



UniSR

Università Vita-Salute  
San Raffaele

## **Didactic Regulations**

**Of the jointly awarded Master's Degree in**

**Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication**

**offered by the Faculty of Psychology of Vita-Salute San Raffaele University,  
Milan and the University of Italian Switzerland in Lugano**

*Applicable for students who enrol in academic year 2022-2023*

*Issued with Rector's Decree no. 7644 of 01 June 2022*

## **Summary**

<b>Art. 1 Course of study admission</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Knowledge required for admission	3
1.2 Admission procedure	3
<b>Art. 2 Course Curriculum</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Individual course curricula (where applicable)	3
2.2 Internships	3
2.3 Placements	3
<b>Art. 3 Restrictions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Art. 4 Assessment</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Art. 5 Final Exam</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1 Definition of the Roles associated with the Final Exam	5
5.2 Preparation of the Final thesis/dissertation	5
5.3 The Degree Examination	5
5.4 Calculation of Degree marks/GPA	6
5.5 Degree examination sessions calendar/ Time limits and obligations for candidates	6
5.6 Degree Exam Committee	6
<b>Art. 6 University and course transfers</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Art. 7 Admission to individual courses</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Art. 8 Protection of health and safety</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Art. 9 Modifications</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Attachments</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Art. 1 Course of study admission**

### **1.1 Knowledge required for admission**

Candidates for admission to the jointly awarded Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication must hold a Degree in one of the following classes:

- 1) pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree no. 270: Class L-24 Theoretical and Practical Psychology or pursuant to: Italian Ministerial Decree no. 509/99: Class 34 Theoretical and Practical Psychology, or a five-year degree in Psychology awarded under the previous Italian system, a Major in Psychology, or another academic qualification obtained abroad recognised in Italy, or at least 88 ECTS-credits in the M-PSI SDS.
- 2) Students must reach an adequate level of linguistic competence (CEF B2 in English), which is to be certified by the first exam session (mandatory for admission to award exams).

### **1.2 Admission procedure**

Candidates will be admitted to the course for the jointly awarded Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication on the basis of the following criteria and order of application submission:

- Average mark => 24/30;
- Motivational letter/interview in English;
- Reference letter from the dissertation supervisor or (degree dissertation for graduates).

## **Art. 2 Course Curriculum**

Teaching activities are structured in accordance with the Course Curriculum specified in the appended Description of the training programme.

### **2.1 Individual course curricula (where applicable)**

Students may select their choice of learning activities totalling 8 credits.

This curriculum must in any case comply with the restrictions imposed by the Didactic Regulations of the Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication. To this end, students must present the Faculty Council with a request for approval of their individual course curriculum.

Students are allowed to attend the learning activities of their choice in the second year of the course. Students may also supplement their programme with supernumerary credits that are provided for in the course curriculum and approved by the Faculty Council. Supernumerary credits are recognised based on attendance.

### **2.2 Internships**

Internships will be regulated according to specific regulations issued by the Italian and Swiss academic authorities, pursuant to the applicable national legislation.

Post-graduate internships will take place in Italy and/or Switzerland in the case of internships for qualification to practice as a psychologist.

### **2.3 Placements**

Placements will be regulated according to specific regulations issued by the Italian and Swiss academic authorities, pursuant to the applicable national legislation.

Post-graduate placements will take place in Italy and/or Switzerland in the case of placements for qualification to practice as a psychologist.

Traineeship periods during degree dissertation activities may be recognised as undergraduate placement activities if their educational validity have been approved by the Faculty Council. These placements will be awarded as “integrative psychological training”.

### **Art. 3 Restrictions**

With reference to the provisions of Articles 14 and 15 of the University Didactic Regulations, General Section, the Faculty Council has not identified mandatory exams required on an annual basis, or courses for which an annual certificate of attendance is necessary, or a minimum number of credits which students must acquire, as a requirement for passing to the next year of the course.

### **Art. 4 Assessment**

Students are awarded the credits provided for with each learning activity when a passing grade is achieved on the relative exam. The exams are indicated by the lecturer, who provides information on the same at the beginning of the course.

The possibility of progressive checks is also provided for in order to facilitate learning and effective student participation in the learning process.

The UniSR exam committees are composed of at least 2 members and are generally presided over by the course supervisor. For all other aspects relating to the formation of the exam committees, refer to the provisions of Article 24 of the University Didactic Regulations, general section.

The assessment of the students' progress is expressed as a mark out of 30 for UniSR exams, with honours where applicable, and as a mark out of ten for USI exams.

The evaluation grid for the assessment exams (from minimum to maximum) is given by the following UniSR/USI CONVERSION TABLE

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	6.5	6.5	7	7.5	7.5	8	8.5	8.5	9	9.5	9.5	10

Whenever the score out of ten corresponds to multiple possible scores out of thirty, the lecturer shall also indicate the corresponding score out of thirty.

Assessment of the individual learning activities of the student's choice is not expressed as a numerical grade, but as pass/fail.

In the event that a course is divided into multiple modules, the exam commission is always presided over by the course coordinator.

The dates of the award exams are communicated by the academic reference persons nominated according to the provisions of article 5 for the issuing of the jointly awarded qualification by Unisr and USI, subject to agreement with the lecturers and given the need for didactic scheduling. The dates of each group are communicated to the students with appropriate notice. Only students who are up to date with their enrolment and course fees may be admitted to the exams and other assessments.

## **Art. 5 Final Exam**

At the completion of the degree course, graduates will be awarded the jointly awarded title of Dottore Magistrale – Master of Science in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication.

The qualification awarded is equivalent to:

Italy: UNISR Master's Degree in \_PSYCHOLOGY LM51\_ Italian Ministerial Decree 270/2004

Switzerland: USI Master of Science in Psychology \_ Law on USI University of Lugano of 3 October 1995, ART. 5.

The parchment shall be issued in English. (See Annex C to the convention of 10 December 2015). The diploma supplement shall also be awarded.

In order to receive the jointly awarded qualification, the student must have passed all exams provided for by the course curriculum as well completing their final dissertation.

The Oral Assessment Committees for the final dissertation will give a mark both out of 110 and out of ten. A passing mark is equivalent to 66/110 or 6/10, respectively.

### **5.1 Definition of the Roles associated with the Final Exam**

Supervisors for the final dissertation can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers, permanent lecturers from other departments of the university/USI and other universities.

Assistant Supervisors for the final dissertation can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers, permanent lecturers also from other Faculties of the university/USI and other universities, as well as experts with proven experience on the topics discussed in the text presented.

Examiners for the final dissertation can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers, permanent lecturers from other departments of the university/USI and other universities.

At least one of the persons listed above: Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor, Examiner, must be a full professor at the University/USI, full and associate professor and university researcher.

### **5.2 Preparation of the Final thesis/dissertation**

The dissertation is normally drafted in English.

Each dissertation must contain an abstract in both Italian and English.

The final dissertation consists of preparing and defending an original experimental thesis which shows that the specific course skills and objectives have been acquired.

The dissertation is developed under the guidance of a Supervisor and, where applicable, a second, or Assistant, Supervisor.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to identify the Supervisor for their dissertation and decide on its topic.

Alongside the Supervisor is the Examiner nominated by the Faculty Council, whose job is to perform a critical assessment of the dissertation.

### **5.3 The Degree Examination**

The dissertation must be publicly discussed in English during the sitting of a dedicated Committee.

#### **5.4 Calculation of Degree marks/GPA**

The Degree marks/GPA is calculated by adding together two terms.

The first is obtained from the average mark obtained in all exams, according to the following formula:  $\text{Average} \times 110/30$ ; when calculating this average, as well as the grades for exams for courses required to obtain the minimum number of credits for admission to the final dissertation, also those for any additional exams over and above the required total and included in the personal course curriculum are included.

The second term is the grade awarded in the degree exam, and is in turn the average of the grades assigned by the individual committee members, on a scale of 0 to 7.

The final grade must be listed as a mark out of ten. Where necessary, this shall be rounded down when the decimal portion is not greater than half of the unit of reference, and rounded up when it exceeds this threshold.

The final grade is decided by the Oral Assessment Committee with an absolute majority of its members.

#### **5.5 Degree examination sessions calendar/Time limits and obligations for candidates**

The final exams calendar must include at least three sessions, appropriately distributed across the academic year according to the provisions of the University Didactic Regulations.

The calendar can be viewed on the dedicated noticeboards in the Academic Office and on the student intranet.

For administrative requirements and the deadlines for presenting the required documents and the type thereof, see the provisions stated in the instructions from the Student Centre.

It is possible to take the exams for the courses present in the course curriculum within a timeframe compatible with the start date of the degree session; this term will be announced on an annual basis by the Student Centre.

#### **5.6 Degree Exam Committee**

The Oral Assessment Committees are nominated by the Faculty Council and are composed of at least 7 members, including the president of the committee, which shall include at least 5 full professors and/or researchers with a fixed-term contract.

Full professors, researchers and contract professors are entitled to participate as members of the commission. At least one lecturer from UniSR and from USI must be part of the oral assessment committee.

### **Art. 6 University and course transfers**

Requests for transfer to the University from students enrolled at other universities in Italy and abroad, military academies or other similar institutes and Master's Degree course transfers are subject to approval by the Faculty Council, which shall:

- a) Assess the possibility of partially or fully recognising the student's academic career up to that point in time, approving some or all the exams taken and any credits awarded.
- b) Recognise the credits acquired up to the same number of credits of the same scientific disciplinary sector (or group of the same) provided for by the didactic regulations of the

- course. In all cases of student transfers between Master's Degree Courses belonging to the same class, the number of credits for the same scientific disciplinary sector directly awarded to the student may not be below the limit provided for by applicable legislation.
- c) Recognise the credits by evaluating the actual case on the basis of the didactic and cultural similarities.
  - d) Indicate the year of the course in which the student shall be enrolled.
  - e) Establish any educational deficit to make up.

In relation to the number of credits recognised, the duration of the degree course may be abbreviated by the competent academic bodies. Any such shortening shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **Art. 7 Admission to individual courses**

The possibility to sign up to individual courses is governed as indicated below.

- 1) Students in possession of a five-year high-school diploma/secondary leaving certificate or other qualification issued abroad and considered acceptable, a university diploma, a bachelor's or master's degree, as well as holders of academic qualifications issued abroad, can enrol on individual courses, take the corresponding exams and receive the certification including indication of the credits, according to the methods defined by the Faculty Council and the University in question.
- 2) Whenever these activities are within limited-admission courses, enrolment must be approved in advance by the competent Faculty Council, on the basis of criteria previously identified by the same.

Applications must be made according to the conditions and deadlines published on an annual basis by the Student Center on the University website.

For all other aspects not covered herein, refer to the provisions of Article 32 of the University Didactic Regulations, general section.

### **Art. 8 Protection of health and safety**

Pursuant to art. 2(1) (a) of Italian Legislative Decree 81/08 "Occupational Health and Safety Consolidation Act", for the intents and purposes of said legislative decree, students are to be considered as "workers"; therefore, during their practical internship activities they shall receive the same protection and shall comply with the relevant legal requirements, with the restrictions and prohibitions enforced by occupational health and safety and accident prevention law, and with any other regulations enforced by the Host Organisation for the same purpose.

The University has therefore formalised and centralised a series of activities with a view to implementing the applicable legal provisions, including compliance with Italian Legislative Decree 230/1995 on Radioprotection; these obligations are closely associated with the risk profile of the individual study programme.

Students are therefore under obligation, in accordance with the instructions provided, to:

- participate in the initial information and educational initiatives and those included in the teaching activities calendar organised to ensure compliance with the provisions set forth

in articles 36 and 37 of Italian Legislative Decree 81/08 “Information and training of workers and their representatives”;

- take part in the initial and periodic health monitoring activities for issuance of the compliance certification for practical activities involving exposure to risks;
- use the collective and individual protective equipment provided in compliance with the instructions and training imparted.

Curricular and extracurricular activities involving exposure to a specific risk (in labs and/or hospital units) may therefore not commence until students have completed the safety course and had a health assessment.

Repeated failure to comply with the above obligations shall result in the suspension of the activities involving exposure to a specific risk until such time as the legal obligations have been fulfilled.

### **Art. 9 Modifications**

Modifications to these Didactic Regulations approved by the Faculty Council must be ratified by the corresponding academic bodies, subject to an opinion issued by the Lecturer-Student Joint Committee for those aspects for which it is responsible.

### **Attachments**

Description of the training programme and learning methods



### **Description of the training programme and learning methods**

The course activities provided for over the course of the academic year are divided into two semesters of around 14 weeks.

The didactic formats provided for may include lectures, seminars, workshops and/or library activities, internships and IT exercises, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the two universities.

A course may also be divided into multiple modules of different lengths, with the assignment of a different number of corresponding credits.

Courses of any type and duration may be single-subject or modular; in the latter case they will be held by multiple lecturers, under the responsibility of a course coordinator.

### **Preparatory courses**

When specific preparatory courses are required for each teaching activity, they are indicated in the list of teaching activities appended to these Regulations.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is regulated in accordance with the regulations of each university.

### **Course Curriculum**

During the annual teaching planning phase, a different fraction of the total commitment may be assigned to individual study, which shall not, in any case, be less than 50% of the total hourly commitment. An exception is made for cases in which the educational activities have a high experimental or practical content.

*The Italian version of this Regulations is the only legal means of communication of the relative contents and in case of dispute, the Italian version shall prevail.*