Final examination

The final test consists of a Power Point presentation (lasting 15 minutes) of the thesis written autonomously by the student in English, which documents in an organic and detailed way the research topic dealt with by the student under the guidance of a lecturer on the Degree Course.

In order to be admitted to take the Master's Degree Final Examination in Pharmacy, the student must have attended all the courses foreseen by the Educational Regulations and have acquired, in total, 285 Credits (CFU), divided over the 5 years of the course, including credits obtained for the professional internship (30 CFU); up to 15 CFU are awarded for the final exam.

The written work may concern

1) collection and critical analysis of bibliographic material or other data concerning the cultural and professional contents of the Degree Course (compilatory thesis);

2) experimental activity carried out on an original mono or multidisciplinary theme that involves the collection and analysis of data, such as clinical, legislative, or bio-IT (experimental thesis data-analysis);

3) experimental activity carried out on an original mono or multidisciplinary theme in a research laboratory, or other public or private structures with which special agreements have been stipulated, where a lecturer of the Degree Course works (experimental laboratory thesis).

The timescale for the preparation of the thesis must respect the following limitations:
Compilatory Thesis: At least 4 months before the final discussion of the thesis.
Experimental thesis - data-analysis or laboratory thesis: At least 8 months before the final discussion of the thesis. The first 6 months require the student's full-time involvement and therefore do not allow any time overlap with practical training carried out in pharmacies.

The student can start the activities related to the thesis once he/she has already acquired 180 CFU and he/she cannot request a thesis from several lecturers at the same time and must submit the request at least 12 months before the planned degree sessions, both for the compilative and experimental thesis.

The minimum requirements and evaluation of the thesis:

- The student must demonstrate that he or she has acquired the ability to: argue a topic, organizing its contents starting from the main reference literature; find, select and structure the bibliography and documentation relevant to the chosen topic; draft a text in a clear and coherent form, also taking into account certain editorial standards; present and summarize the thesis orally. The candidate is also invited to prepare an abstract of his/her work to be delivered to each member of the Degree Commission.

- In the event of a positive evaluation of the degree examination, the candidate may be awarded a maximum of 7 points to be added to the weighted average of the marks of the exams taken.

This score, which also takes into account the student's career merits, will be awarded as follows:
5 points awarded by the Commission plus 2 bonus points distributed as follows:
1 point for the achievement of the degree within the timescales set out in the study plan;
1 point for participation in internships abroad which last at least 4 months.

Minimum requirements and evaluation for the experimental thesis:
- The student must demonstrate that he/she has acquired a critical capacity in the argumentation of

the topic in question, as well as a solid theoretical framework and a rigorous methodology of laboratory or database research. The candidate is also invited to prepare an abstract of his/her work to be delivered to each member of the Degree Commission.
- In the event of a positive assessment of the degree examination, the candidate may be awarded a maximum of 11 points to be added to the weighted average of the marks of the exams taken. This score, also taking into account the student's career merits, will be awarded as follows:

7 points awarded by the commission for an experimental data analysis thesis or 9 points awarded by the commission for an experimental laboratory thesis plus 2 bonus points distributed as follows:
1 point for the achievement of the degree within the timescales set out in the study plan;
1 point for participation in internships abroad lasting at least 4 months.

The Degree Commission is appointed by the Director of the Department of reference, following proposal by the Coordinator, and is composed of 7 members including the President.
The Degree Commission establishes the degree mark on the basis of the student's career and the evaluation of the presentation. Each member has up to one point available.
Honours (*cum laude*) may be proposed by the counter-supervisor and unanimously approved by the Commission.
The Commission will also have the task of defining whether the paper submitted has the characteristics of an experimental or compilative thesis.

A student who obtains a final result equal to or higher than 66/110 has passed the course and is awarded the Master's Degree. If the maximum number of votes (110/110) is achieved, the Committee may award the degree in conditions of unanimity.

The forms and procedures for filing the degree thesis on digital media are available on the website of the Degree Course in the "Thesis" section and on the Macroarea website.

The final examination (*degree exam*) of the master's degree course in Pharmacy consists in the oral discussion of an individual dissertation. The drafting and discussion of the thesis requires the choice of a supervisor, who must be a tenured professor of the university holding a chair at the degree course to which the student is enrolled. The topic will be in line with the course attended by the student. The student cannot request concurrently the thesis to different professors and must submit the request at least *12 months* before the degree sessions scheduled, no matter if the thesis is desk-based or experimental.

The preparation of the paper must respect the following duration.
Experimental thesis: it has to begin at least *8 months* before the dissertation. The first 6 months, which require full-time activities in the laboratory, do not allow temporal overlaps with the vocational training to be carried out in pharmacies.
Desk-based thesis: it has to begin at least *4 months* before the dissertation.
A second teacher, who also holds a teaching at the degree course, will have the role of assistant supervisor during the final examination; any assignment of the role of assistant supervisor to an external member must be authorized by the president of the master's degree course in Pharmacy. During the final dissertation, the presence of the assistant supervisor among the members of the Graduation Commission will be limited to the discussion of the thesis concerned.
The subject of the thesis is agreed between the student and his/her advisor, who supervises, from a methodological and scientific point of view, the development of the project. Students who have already obtained a degree can not carry out their dissertation on the same subject (as confirmed by the copy of the title page of the previous thesis). Students who intend to prepare the degree thesis abroad, as part of the Erasmus program or similar, are required to attach to the learning agreement form a special declaration drawn up and signed by their supervisor, which briefly describes the research carried out at the hosting university. The document has to indicate also the name of the tutor and assess the activity performed.
The Graduation Commission is chaired by the president of the master's degree course or by a designated person (tenured professor teaching at the degree course) and consists of 7 members. The role of secretary is assigned to a member of the commission itself.
For the final evaluation of the thesis, the commission will take into consideration the student's overall academic career, the assessment of the thesis made by the advisor and the assistant supervisor and the evaluation of the skills demonstrated by the candidate during the discussion.

These are the minimum requirements and the evaluation criteria relating to a *desk-based thesis*.
The student must demonstrate to be able to argue a topic, organize its content starting from the main literature on the matter, find, select and structure the bibliography and documentation relevant to the chosen topic, draw up a text in a clear and correct form, also taking into account drafting rules, and expose and synthesize the paper orally. The student is also invited to prepare an abstract of this paper for each member of the Graduation Commission.
In case of positive evaluation of the dissertation, a maximum of **7 points** can be assigned and added to the weighted average of the marks.
Taking into account the student's career merits, too, these points are assigned as follows:
5 points awarded by the commission plus **2 bonus points** distinguished as follows:
- *1 point* for graduation within the deadline provided for by the study plan;
- *1 point* for participation in internships abroad lasting at least 4 months.

These are the minimum requirements and the evaluation criteria relating to an *experimental thesis*. The student must demonstrate to be able in discussing the topic assigned, as well as to have a solid theoretical framework and a rigorous laboratory or database research methodology. The student is also invited to prepare an abstract of his paper for each member of the Graduation Commission

In case of positive evaluation of the dissertation, a maximum of **11 points** can be assigned and added to the weighted average of the marks. Taking into account the student's career merits, too, these points are assigned as follows:

7 points awarded by the commission plus **4 bonus points** distinguished as follows:

- **1 point** for graduation within the deadline provided for by the study plan;
- **1 point** for participation in internships abroad lasting at least 4 months;
- **2 points** for the innovation character of the thesis.