



Points grading system and applications for distinction (lode)

Each student's final degree grade is worked out by averaging the grades achieved in all end-of-course examinations, weighted by the credits assigned to each course. The formula for calculating each student's grade average is as follows:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\text{exam grade}_i \times \text{exam credits}_i)}{\text{total credits obtained}} \times \frac{110}{30}$$

The following rules also apply:

1. When working out the grade average from end-of-course examinations, all examinations passed with a grade of 30 with distinction (*30 e lode*) are considered to be worth 33 grade points. This principle applies indiscriminately for bachelor's and master's degree programmes and for four-year degree programmes.
2. In addition to the total grade points accumulated from successful examinations (calculated on a scale of 110), the following bonuses are also applied:
 - one grade point to students who have sat examinations or conducted research activities for the purpose of writing their final paper/thesis at foreign universities under the "LLP/Erasmus" scheme; this rule applies indiscriminately to bachelor's and master's degree programmes, and to four-year degree programmes, provided that the examinations have been duly accredited in the study plan; for students carrying out research activities only, these must be agreed with their supervisor ahead of time and authorised by their Faculty's Erasmus coordinator;
 - one grade point to students who have undertaken student placements abroad through the "LLP/Erasmus – Student Placement" scheme; this bonus cannot be accumulated with the bonus referred to in the paragraph above (1);
 - one grade point to students who have sat examinations or conducted research activities for the purpose of writing the final paper/thesis at foreign universities with which an agreement exists outside the "LLP/Erasmus" scheme; this rule applies indiscriminately to bachelor's and master's degree programmes and to four-year degree programmes, provided that the examinations have been duly accredited in the study plan; for students carrying out research activities only, these must be agreed with the supervisor ahead of time; this bonus cannot be accumulated with the bonus referred to in the two paragraphs above (2);
 - three grade points to students graduating in the summer and autumn graduation sessions of the third year of study; one point to students graduating in the winter graduation session of the third year of study; this rule applies only to bachelor's degree programmes.

With regard to degree boards for four-year degree programmes, the provisions laid down in article 28, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Faculty's General and Academic Regulations apply, which stipulate as follows:

"1. These Regulations apply, as applicable, to degree programmes established or transformed under Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and subsequent ministerial provisions concerning degree classes.

2. For students enrolled on degree programmes launched under regulations preceding Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and who do not opt into a degree programme regulated by the new regulations, the rules laid down in the previous Faculty Academic Regulations continue to apply, insofar as they are compatible.

(1) Paragraph added by resolution adopted by the Faculty Board at its meeting of 17 December 2009, which entered into application on 1 January 2010.

(2) Paragraph added by resolution adopted by the Faculty Board at its meeting of 17 December 2009, which entered into application on 1 January 2010.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
**FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE POLITICHE,
ECONOMICHE E SOCIALI**

During the graduation exam, before each student actually starts presenting the final paper/thesis, the supervisors must voice their own opinion on the student's final paper/thesis, in front of the Degree Board. The final degree grade is usually announced by each Degree Board after each defence.

The presentation and defence of the final paper/thesis and the grade announcement are allotted a total of 15 minutes for bachelor's degree programmes and 20 minutes for four-year and master's degree programmes.

To make the organisation of final examinations as efficient as possible, students may be scheduled at staggered times (five an hour for bachelor's degree programmes and four an hour for master's and four-year degree programmes).

The final paper/thesis and its defence are graded according to the table below:

	<i>bachelor's degrees</i>	<i>master's degrees</i>	<i>4-year degrees</i>
Assessment	Grade Points	Grade Points	Grade Points
Pass	0	0 to 1	0 to 2
Satisfactory	1 to 2	2 to 4	3 to 4
Good	3 to 4	5 to 7	5 to 7
Outstanding	5 to 6	8	8 to 10
Distinction and additional grade points	If a student achieves a grade points total, including the grade for the final paper, of more than 110, a distinction is awarded.	If a student obtains more than 8 points, and up to a maximum of 11, a distinction may be awarded (* (**)	If a student obtains more than 7 points, a distinction may be awarded (* (**)

(*) If the Degree Board unanimously grades a dissertation as excellent and the final degree grade is equal to or greater than 110/110, the Board may, where there is unanimity, award a distinction.

(**) Before awarding a distinction or a grade above the established thresholds, for master's degree and four-year degree programmes, the supervisor and co-supervisor should send a letter (signed jointly or two separate letters) to the Degree Board, where applicable, explaining the reasons supporting the distinction.