

Dear GHS students, dear Supervisors,

We would like to share with you a couple of recent updates and clarifications as well as add some reminders.

Please note that the recent updates in points II and III are not formal changes but rather clarifications of our existing procedures. These clarifications aim to make the defense process more efficient and reduce unnecessary email exchanges with candidates beforehand.

I. PhD in Health Sciences (Specialization):

- As determined by the GHS Steering Board on May 1, 2024, the final decision regarding the acceptance of a doctoral degree specialization will be made jointly by the GHS Office and the GHS Steering Board, based on the type of master's degree held by the candidate.
- This has also been specified in the new version of the [Doctoral Agreement](#).

II. Grading by the thesis and co-thesis advisor, no formal changes :

- Points 4 and 7 on the GHS webpage [PhD Degree \(old regulations\)](#) have been updated with the clarification that if both the co-thesis advisor and the thesis advisor evaluate the thesis and/or attend the defense, they agree on one common grade.
- First- and Second-Year Examination [old regulations](#) and [new regulations](#) have been updated with the following clarification that if both the Thesis advisor and the Co-thesis advisor participate in the exam, they express one common grade.

III. Improved clarity about the defense procedure, no formal changes:

- [Point 4](#) on the GHS webpage “Assessments by Thesis Advisor and Co-referee” has specified with the information that the thesis evaluations should be sent to the GHS office by the supervisors before the defense documents submission deadline and the GHS does not send any reminders to the supervision team prior to the deadline.
- [Point 5](#) on the GHS webpage “Application for the PhD Degree” has been specified with the information that the courses mentioned in the Doctoral Agreement should already be registered in KSL before the document submission deadline and correspond exactly. Please check this in advance. If there are courses that meet the requirements but are not included in KSL, and you want them to be part of the PhD curriculum and appear on the Diploma Supplement, make sure to send the certificates to the GHS office well before the deadline.
- [Point 7](#) “Thesis Defense and Final Assessment” has been specified with the information that the GHS does not assign the representative/chair for the defense nor coordinate the defense date with them. The PhD student has to contact all examiners independently. For students that belong to the Expert Committee III the chair of the defense should be the mentor, for students of Expert Committees I and II this should be a member of the corresponding committee. You can see the current list of the expert committee members here [About us: Organization - Graduate School for Health Sciences \(GHS\) \(unibe.ch\)](#).

IV. New version of the Progress Report:

- Both templates of the Progress report for the [old](#) and [new](#) regulations have been updated with the box “there were no changes in the Doctoral Agreement”. If you check this box, no Doctoral Agreement has to be sent.

V. **Registration for the symposium 2024:**

- The registration for the GHS annual symposium 2024 will open this August. Keep an eye for further updates.

VI. **GHS Annual Report 2023:**

- We are glad to announce that the Annual Report 2023 is now [online](#) and can be viewed also as a [flipbook](#).

VII. **Symposium 2023 Pictures:**

- The pictures of the Symposium have been uploaded to the website if you want to take a look, click [here](#). Please be aware that the picture uploading process will take some time; however, all pictures should be uploaded by tomorrow.

Just as a reminder, the GHS will be officially closed from **8th until 22nd July**. Our team is wishing you a pleasant summer and we stay in touch 😊

Best regards,
GHS Team