

Master's Dissertation

Code: 42144
ECTS Credits: 10

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4310025 Economics and Business Administration	OB	0	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Other comments on languages

This master is taught and evaluated entirely in English.

Prerequisites

None

Objectives and Contextualisation

The master's thesis is a carefully argued scholarly paper of approximately 6000 - 7500 words (roughly 25-30 pages). It should present either an original research well founded and developed on a topic of the students' interest, or a survey of the state-of-the-art literature over a topic of their interest that is carefully documented from reliable and prestigious sources. In any case, an original contribution is expected.

The thesis must have a focus that falls within the topics of the MEBA program, and it must be written under the guidance of an advisor.

In MEBA the master theses are written in groups of 2-3 people. It is the students' task to propose a group to other classmates or to join an existing group. There will be no intervention on the side of the program coordinators.

As the final element in the master's degree, the thesis gives the student an opportunity to demonstrate expertise in the chosen area and to develop the necessary team-work skills.

Competences

- Argue the case for and write a precise, clear and concise report of the problems presented in the English language.
- Carry out empirical studies.
- Carry out oral presentations in the English language.
- Contextualise economic problems through the use of formal models that enable quantitative analysis.
- Demonstrate creativity and originality in the planning of a Masters degree project in industrial organisation, public policy and finances

- Organise, plan and manage the information necessary for a Masters project in industrial organisation, public policy and finances
- Respect ethical, social and environmental values.
- Understand academic research in the areas indicated.
- Use different statistical programs to process data.

Learning Outcomes

1. Argue the case for and write a precise, clear and concise report of the problems presented in the English language.
2. Carry out empirical studies.
3. Carry out oral presentations in the English language.
4. Contextualise economic problems through the use of formal models that enable quantitative analysis.
5. Demonstrate creativity and originality in the planning of a Masters degree project in industrial organisation, public policy and finances
6. Organise, plan and manage the information necessary for a Masters project in industrial organisation, public policy and finances
7. Respect ethical, social and environmental values.
8. Understand academic research in the areas indicated.
9. Use different statistical programs to process data.

Content

After some initial research on the topic chosen, students write a 200-250 word abstract followed by some preliminary references. They approach a possible advisor with it and try to convince her or him about the value and interest of their proposal. Once their topic has been duly refined and counts with the approval of the supervisor, students complete the Application for Approval of Master's Thesis Topic, have it signed by their advisor, and submit it to the MEBA coordinators by the announced deadline.

Once a faculty member has accepted to advise the master thesis, students agree on a timetable for meetings and submission of drafts. A standard process usually implies three to four meetings: at the beginning, to fix the topic precisely, and to review the first or second drafts. As a general rule, each group is entitled to 3 hours of advisor time. It is students' responsibility to keep advisors apprised of the master thesis progress. Appropriate time has to be allowed to advisors to return the work to students, whether it is at an initial stage or already the final version. It is appropriate to ask advisors when comments can be expected in order to organize the students' own calendar, but students are expected not to pressure advisors to respond quickly.

Students are also responsible for the formal quality of the final copy of their master thesis, which has to be free from spelling and grammatical errors and fulfill standard presentation requirements; advisors do not verify line-by-line editing.

Methodology

Any regular faculty member at the UAB Faculty of Economics and Business Studies is entitled, although not required, to become a master thesis supervisor.

It is students' responsibility to find an advisor. Advisors provide general guidance and help to define the questions to be addressed in the master thesis. Since the beginning of the master sessions in September, students should try to get as much acquainted as possible with the array of alternatives available at our Faculty - both in terms of research topics as well as specialists - and not limit their choice to only those faculty members they have worked with in courses before having to decide about their master thesis.

Approval of thesis topic and thesis advisor by the MEBA coordinators is needed.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Supervised			
Tutoring and monitoring (thesis writing, presentation, advising)	100	4	1, 8, 4, 5, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Reading	89.5	3.58	8, 4, 6

Assessment

Each Master Thesis will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the MEBA coordination. This committee will be composed of a panel of three professors that are experts in the topic addressed in the thesis. The thesis must be defended in a public academic event in front of that committee. All the students that participate in the thesis must also participate in their thesis defense. Both the thesis written report and the thesis defense will be evaluated by the committee, and each student will receive an individual grade based on his or her performance.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral presentation	25%	0.5	0.02	3
Thesis Paper	75%	60	2.4	1, 8, 4, 5, 2, 6, 7, 9

Bibliography

None