



Faculty-wide guidelines for cumulative dissertations

Decision of the Faculty Council from 28 October 2013, last amended by a decision on 28 April 2025

Remark

The following guidelines are to be understood as a faculty-wide recommendation for the preparation and assessment of cumulative dissertations. The different disciplinary cultures in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences should be considered when assessing the dissertation.

They apply to the degrees “Dr. oec.” and “Dr. rer. soc.” in accordance with Section 7 (3) of the Doctoral Regulations from 13 February 2015 and to doctoral procedures that are initiated in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 (2) of the Doctoral Regulations for the degree “Dr. oec.” from 28 November 2013 (effective 1 April 2014).

- 1) A cumulative dissertation consists of several scientific articles (generally three scientific articles), an overarching introduction and a concluding overall discussion. The scientific articles are supposed to be assigned to a distinguishable subject area of the department from which the dissertation topic is chosen. The articles may have already been published or submitted for publication.

An overview of the articles included in a cumulative dissertation must be submitted with the application to initiate the Doctoral Examination Process. This must contain the following information for each article, in the order of the chapters: Title, chapter no., publication status with journal and number of authors. A template for such an article overview is provided by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences.

The introduction refers to all scientific articles included and must make it clear which overarching question links the individual parts of the dissertation and which aspects are covered by the respective articles. The overall discussion must make it clear what the scientific articles as a whole contribute to answering the research question.

Formally, a uniform appearance of the dissertation must be ensured. Scientific articles that have already been published or accepted for publication must be included regardless of the print format of the publication.

- 2) If parts of the dissertation are written with co-authors or if a dissertation is based on investigations that were carried out as part of a joint research project, the individual contribution of the doctoral candidate must be clearly distinguishable and measurable. The

doctoral candidate must enclose a statement written by him or her about his or her contribution to the dissertation, which must be confirmed in writing by all co-authors where possible. For this purpose, the web form of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences for generating declarations of co-authorship has to be used.

The doctoral candidate should be the single author of at least one of the included articles.

- 3) The assessment of previously published scientific articles is the responsibility of the reviewers of the dissertation. It cannot be replaced by the mere reproduction of the results of a review procedure. If a scientific article has not yet been submitted for publication, it is the responsibility of the reviewers to certify its publication potential and, if necessary, to decide whether further scientific articles are required for the dissertation.

The reviews of a cumulative dissertation must, in addition to assessing the content of the individual studies as a whole and through the quantification of the share (see co-authors' declarations), in particular show the scientific contributions of the doctoral candidate. If, in the case of a cumulative dissertation, the doctoral candidate's share of one or more articles is less than 30% in each case, the first review must also contain a statement with a detailed assessment of the particular quality of the doctoral candidate's contributions to the individual article(s) and the overall doctoral performance.

The dissertation should be assessed by at least one reviewer who is not involved in the scientific articles.