

Cum laude

If the PhD candidate has demonstrated outstanding competence in the dissertation, then the distinction Cum laude may be awarded. According to the doctoral regulations, each member of the doctoral committee evaluating the manuscript must state in a reasoned manner whether and why the dissertation belongs to the top 5% of publications in the relevant field of study.

If almost all committee members are convinced that the dissertation is among the top 5% of publications in the relevant field of science, the dean shall appoint two external referees as soon as possible, on the recommendation of the supervisor.

Assessment by referees

The dean (head of the Department at the Faculty of Science) appoints two referees based on the proposal of the supervisor. The referees then receive an invitation to download the manuscript, review it and give a motivated assessment (within four weeks) whether or not to award the cum laude distinction. The manuscript can be downloaded and reviewed by clicking on the link in the corresponding email.

Your assessment

In line with the PhD regulations after a proposal for a cum laude predicate external referees are asked for their advice in the matter.

In the Netherlands, the cum laude predicate is only awarded to theses that belong to the top 5% of the relevant research field. When determining this, one can pay attention to the following criteria:


- the importance of the subject
- the importance of the problem definition and a sharp profiling thereof
- the originality of the approach
- the scientific level of organization, analysis and processing of the material
- the purity of the methodology used in this analysis
- the derivation of new insights and new ideas
- a critical confrontation of one's own conclusions with existing theories or views
- a creative approach to the scientific field covered in the thesis
- self-restraint in the drafting of the text
- balance in the structure of the thesis and clarity of the style

This is where you can indicate your assessment.

assessment*

- Positive advice regarding the award of the cum laude predicate (the dissertation belongs to the top 5% of publications in the relevant scientific field)
 Negative advice regarding the award of the cum laude predicate

motivation*



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