



Faculty-wide guidelines for cumulative dissertations

Decision of the Faculty Council from October 28, 2013, last amended on April 22, 2024

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 February 13, 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 November 28, 2013 (effective April 1, 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.

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) The dissertation may be submitted as a single work (monograph) or as a cumulative dissertation in accordance with the following subsections. In the case of prior publications, the doctoral candidates are responsible for ensuring that contractual agreements regarding copyright do not prevent publication in the doctoral examination process. No part of the dissertation may be the subject of a university, state, or ecclesiastical examination or of any other doctoral examination process, current or completed, of the doctoral candidates. 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 specialist 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 specialist articles are required for the dissertation.

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