

Guidelines for Writing the Preliminary and Final Assessment of a PhD Thesis

The assessment of a PhD thesis is a crucial task, as it ultimately forms the basis for awarding the PhD degree. This document serves multiple purposes. The preliminary assessment acts as a testament to the institution regarding the thesis's acceptability for public defense and prepares the PhD student for potential issues during the defense. The final assessment provides the documentation for the Academic Council's decision to award the PhD degree and serves as a future testament to the PhD student's work, potentially aiding their future career.

It is mandatory to use the template provided by the Doctoral School. The template includes instructions on the formalities of the assessment document and the subjects to be covered.

You are free to organize the work among yourselves. However, the document must be presented as a joint effort with coherent language throughout, rather than as three individual assessments combined. The chair of the assessment committee is responsible for ensuring that all formalities of the template document are adhered to and that the language is coherent in style and free of typos and other errors.

The assessment must discuss and highlight the scientific contributions of the thesis. It is imperative to balance positive and negative criticism. While it is acceptable to address weaknesses in the thesis, even when recommending it for defense and degree, it must be clear to any reader why the conclusion is positive. The chair is responsible for ensuring coherence between premises, argumentation, and conclusion in the assessment.

The preliminary assessment must conclude with a reasoned argument as to why the thesis can be accepted for defense. If the thesis cannot be accepted for defense, you must state in the conclusion whether it can be resubmitted in a revised version and, if so, set a deadline for resubmission. The deadline must be no less than three months, with the number of months indicating the severity of the thesis's weaknesses.

After the defense, the document is supplemented with a short section covering the defense and a final reasoned conclusion stating whether the thesis and defense can form the basis for the conferral of the PhD degree by the Academic Council.