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.