



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



Ingegneria  
Palermo Gestionale

## MSc Degree in Management Engineering Final Graduation Requirements

*Approved by the CICS - July 18, 2023*



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## Index

<b>Art. 1 About the Final Exam (Thesis Defense)</b> .....	3
<b>Art. 2 Admission to the Final Exam</b> .....	3
<b>Art. 3 Thesis Requirements</b> .....	3
<b>Art. 4 Examination Committee</b> .....	4
<b>Art. 5 Computation of the Final Grade</b> .....	4

The present document is written in accordance with the Academic Regulation n. 341/2019 of the University of Palermo and the Resolution of the Academic Senate of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and subsequent modifications.

### **Art. 1 About the Final Exam (Thesis Defense)**

In accordance with the Art. 30 of the Academic Regulation n. 341/2019, the student must take a final exam which consists of the public defense of the thesis in front of an Examination Committee. The thesis has to meet the requirements specified in the Art. 3 of the present document. The MSc in Management Engineering plans the dates of the final exams in compliance with the Academic Calendar of the University of Palermo. Every year, the following three graduation periods (sessions) are planned at least:

- 1) Summer Session (June/July);
- 2) Fall Session (September/October).
- 3) Spring Session (February/March).

To be admitted to the final exam, the student must have acquired all credits (CFU) of the MSc Degree Program (net of those of the master thesis) before the deadline established by the Calendar of the University of Palermo.

### **Art. 2 Admission to the Final Exam**

With at least six months in advance respect to the expected graduation date, the student contacts the teacher of the subject within which the student is willing to develop the thesis project-research. The teacher will be the thesis supervisor. During the first meeting, the teacher and the student discuss possible proposals of the thesis project-research and define the topic. Six months before the expected graduation date the student fill the Form for Thesis and Supervisor assignment and send it to the Secretariat.

The thesis's supervisor is a tenured faculty member/researcher or an external instructor who has an academic appointment with teaching functions, belonging to the CICS. The supervisor may be also a teacher of the "free choice subject" selected by the student.

The supervisor is required to attend the graduation session where the student will publicly defense her/his thesis. Otherwise, the supervisor has to promptly notify her/his absence to the Academic Coordinator, who will replace him/her.

The supervisor may be supported by another professor, researcher, external instructor, research fellow, Ph.D. student, or external expert, who assumes the role of co-supervisor.

### **Art. 3 Thesis Requirements**

The topic of the thesis has be of interest for the Management Engineering discipline. The thesis should demonstrate the student's knowledge about the topic of the thesis, her/his ability to work autonomously, aptitude to engineering analyses and practices in complex and dynamic contexts.

The thesis should report either a scientific work or a project work, both of managerial interest and related to whatever managerial-economic-organizational system. The thesis must include an initial literature review of the technical/scientific papers used as a theoretical basis for the thesis itself and must end by the managerial implications of the study carried out.

The thesis must also contain a brief introduction (2-3 pages) where the goal, the investigated context, the implemented methodology, and the outcomes are clearly described. The thesis must be written in Times New Roman, font size 12-point with 1.5-line spacing and margins 2 cm at the top, bottom and right edges, and 3.5 cm at the left edge. Including tables, graphs, figures and bibliography, the thesis does not have to exceed 100 folders, excluding the appendices. For the public defense of the thesis, the student has to prepare a Power Point file of 30 slides at most, to be presented within 15 minutes, while 5 further minutes will be used to answer the Examination Committee's questions.

The presentation-defense has to demonstrate the student communication skills in line with the intended

educational objectives, specialized knowledge of the treated topic, and autonomy of judgment and insight.

The thesis, or part of it, may also be developed at or in collaboration with other institutions and/or companies, public or private, National or International.

#### Art. 4 Examination Committee

In accordance with the Academic Regulation n. 341/2019, the Examination Committee is appointed by the Academic Coordinator and comprises from 7 to 9 members, between professors and researchers. The Academic Coordinator takes the role of President of the Examination Committee. Also, three substitutes have to be nominated by the Academic Coordinator.

In order to allow substitutes to be convened in time, full members who are not available to attend the graduation session they are appointed for must inform the Coordinator, at least 48 hours before the beginning of the session itself, also specifying the reason for their unavailability.

External instructors and experts may also be part of the Examination Committee, supernumerary and only limited to the public defense of the thesis for which they are supervisors or co-supervisors.

The Chairman of the Examination Committee is the Coordinator or his/her delegate.

#### Art. 5 Computation of the Final Grade

The **final score** is the sum of the initial score plus the additional score.

The **initial score** is computed as the sum of the following values.

- ECTS-weighted average of grades achieved in all courses and expressed on a 110-scale; if the student added in the plan of study an extra subject, these will also be considered in the initial score.
- Three points at most, to the extent of 0.5 points for every honor (*lode*).

The initial score resulting from the sum of the aforementioned values is rounded to the nearest integer (e.g. 102.50 equals 103, while 102.49 equals 102).

The **additional score** can be given by the Examination Committee to a maximum of 3 points, as follows:

- one point for international experience with international mobility programs of the University of Palermo (Erasmus+ EU/Extra-EU, Double Degree, PIS, Visiting), subject to one of the following conditions:
  - o acquisition of 15 ECTS abroad, at least;
  - o study activities aimed to the thesis writing;
  - o acquisition of certificates and/or diplomas of attendance at foreign Institutions.
- two points to be awarded to the student who has completed his/her MSc Degree Program within the legal duration (graduation before the Spring Session of the second year).

The **final grade** is computed as the sum of the **final score** (initial score + additional scores) plus the **dissertation score** given by the Examination Committee to the thesis and its dissertation. This last score given by the Examination Committee can range from 0 to 8 points (proposed by the thesis supervisor and approved by the majority of votes) unless a special procedure for "excellent thesis" is activated by the supervisor. In this last case, the supervisor has to start the procedure at last two weeks before graduation sending a motivated request to the Academic Coordinator who will select a Reviewer of the thesis among the professors and researchers of the University of Palermo. The reviewer will produce a motivated and written positive or negative judgement about the excellence of the thesis. 24 hours before the beginning of the graduation session, the Academic Coordinator sends the reviewer report to the Examination Committee. To assign any score above 8, the unanimity of the votes of the Examination Committee is required.

If the student reaches the score of 110/110, the Examination Committee may decide to confer the degree with honors (*cum laude*). The proposal of 110/110 *cum laude* may arise from one of the members of the Examination Committee and the decision must be taken unanimously. The final grade of 110/110 *cum laude* may be granted

to students whose initial score is not less than 102/110.

For a thesis having a high scientific and/or practical relevance, the supervisor may request a specific award (*special mention to the thesis*). The request may only concern those students whose initial score is not smaller than 105/110 and the final grade is 110/110 *cum laude*. Fifteen days before the graduation session, the supervisor must send one copy of the thesis (in pdf format) to the Academic Coordinator, along with a cover letter to highlight the relevance of the thesis as well as the ability, diligence and autonomy of the student during the thesis development. The Coordinator selects a committee of three experts who will be asked to express their judgment on the proposed award. The written judgment must be delivered to the Coordinator in a sealed envelope. The judgment is positive only if the majority of the three experts agree. If the student's grade is 110/110 *cum laude*, the President opens the envelope and communicates the judgment to the Examination Committee. The award is conferred if the proposal is unanimously approved by the Examination Committee. The *special mention to the thesis* will be publicly announced by the Chairman during the graduation ceremony.

For those students who are awarded 110/110 *with honors*, whose initial score is no less than 105 and who graduated "in time" (i.e. within the second year of study) the Examination Committee may decide to confer the *special mention to the academic career*. The proposal may arise from one of the members of the Examination Committee and the decision must be taken unanimously. The *special mention to the academic career* will be publicly announced by the Chairman during the graduation ceremony.

#### Art. 6 Transitional Rules

The present document will come into effect for students enrolled in the first year of the academic year 2023/24 and subsequent academic years of enrollment.