

Additional Remarks to the Guidelines for the Evaluation of a Doctoral Dissertation

- Scientific observations can include the following:
 - Information from medical history
 - Data from autopsy reports
 - Laboratory findings, x-ray imaging, and clinical findings

A distinction should be made between collected and independently produced data.

- In order for a dissertation to achieve *summa cum laude* grading (“Mit Auszeichnung bestanden”), it is indispensable that data are produced independently. Works that are based on third-party data can therefore only be graded with *passed* (“Mit Erfolg bestanden”). For this reason, also article dissertations, where third-party observations are discussed, do not fulfill the requirements for a *summa cum laude*.
- An important criterion for *summa cum laude* as opposed to *passed* is the independent development of the methodology. Accordingly, a dissertation in which an existing methodology is used can be graded at best with *passed*.
- In order for a dissertation to achieve *summa cum laude* grading, an original paper must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Of the three reviewers, at least one should not belong to the clinic or institute of the university lecturer who assigned the topic of the dissertation.