

REGULATIONS FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN MATERIALS SCIENCE

These Regulations shall take effect and be enforceable as of the 2nd graduation period of A.Y. 2024/2025 and shall also apply, to the extent compatible, to earlier cohorts. Graduations of the old “Scienza dei Materiali” second-cycle degree course will also be conducted with the same procedure.

For the final degree examination, the following committees are established:

I) The **Commissione Didattica** (CD, com.lauree.sdm@chimica.unipd.it), responsible for handling all technical formalities outlined in these regulations.

II) **Pre-graduation examination committees**, appointed by the CD and composed of three members.

III) The **Master's Graduation Committee**, composed of a Chairperson and four members (plus two substitutes), which—based on the evaluation of the pre-graduation exam and the student's academic record—will determine the final grade and conduct the graduation proclamation during official sessions. The Graduation Committee will be appointed by the CD among active faculty members in the Master's Degree Program in Materials Science.

The official platform for uploading theses, evaluations, and committee reports is the Moodle page of the Master's Degree Program.

Thesis Period

Procedures for the Final Examination and degree conferral in the Master's Degree in Materials Science are defined in Articles 5 and 6 of the “Academic Regulations of the Master's Degree in Materials Science”. These regulations govern aspects delegated to the department by the Academic Regulations.

The final exam consists of a public presentation of a written thesis that critically describes the student's original scientific work (experimental, theoretical, or computational), carried out under the supervision of an advisor. The thesis must include an Italian translation of the title and a summary.

The thesis work is supervised by an Advisor appointed by the Teaching Committee (CD). Eligible Advisors include the faculty members affiliated with the Departments involved in delivering the teaching activities of the degree program and permanent researchers from research institutions affiliated with those departments. A Co-advisor may also be appointed if the thesis involves multiple laboratories and/or active supervision by another faculty member/researcher.

To begin the thesis, the student must have earned at least 50 ECTS. The start of the thesis must be formalized by submitting a specific form (available on the program website), signed by the proposed Advisor and sent to the CD for formal approval.

The final examination is worth 38 ECTS, equivalent to about 7 months of full-time work. The CD also appoints a **Second Reader (Controrelatore)**, chosen among eligible advisors, who will provide an overall assessment of the thesis based on at least two in-depth interviews with the student during the thesis period. It is the student's responsibility to arrange these interviews.

The CD ensures that the time and workload associated with the thesis comply with the program's academic regulations and these final exam regulations. At the end of the thesis period—and by the deadlines in the graduation calendar—the student must upload their thesis to Uniweb in PDF/A format named **name.surname.pdf**. Submission of the thesis marks the end of the thesis period.

Pre-Graduation Examination

After submitting the thesis, the student will present their work to a **pre-graduation committee**. This committee is appointed by the CD and consists of three members, one of whom is the student's Advisor; the

Second Reader is **not** a member. A chairperson for each committee will be appointed by the CD. A single committee may examine up to three students.

Committee composition will be communicated to the involved faculty and published on the Master's program website. The CD will make theses available to committee members via Moodle.

Committee members will arrange the date, time, and location of the pre-graduation exam, with the Advisor responsible for convening the student. The pre-graduation exam must take place in the days following the thesis submission in Uniweb and **at least one day before** the official graduation date. The CD oversees the scheduling to ensure all exams occur within the set time frame.

If a committee member is unexpectedly unable to attend, they are responsible for finding a replacement and informing the other members and the CD.

The pre-graduation exam will consist of a presentation by the student on the thesis work (ca **20 minutes**), followed by questions from the pre-graduation committee. The exam is scored out of a maximum of **8 points**, divided as follows:

- **0–4 points** from the Advisor, based on the thesis work and written document.
- **0–2 points** from the Second Reader, who provides a score and evaluation based on the thesis, the student's performance in interviews, and their final thesis.
- **0–2 points** from the two other committee members (excluding the Advisor), based on the written thesis, presentation, and ability to answer questions.

The Advisor and Second Reader must upload their evaluations to the Moodle platform **before** the pre-graduation exam.

An **additional point** is awarded for timely graduation to students who graduate by the last exam session of the second academic year from enrollment and have not already received credit recognition from previous careers.

If a student's **total score exceeds 113/110**, the pre-graduation committee may propose awarding **honors** (cum laude). This proposal must be **unanimously supported**, including by the Advisor.

The final pre-graduation score, weighted average of coursework, additional point, and any honors proposal are recorded in a **pre-graduation report**, which the committee chair uploads to Moodle. If the committee examines multiple students, a single consolidated report may be submitted.

Master's Graduation Session and Proclamation

The Graduation Committee is composed of a Chair and four members, appointed by the CD. Before the official session, the Chair downloads the pre-graduation reports from Moodle. The Graduation Committee is still responsible for verifying each student's weighted average in Uniweb and assigning the final grade.

The **final grade** is obtained by **rounding to the nearest integer** the student's total score as reported in the pre-graduation report (with 0.50 rounded up). If a student's score **before rounding** is over 113/110, honors may be granted at the discretion of the Graduation Committee, with a **unanimous vote** and based on the pre-graduation committee's proposal.