GUIDELINES FOR GRADING MASTER’S THESSES – 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](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](https://innsida.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/English/Cheating+on+exams)