

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING MASTER'S THESES – MPHIL IN CHILDHOOD STUDIES, NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, NTNU

Note: Guidelines are intended for precisely that, as guidelines. The overall evaluation is the most important.

I. Points to be emphasized

- a) Candidate's ability to define a research topic and develop approaches to research problems.
- b) Candidate's ability to develop a perspective and familiarise him/herself with theoretical and empirical research within the field.
- c) Candidate's ability to deal independently with the thesis' content.
- d) Candidate's ability to present his/her work orderly, including an awareness of current standards for contributions to scientific publications, e.g. those concerning formatting references.
- e) Candidate's originality in contribution to new research problems and results.
- f) Candidate's methodology.
- g) The thesis is worth 60 credits.

II. Grading scale

The grading scale used in conjunction with the examination for evaluation of the thesis ranges from A (highest grade) to F (failed). Please note that the thesis is worth 60 credits and is normally based upon an empirical study.

A:

Grade A is reserved for theses which demonstrate excellent knowledge of the field, independence and originality with regards to social relevance, problem formulation, analytical skills and methodology. The results are presented in a concise manner.

B:

A well-structured and well-written thesis, with a defined research problem, adequate use of theory and methods, and well-formulated conclusions or recommendations. The candidate demonstrates ability to work independently. Minor weaknesses or mistakes are accepted.

C:

Treatment of a research problem based on recognised methodology. Alternatively, a more original approach and/or a higher level of theoretical and methodological ability, but in which the execution partly demonstrates theoretical and/or methodological weaknesses.

D:

The work indicates little independent thinking and limited ability in formulating clear approaches. Treatment of problems and presentation of results are characterised by serious theoretical and methodological errors.

E:

The thesis is characterised by a lack of understanding of approaches to research, weak scientific treatment of problems and poor presentation.

F:

The work is marked by lack of approach and serious theoretical and methodological errors and omissions.

III. Plagiarism/copying

Plagiarism/copying is considered cheating. In cases where this is suspected the candidate is not awarded a grade, and the case is dealt with according to the 'Guidelines for treatment of cheating/attempting to cheat in examinations at NTNU as stipulated by the Board of NTNU, 12.10.2006:

https://www.ntnu.no/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=afc7f5d3-1388-492f-aceb-046b4a2e3f62&groupId=10578 (in Norwegian)

More on cheating on exams:

<https://innsida.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/English/Cheating+on+exams>