

Recommended tool for master's thesis grading: Standard assessment form

Recommended by the faculty's Educational committee 21.03.14. Changed: 29.03.16 in accordance to dean case 2016/83 regarding assessments of master's thesis's.

Main assessment criteria	Sub-assessment criteria:	E/I/	Max score	Preliminary assessment	Final score	Comments
Introduction and theory (max score 21 points)	Academic foundation	E	5			
	Theoretical insight:	E+I ²⁾	8			
	Description of objectives:	E	3			
	Personal contribution:	E+I ²⁾	5			
Methods and working practice (max score 26 points)	Skill level:	E+I ²⁾	10			
	Working methods:	E+I ²⁾	3			
	Effort:	E+I ²⁾	5			
	Degree of independence:	E+I ²⁾	8			
Results and discussion (max score 37 points)	Results (work):	E+I ²⁾	10			
	Analysis, discussion, and conclusion:	E	15			
	Critical reflection:	E	6			
	Personal contribution/achievement:	E	6			

Presentation (max score 16 points)	Structure:	E	5			
	Language:	E	6			
	Form:	E	5			
Oral presentation³ (max. 0 points)	Presentation in connection with the final exam	E+I	0			
	SUM		100			

- 1) “E” means that the external examiner does the assessment.
“T” means that the assessment is done by the internal examiner (cannot be the supervisor)
- 2) **The supervisor(s) assessment of the thesis is given on an own form, and makes the foundation for some the scores.**
- 3) Assessment of the master’s thesis includes an assessment of the written work, and can include an oral examination and/or oral presentation. “Oral presentation” is evaluated to passed/not passed. If the presentation is not approved, the student has to present the thesis again at a later stage. The objective of the “oral examination”, in connection with the final master’s examination in the natural sciences studies is to evaluate among other aspects, the candidate’s mastery of the work in the thesis, and from this adjust the other sub-assessment criteria’s, up or down. Reference is made to the “Supplementary Regulations to the Academic Regulations for the Norwegian University of Science and Technology”, and the dean case regarding examination structure at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology at final examination for natural sciences.

How to use the standard assessment form

The purpose of the assessment form is to be a working document for the examiners, and will not be suitable for explanation of the grade or other feedback to the student. The form is not to be used as an examination protocol either. An own examination protocol form will be sent to the examiners.

Scoring:

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology has determined a max score at each assessment points, so the total is 100. Every sub-assessment criteria's has a score, so that the sum of the sub-criteria's equals the main assessment's max scoring. If a sub-criterion, like "academic foundation" has a max score of 5, the points shall be divided after the following scaling:

- 5 points – Almost perfect
- 4 points – Very good, only minor shortcomings
- 3 points – Good, but with clear shortcomings
- 2 points – Just enough to be a acceptable performance for the master's grade.
- 1 point - Something(s) of value, but not enough to be acceptable.
- 0 points – Little or nothing of value

This means that the assessment of the sub-criteria is done according to the primary description of grades. Where other maximum results than 5 points is used, the scaling must be done accordingly.

Assessment:

External and internal examiner do a preliminary assessment of the thesis, and sets temporary scores for their parts (marked "E" and "I") After the oral examination and censoring meeting, all points but «presentation» and «oral exam», can be adjusted. It is marked which sub-assessment criteria's that respectively the external examiner ("E") or the internal examiner ("I") has the responsibility to submit scores to. For three criteria's both the external and the internal examiner (E + I) has a shared responsibility to set a final score.

Letter grades and scores:

Grade	Scores (intervals)
A	89 - 100
B	77 - 88
C	65 - 76
D	53 - 64
E	41 - 52
F	0 - 40