

Assessing master's theses - Attachment to *Descriptions of grades for master's theses in mathematics, natural sciences and technology*

During the academic year 2012/2013, new guidelines for grading master's theses in mathematics, natural sciences and technology came into effect. The new system applies to students who began a 2-year master's degree during autumn 2012, and students who started the last two years of a 5-year master's degree in autumn 2012.

Using the new definitions of grade categories the whole grading scale will be used. The master's thesis itself, and how it is conducted, will not be affected.

Why redefine the grading system?

In 2003, a letter-based grading system was introduced. Statistics indicate that in grading master's theses, some of the grades in the scale are rarely used. This is the background for redefining the grading system on a national level.

It is important that this change in the grading of theses will not have adverse consequences for students. Consequently, we will ensure that adequate information is distributed to potential employers and other educational institutions. All certificates and diploma supplement documents will include an updated description of the grading system.

Assessments by supervisors and examiners

New guidelines for supervisors and examiners will ensure a unified understanding of the grading system. These guidelines provide detailed explanations and examples regarding the terminology used.

Master's theses must be submitted before the allotted deadline in order to be eligible for assessment. This is included in guidelines for supervisors.