

## GAUSS instruction for supervisors and examiners

Every doctorate at Göttingen University leading to the doctoral degree Dr.rer.nat. or its anglophone equivalent Ph.D., Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, takes place within the framework of one of 25 GAUSS programs. Information about these programs is available on the Internet at [www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/programs.html](http://www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/programs.html)

Students seeking the aforementioned doctoral degree have to apply for admission to the appropriate GAUSS programme. They have to be enrolled at Göttingen University throughout their entire doctoral project. To enrol, they are required to submit to the Office of Student Affairs a certificate issued by the responsible faculty. A preprinted form is available for this. This form is simultaneously used for the admission to the GAUSS programme and also serves as a supervision agreement

**How supervision works:** Every doctoral student is guided by a thesis committee consisting of a GAUSS member authorized to examine and at least another person holding a doctoral degree. Depending on the program, there are additional conditions and achievement-based requirements to the doctoral students. Every program requires that the doctoral student submit to the thesis committee at regular intervals, but not less than once a year, a report detailing the status of the doctoral project. The thesis committee shall certify this each time. The committee must verify whether the results are sufficient for finalizing the doctoral thesis, and consult about its completion or continuation. Supervisors and students have to obey the rules of good practice for doctoral supervision (see link: [www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/ethik-betreuung\\_en.pdf](http://www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/ethik-betreuung_en.pdf)).

**How the doctoral examination works:** For each doctoral examination procedure, the deanship or the examination committee will appoint an examination board of at least 6 members and a chairperson thereof. At least three members of the examination board, including the reviewers, must be authorised to examine within the programme in question. The other board members must similarly be authorised to examine, but may have acquired the authorisation to examine within any of the GAUSS programmes. A list of GAUSS members authorised to examine is available at [www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/members.html](http://www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/members.html) including the indication of the respective programmes. It is possible to apply for authorisation to examine with respect to a singular doctorate; frequently, it suffices for the head of the doctoral programme to fill out the short form downloadable at [www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/Einzelpromotion.doc](http://www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/Einzelpromotion.doc).

The doctoral examination consists of a written doctoral thesis, the dissertation, and an oral examination, the thesis defense. The reviewers of the dissertation may propose the grades of "summa cum laude", "magna cum laude", "cum laude" or "rite". A grade of "summa cum laude" can only be awarded if all reviewers propose this distinction for the dissertation in their written report, the examination board unanimously grades the candidate's performance in the thesis defense as meriting this distinction, and there are at least three reports including an external one. The doctoral certificate will then state then grade "summa cum laude" as an overall grade. In the thesis defence, the candidate should place her or his dissertation in a larger scientific context by giving a presentation of 30 minutes and, after the presentation, answer the related questions. Questions are initially permitted only by members of the examination board. The examination board or the chairperson ensures that thereafter, all members of the audience can ask questions within reasonable limits. After the thesis defense, the examination board decides on an overall grade for the doctoral examination.

One of the model certificates downloadable from [www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/certificates.html](http://www.gauss.uni-goettingen.de/certificates.html) should be used for the doctoral degree certificate. On request or depending on the programme, the candidate will get an extra certificate indicating her or his achievements with respect to the doctoral studies and the doctoral examination.