly well conducted, but the dissertation has deficiencies in meeting the above-mentioned criteria with no merits which would significantly compensate for them.

Lubenter approbatur

The dissertation meets the faculty's specifications for a doctoral dissertation, but it has several significant deficiencies in meeting the above-mentioned criteria with no merits which would sufficiently compensate for them.

Approbatur

The dissertation meets sufficiently the faculty's specifications for a doctoral dissertation, but it has several serious deficiencies.