

Master's thesis

Guidelines: Standardized assessment form

Assessment of	Criterion: <i>Comments</i>	Max. score	Assessment	Comments
Introduction and theory (max. 20 p.)	Academic foundation	5		
	Theoretical insight	7		
	Description of objectives	3		
	Own contribution	5		
Methods and approach to work (max. 30 p.)	Level of skill	10		
	Approach to work	5		
	Work effort	5		
	Independence	10		
Results and discussion (max 30 p.)	Result (the work)	10		
	Analysis, discussion and conclusion	10		
	Critical reflection	5		
	Own contribution/achievement of goals	5		
Presentation (max. 15 p.)	Structure	5		
	Language	5		
	Form	5		
Oral (max. 5 p.)	Presentation in connection with the final examination	5		
Total		100		

- Information from the supervisor to the assessment commission is submitted on a separate form.
- Assessment of the master's thesis includes an assessment of the written work and may also include an oral examination and/or oral presentation. The course description for the master's thesis indicates how much the oral presentation counts towards the final grade.

- If the oral presentation does not count towards the final grade, the grade for the oral is set as 0 in the form. The final sum is then multiplied by 100/95 to calculate the final sum in the form.

Use of the assessment form

The assessment form is intended as a working document for assessment commissions and will not be suitable as a justification of the assessment or as feedback to students. It is also not intended as a record of the assessment. A separate assessment record is submitted to the examination commissions.

For the elements included in the assessment form, separate descriptions have been drawn up for the aspects to be assessed. See below.

Description of assessment elements

Academic foundation

Is the theoretical and academic basis well described, so that the work is positioned in the international research for the discipline?

Theoretical insight

Does the thesis, especially the introduction, document the candidate's advanced knowledge of the discipline's theory and methods in general as well as specialized insight into a delimited area of particular importance to the thesis?

Description of objectives

Are the objectives and/or relevant hypotheses presented in a clear and understandable way?

Level of skill

Does the candidate have a command of relevant methods and use them in his or her own work in an appropriate and integrated way?

The work

Does the work reflect creativity and/or contribute to innovation? Does the work appear to be particularly extensive? What is the assessment of the quality and significance of new knowledge/results generated in the work?

Analysis and discussion

Are the analysis, interpretation/synthesis and discussion grounded in the discipline, well-reasoned and clearly linked to the research question? Does the discussion reflect a high academic standard? Can the candidate apply his or her knowledge and skills in new areas and place the results in a broader context?

Critical reflection

Does the candidate provide a reasonable evaluation of the significance of the results? Does the candidate have a critical approach to different sources of information? Are elements of uncertainty, such as method errors, measurement errors and others, considered and discussed? Are relevant issues in the subject area, profession, and research ethics analysed?

Own contribution/achievement of goals

Can the candidate clearly distinguish his or her own contribution from that of others? Does the written work include a conclusion in which the results are well summarized with an evaluation of the extent to which the objectives have been achieved? Is there a reasonable and justified proposal for further studies or the potential for further research?

Structure

Does the written work have a rigorous structure (normally IMRaD: Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion)? Is the work generally clearly structured?

Language

Can the candidate present the research question and results with the required academic precision? Is the work easy to read, using language of high quality?

Form

Is a consistent style used for references, figures and tables? Is the quality of figures and tables satisfactory? Does the candidate have a command of the subject area's language and terminology?

Sources: Universities Norway (UHR), the Norwegian Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Scoring guidelines

Each assessment criterion is given a subtotal so that the possible grand total is 100. If a criterion such as "academic foundation" has a maximum score of 5 points, the points are allocated according to the following scale:

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 satisfactory performance for the master's degree

1 points - some value, but not good enough to be acceptable

0 points - little or nothing of value

Indicative point ranges for letter grades

Grade	Points range
A	89 - 100
B	77 - 88
C	65 - 76
D	53 - 64
E	41 - 52
F	0 - 40

Source: [NTNU – Descriptions of the grades for master's theses](#)