

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SECOND CYCLE DEGREE COURSE IN
DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION REGULATION

Article 1

Subject

This Regulation, following the University of Padua's Academic Regulation (hereinafter, RDA) and the second cycle degree Course Regulation in Developmental and Educational Psychology, sets the rules for the final examination. It covers the aspects that are not specified in aforementioned regulations.

Article 2

Second cycle degree Course final examination

The amount of CFU assigned to the final examination is specified in each cohort's Manifesto degli studi. Please note that each CFU corresponds to 25 hours of work, spread over a suitable time frame, depending on the final dissertation workload.

The final examination involves:

- a. an evaluative practical test (hereinafter, PPV) which is designed to verify the professional skills and competencies acquired through the internship and to ascertain the candidate's level of technical preparation for licensure as a Psychologist. The PPV is organized in accordance with art. 3, D.I. 5 July 2022, no. 654 and is passed with the achievement by the student of a judgment of suitability, which allows access to the discussion of the dissertation.
- b. preparing and presenting a final dissertation (i.e., "thesis") "elaborata in modo originale dallo studente sotto la guida di un relatore" ("original work produced by the student, guided by a supervisor"; see article 11, paragraph 5, D.M. 22 October 2004, no. 270).

The final dissertation is a self-directed work that can be either an empirical research report from various settings (e.g., laboratory, education, clinic, social, organization, etc.) or a critical review of studies on a specific topic.

The final dissertation must include a conceptual definition of the phenomenon to be investigated and the identification of the appropriate methodology, based on an in-depth literature analysis.

The writing of the work must follow the conventional expository criteria established by the psychological disciplinary field. In the case of the research design plan, it must include the identification of the subjects and/or contexts to be observed/intervened; the implementation of procedures that guarantee complete

ethical/deontological appropriateness of the project in accordance with the current reference standards; the administration of the tests or interventions envisaged; data analysis, a critical interpretation of the results and placement within the theoretical reference context. The final dissertation must be supported by an appropriate bibliography, compiled in accordance with the conventional criteria of the psychological discipline.

The final dissertation is the final stage of a student's university education, and the work produced must demonstrate the level achieved. The personal approach of the dissertation is therefore necessary both to enable the student to demonstrate his or her level of competence achieved and to enable the Graduation Committee to make an accurate assessment of the work submitted. The independent nature of the final dissertation does not preclude the possibility of research on the same topic being carried out by several students, each of whom focusing on a specific aspect or analysing the same topic using different tools.

The final dissertation may also concern non-psychological disciplines offered by the School of Psychology.

The thesis may also be written in a foreign language previously agreed with the thesis advisor and approved by the Course of study Council. In this case, the thesis must also contain a short abstract in Italian (Art. 5, paragraph 2 of the Course Regulation). The discussion may be conducted in a foreign language.

Article 3

Anti-plagiarism, anti-fraud and confidentiality measures

It is the student's responsibility to prepare their final dissertation through personal work on the chosen topic, in accordance with the regulations governing copyright and ownership of intellectual works at all levels (art. 28, paragraph 8 of Regolamento delle Carriere degli studenti). Please note that it is an offence (Law no. 475/1925, amended in 1999) to present as one's own a work that has been copied in whole or in part. Texts and websites identified independently or suggested by the supervisor as bibliographical bases for the thesis must always be duly cited, even if they are only summarized.

Article 4

The School of Psychology Graduation Board

The School of Psychology Graduation Board is hereby established. The Graduation Board consists of three members belonging to the three Departments (DPG, DPSS, FISPPA) to which the Study Courses coordinated by the School of Psychology relate. The members of the Board are appointed by the School Council on the proposal of the Departments concerned. The Graduation Board performs the following functions: it coordinates the procedures for assigning the final dissertation supervisors; it

constitutes the Graduation Committee; it supervises the progress of the above-mentioned procedures and makes proposals for their improvement. In carrying out its duties, the Graduation Board is assisted by the School of Psychology's Didactic Office. The Graduation Board remains in office for three years or in any case until the end of the mandate of the Head of the School Council.

Article 5

Supervisor application

A supervisor can be chosen among:

- full professors, associate professors and researchers who are teachers in charge in degree Courses belonging to the School of Psychology;
- full professors, associate professors and researchers belonging to other departments/Universities but who are teachers in charge in degree Courses belonging to the School of Psychology;
- contract lecturers (until their contract deadline); the maximum number of undergraduates for contract lecturers is set at two for each year of contract.

Complementary activities contract lecturers cannot be selected as supervisors by undergraduates.

Supervisors may be assisted by internal and external co-supervisors, up to a maximum of two. In any case, the dissertation is the responsibility of the supervisor, who is responsible for its presentation and discussion. The names of the co-supervisors can appear on the cover page of the dissertation.

Article 6

The Graduation Committee

For second cycle degree Course final examinations, the head of the Department to which the Course refers chooses one or more Graduation Committee. Each Committee has at least 5 lecturers (plus two deputies), and one of them is designated as President (see art. 10, paragraph 5 of RDA).

The President of the Graduation Committee must be a full professor or an associate professor. The faculty members participating in the Graduate Committee may be full or associate professors or researchers. Contract lecturers and external co-supervisors can join the Graduation Committee only when the theses they are involved in are discussed.

The School of Psychology Graduation Board (see art. 4 of this Regulation) appoints a second supervisor to each undergraduate from the members of the Graduation Committee.

If there are candidates from different study Courses coordinated by the School of Psychology, but from different Departments (DPG, DPSS, FISPPA), in the same graduation session, then the Graduation Committee is appointed by the Director of

the Department which the President of the Graduation Committee belongs to.

Lecturers who are no longer working at the University of Padua (because of contract expiration, retirement, transfer) are not allowed to approve dissertation titles (via Uniweb) (if the application for graduation is after their service ends), nor approve dissertations (via Uniweb). These lecturers must identify a faculty member who will assume to all intents and purposes their role as thesis advisor. They can be external co-supervisors (on the title page of the thesis) and in this role they can participate in the meetings of the Graduation Committees, but only for the theses for which they are external co-supervisors. If no other professors/lecturers/researchers are available to be supervisors, the Graduation Committee will automatically assign the undergraduate to another lecturer of the degree Course on the basis of the subject area and the number of undergraduate students already in charge of the lecturer.

Article 7

Second cycle degree graduation sessions

The graduation sessions are scheduled according to the graduation periods established by the Academic Calendar.

Before the beginning of each Academic Year, all graduation periods for the forthcoming Academic year are published on the School of Psychology website (www.psicologia.unipd.it).

For graduation periods, all lecturers of the Courses coordinated by the School of Psychology must be available to be part of the Graduation Committee as first or second supervisor or member. Lecturers must confirm their availability to the School of Psychology's Didactic Office in accordance with the procedures and deadlines indicated. In case of non-response to the request for confirmation of availability within the established deadlines, the lecturer may be assigned to one or more Degree Committee automatically.

If designated lecturers cannot attend a Graduation Committee meeting, they must find a suitable replacement. They must contact the first deputy and, after confirming their availability, inform the Didactic Office of the School and the President of the Graduation Committee about the replacement.

Undergraduates must submit the documentation needed to graduate, following the deadlines and procedures established at the beginning of the Academic Year and given in the "Scadenario delle sessioni di laurea magistrale" ("Schedule of Master Graduation Sessions") published on the School of Psychology's website.

The Graduation Committee's session schedule must be published at least eight days before the start of the graduation period.

The undergraduate must contact the assigned second supervisor within three days of the publication of the Graduation session schedule.

Article 8

Evaluation Criteria

The final examination is considered passed if the undergraduate has obtained a score of at least 66 out of 110 (see art. 10, paragraph 5 of RDA).

The final examination grade is out of 110 and calculated like as follows:

(a) ref. art. 4, paragraph 1 of the Course Regulation: weighted average (MP) of the exams grades v_i weighted for CFU/ECTS (c_i) and related to the result out of 110, as in the following expression:

$$MP = (\sum_i v_i c_i / \sum_i c_i) 110/30$$

(b) undergraduates who undergo the final examination within the second year of their cohort, without the benefit of previous academic career's exam recognition, are rewarded with 2 out of 110 extra bonus added to the final grade (once rounded down until 0.5, rounded up from 0.51);

(c) adding the MP and the bonus (point (b)), there must be algebraically added/subtracted the final dissertation evaluation, referring to the following scale: 0-3 out of 110 (pass), 4-6 out of 110 (merit), 6+ out of 110 (distinction) (complying with 2nd of February 2005 Didactic Committee and 25th of March 2005 Faculty Committee outlines).

The criteria in point (b) and (c) are outlined by the degree Course Council and approved by the Department that the degree Course belongs to.

When the undergraduate has obtained the maximum grade, the Graduation Committee can attribute cum laude recognition (art. 10, paragraph 5 of RDA and art. 6, paragraph 2 of the Course Regulation). Cum laude requires a Graduation Committee unanimous agreement.

Article 9

Proclamation

The proclamation happens right after the undergraduate presents and defends their dissertation in front of the Graduation Committee. The undergraduate gets their degree on the date they take part in the graduation session and proclamation.

Article 10

Transitional regulations

This Regulation will take effect from the second graduation period of the Academic Year 2023/2024. These provisions apply, to the extent enforceable, also to previous cohorts.