UNIVERSITÄT OSNABRÜCK

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES

Examination Regulations for the Master's Program

in "COGNITIVE SCIENCE"

English version based on
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Section 1 Applicability

These regulations contain provisions for the consecutive Master's degree program in Cognitive Science in the School of Human Sciences at Osnabrück University.

Section 2 Program Aims and Purpose of the Examination

(1) The Master's examination is the second professional degree qualification.

(2) The purpose of the Master's examination is to establish whether the examination candidate has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills, has acquired a solid overview of the subject, is able to engage in independent academic work, to apply academic findings and to understand their relevance for society and professional practice.

Section 3 University Degree

[1]Upon passing the Master's examination, the candidate shall be awarded the degree "Master of Science" in Cognitive Science. [2]Osnabrück University shall issue a certificate to this end with the date of the final academic record.

Section 4 Structure, Scope and Duration of the Program

(1) [1]The Master's program in Cognitive Science shall consist of 120 credit points (CP) including the Master's thesis. [2]It shall include a mandatory component consisting of 24 CP, a mandatory elective component consisting of 44 CP, and a distinguishing elective component consisting of 22 CP. [2]The Master's thesis shall be worth 30 CP.

Mandatory Elective Component (24 CP)						
Identifier	**Module Title**	**Contact Hours**	**CP**	**Duration**	**Recommended Semester**	**Prerequisites**
CS24-MP-SP	Study Project	6+6	24	2	2nd -3rd	None

Mandatory Elective Component (44 CP)

In the mandatory elective component, students shall take modules worth 44 CP. In doing so, students shall select modules totaling at least 20 credit points (CP) from at least one of the specialist component modules, and shall select no more than 32 CP from any one of the specialist component modules. Each of the "Topics in ..." modules assigned to a specialization in the mandatory elective component shall as a rule be offered multiply, and shall be labeled with an "x". Depending on the courses offered, multiple modules of the same type, such as "Topics in Artificial Intelligence A" and "Topics in Artificial Intelligence B," may be taken in the mandatory elective component. Each of these modules shall contain one of the courses from the corresponding subject area. The number of credit points for the module corresponds to the number of credit points for the course included in the module. The module "Methods of Cognitive Science" shall only be offered once.

Identifier	**Module Title**	**Contact Hours**	**CP**	**Duration**	**Recommended Semester**	**Prerequisites**
Specialization "Cognition: Mind, Ethics, and Society"						
CS24-MWP-EAI-x	Topics in the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-PHIL-x	Topics in Philosophy of Mind and Cognition x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None

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"Cognition: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning"						
CS24-MWP-NI-x	Topics in Neuroinformatics x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-AI-x	Topics in Artificial Intelligence x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-NAI-x	Topics in NeuroAI x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-CL-x	Topics in Computational Linguistics x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-CV-x	Topics in Computer Vision x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
Specialization "Cognition: (Computational) Neuroscience"						
CS24-MWP-CNS-x	Topics in (Computational) Neuroscience x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
Specialization "Cognition: Psychology, Language, and Communication"						
CS24-MWP-CMP-x	Topics in Cognitive Modeling and Psychology x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-LING-x	Topics in Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
CS24-MWP-CBC-x	Topics in Comparative Bio-Cognition x (A, B, C, …)	2-6	4-12	1	1st -3rd	None
Additional Mandatory Elective Modules						
CS24-MWP-MCS	Methods of Cognitive Science (Master)	2	4	2	1st -3rd	None
Total: 44 CP						

Distinguishing Elective Component (22 CP)						
[1]The distinguishing elective component CS24-MW consists of 22 CP. [2]Students may select modules and courses from the university's course program that serve to build their profile. [3]In particular, courses may be accredited from the mandatory elective component in the Master's program provided they have not already been taken in the mandatory elective component. [4]Additionally, credits from the semester abroad, relevant internships (completed abroad), and from work as a tutor may be accredited. Credits may be accredited either with or without a grade (only "passed").						
Identifier	**Module Title**	**Contact Hours**	**CP**	**Duration**	**Recommended Semester**	**Prerequisites**
CS24-MW	Distinguishing Elective Courses		add. 22 CP	1-2	1st -3rd	None

(2) The standard period of study, i.e. the period of study in which students are expected to successfully complete their Master's degree including the Master's thesis, all coursework credits (Studiennachweise) and all graded coursework (Prüfungsleistungen), shall amount to four semesters.

Section 4 Modules

(1) [1]A module is a self-contained, thematically-coherent unit which structures the teaching and learning of specific skills. [2]Modules generally consist of several module components. [3]Students shall be able to complete a module within one semester or up to a maximum of two consecutive semesters.

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(2) [1]Modules are generally completed by students passing a module examination on the basis of which grades and credit points are awarded. [2]A module examination may be structured as several sub-examinations. [3]The module examinations and sub-examinations may consist of various forms of graded coursework (Section 7). [4]Provision may be made for coursework credits (Section 7b) to be used as an alternative to, or in addition to, the module examination. [5]In the module description, coursework credits may be a requirement for participation in graded coursework or for the awarding of credit points. [6]Further module-specific regulations are provided in the module descriptions.

Section 4b Credit Points (CP)

(1) [1]Credit points are awarded to students as proof that they have successfully completed coursework credits and graded coursework in accordance with the EU Framework Directive for the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). [2]The number of credit points is independent of the grade awarded to a piece of work. [3]It is however a precondition for the awarding of the credit points allocated to a module that students must pass the module in accordance with Section 8a.

(2) [1]The number of credit points that may be acquired corresponds to the student workload which, on average, is necessary to acquire the skills taught in the module, successfully complete the module and take the final examination. [2]The workload is measured in hours and includes class attendance and time spent on preparatory and follow-up work, study and research papers etc., exam preparation, examinations and coursework credits, and self-study. [3]One credit point equates to 30 hours of work.

Section 5 Examination Committee

(1) [1]To organize examinations and fulfill all of the tasks assigned by these examination regulations, the school executive board of the School of Human Sciences shall convene an examination committee. [2]The examination committee shall be elected by the school executive board. [3]The examination committee shall ensure the proper conduct of examinations. [4]It shall ensure that the provisions of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Law (NHG), the Constitution and the General Rules of Procedure of Osnabrück University and of these examination regulations are upheld. [5]The examination committee or the entity it designates shall be responsible for the examination records.

(2) [1]The examination committee shall have five members, as follows:

a) three members representing the status group of university professors and lecturers,
b) one member representing the status group of staff members with an entitlement to teach, as well as
c) one member of the student body.

[2]The members of the examination committee and their deputies are elected separately according to their status group by their respective group representatives in the school executive board. [3]The members of the committee shall serve for two years; the student member shall serve for one year. [4]Re-election is admissible. [5]The student member shall have only a consultative role in the evaluation and accreditation of graded and ungraded coursework.

(3) [1]The examination committee shall elect a chairperson as well as a deputy chairperson from amongst its members. [2]These must be members of the status group of university professors and lecturers or, in exceptional cases, a staff member with an entitlement to teach.

(4) [1]The examination committee passes resolutions by a majority of valid votes; abstentions are regarded as non-votes. [2]In case of a tied vote, the chair shall cast the deciding vote. [3]The examination committee is quorate when

- the majority of its members,
- the chairperson or the deputy chairperson and
- at least two university professors

are present.

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(5) [1]The examination committee may also pass resolutions in written or electronic circulation procedures. [2]This is not admissible if a member opposes the procedure. [3]A circulation procedure requires a period of at least one week. [4]On forwarding the resolution documents, the chairperson shall request that the members who are eligible to vote take a vote on the proposed resolution within the circulation period. [5]The resolution shall come into effect at the end of the circulation period, providing the necessary majority of members vote in favor of the resolution. [6]The resolution shall also enter into force if all members who are eligible to vote have submitted their votes prior to the expiry of the circulation period and the required majority has been achieved.

(6) [1]The examination committee may confer revocable authority upon the chairperson or the deputy chairperson. [2]The examination committee may use the office that it has convened - the examinations office - to fulfill its duties. [3]The chairperson shall prepare resolutions for the examination committee and implement them. [4]The chairperson shall provide the doctoral committee with regular updates regarding their activities.

(7) [1]Sessions of the examination committee are not open to the public. [2]The members of the examination committee and their deputies are bound to secrecy. [3]If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson.

(8) The Dean of Studies and members of the examination committee are entitled to attend examinations as observers.

(9) Minutes shall be taken for all meetings of the examination committee which document the essential points discussed and the resolutions taken by the examination committee.

Section 6 Examiners and Observers

(1) [1]The examination committee shall appoint examiners and observers. [2]Members and affiliates of Osnabrück University or another university may be appointed as examiners; they must be independently entitled to teach the relevant examination subject or a relevant sub-field. [3]Academic staff members in accordance with Section 31 NHG and contract teachers in accordance with Section 34 NHG may be appointed as examiners. [4]Lecturers for specific purposes as well as persons with experience in professional practice and training may be appointed as examiners within the scope of their teaching assignment. [5]In individual cases, an examination committee may appoint an external person as an examiner. [6]Only persons who themselves hold the qualification that the examination is to ascertain or hold an equivalent qualification may be appointed as examiners and observers.

(2) If the method of examination is graded coursework, instructors who are entitled to conduct examinations according to subsection 1 sentences 2 to 5 need not be especially appointed in accordance with subsection 1 sentence 1.

(3) [1]Every piece of graded coursework shall be conducted by an examiner. [2]The regulation in Section 12 subsection 4 sentence 1 shall remain unaffected by this regulation.

(4) [1]Students may propose examiners to conduct examinations except in the case of graded coursework. [2]A proposal does not constitute a claim. [3]It shall, however, be granted as long as there are no important reasons against doing so, for example when it results in an unreasonable workload for examiners. [4]If the student’s proposal cannot be granted, the student shall be given the opportunity to make a further proposal.

(5) [1]The examination committee shall ensure that candidates are informed of their examiners’ names in good time, i.e. as a rule at least 2 weeks before the date of the examination in question. [2]The regulation in accordance with Section 12 subsection 3 sentence 4 that, with regard to the Master's thesis, the examiners are to be appointed when the topic is issued, remains unaffected.

(6) With regard to examiners and observers, Section 5 subsection 7 sentences 2 and 3 apply accordingly.

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Section 7 Formats and Deadlines for Graded Coursework (Prüfungsleistungen)

(1) Care shall be taken to ensure that students may make their first attempt to pass graded coursework in the semester in which they have attended the related course.

(2) [1]Graded coursework includes:

a) term paper (subsection 3),

b) oral examination (subsection 4),

c) presentation (subsection 5),

d) presentation with written composition (subsection 6),

e) examination paper (subsection 7),

f) multiple-choice examination papers (subsection 8),

g) course project (subsection 9).

h) empirical study and experimental work (subsection 10),

i) tutorial work (subsection 11).

[2]The module description shall specify the specific format each examination will take. [3]Further equivalent new formats may be provided for in the module description, and shall be defined there. [4]Combinations of examination formats are admissible within a module or a module component. [5]Graded coursework examinations shall be implemented in such a way that the anticipated average workload for the examinations combined with the additional workload for the module or the module components corresponds to the number of credit points allocated. [6]Graded coursework may also be completed in a multimedia format if this method is approved by the examiner.

(3) [1]A term paper is a piece of independent written work and appropriate documentation of a subject-related task that is set by an examiner and which is to be completed within a specified time frame that should as a rule not exceed six weeks. [2]This includes, in particular, information gathering and material research, structuring of content, creation of an outline, and the written work itself in accordance with the standard requirements for academic work. [3]The examiner may extend the completion period for a term paper once in exceptional, substantiated circumstances by up to half the specified time for completing the work. [4]The candidate may be given the opportunity to submit proposals for the topic within the parameters of the task set. [5]A proposal does not constitute a claim.

(4) [1]An oral examination shall enable candidates to demonstrate that they possess a broad overview of their examination field and that they are able to locate particular problems in the field. [2]The oral examination shall take place in the presence of several examiners (panel) or in the presence of one examiner with an observer who is knowledgeable in the field either as an individual or as a group examination. [3]Observers shall give their feedback prior to grading. [4]Oral examinations shall last at least 15 and at most 60 minutes per examinee. [5]Essential information from the examination, the assessment of the graded coursework and key points of consideration during the assessment process shall be recorded in minutes. [6]These minutes shall be signed by the examiner and the observer.

(5) A presentation with discussion (Referat) shall consist of the presentation and communication of an aspect taken from among the topics covered in a module using relevant literature in an oral presentation as well as in a subsequent discussion.

(6) A presentation with written composition (Referat mit Ausarbeitung) shall for example consist of:

A. an independent and in-depth written analysis of a problem related to the thematic context of a module that incorporates and evaluates relevant literature.

B. the presentation and communication of this in an oral lecture, followed by a subsequent discussion.

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(7) [1]A written examination paper requires a candidate to work on an appropriate set of questions set by the examiner applying the usual methods of the subject, within a fixed time, with limited resources, and under supervision. [2]The completion period shall be between 30 minutes and four hours.

(8) [1]Written examinations may also take the form entirely or partially of multiple-choice examinations or a similar answer-choice method. [2]The examiner(s) shall establish the modalities for awarding points and disclose them in an appropriate manner (e.g., before the exam in a course, via a course management system like Stud.IP, or in the task description). [3]If the examination contains questions in an answer-choice format, the weighting of the individual sections shall also be specified. [4]Correction of the examination may also be carried out using suitable technical tools. [5]In all other cases, subsection 7 shall apply accordingly.

(9) [1]In a course project the candidate - generally as part of a work group - shall demonstrate that they are able within a disciplinary context to independently formulate and complete an assignment and present their findings using the methods and concepts specific to the subject. [2]This includes the documentations and presentation of findings, documentation of the working process as well as reflection on this process. [3]The graded coursework for projects includes, for example, project reports, development of IT components (e.g., computer software), creation of multimedia presentations, and the analysis and interpretation of statistical data. [4]This graded coursework may be supplemented by presentations by the students, and discussions.

(10) An empirical study or experimental work includes, for example, the theoretical preparation, the design and execution of the study, and the written presentation of the steps, the course of the investigation, and the results, as well as their critical evaluation.

(11) [1]Tutorial work consists, for example, of a sequence of tasks specified by the examiner responsible, each of which must be completed independently within a set deadline. [2]The tutorial work may include the review of the tasks and their discussion.

(12) [1]Where appropriate, coursework in the format of a term paper (subsection 3), presentation with discussion (subsection 5), presentation with written composition (subsection 6), course project (subsection 9), empirical study and experimental work (subsection 10) or tutorial work (subsection 11) may also be completed as group work; the examiner shall establish the suitability of the topic. [2]In the case of group work, the contribution of each individual participant shall meet the same requirements as those for a corresponding individual piece of work and shall be clearly distinguishable and assessable as an individual examination performance based on the clear identification of chapters, sections, page numbers, or other objective criteria.

(13) [1]Examination papers including multiple choice examination papers may be partly or entirely completed with digital support or computers as digital examinations or e-examinations using infrastructure or terminals provided by the university. [2]E-examinations are typically conducted under supervision in designated examination rooms (including computer labs). [3]In all cases, examinations shall be conducted using systems provided by or authorized for examinations by the University Computer Center or the Center for Digital Teaching, Campus Management, and Higher Education Didactics (virtUOS). [4]The examiner shall decide whether or not to conduct an exam as a digital exam. [5]The examiner shall inform the examinees in good time if an examination is to be conducted with digital support.

(14) [1]Oral examinations, presentations with discussion, presentations with written composition and course projects may be wholly or partially conducted using a system provided or authorized for examination purposes by the University Computer Center or the Center for Digital Teaching, Campus Management, and Higher Education Didactics (virtUOS), and/or through the medium of video and audio transmission as an online examination without the examinees needing to be physically present in a specific examination room. [2]The examiner shall decide whether or not to conduct an examination as an online examination. [3]Students shall have no claim to an examination being conducted as an online examination. [4]If the exam is conducted as an online exam, the

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regulations outlined in the Regulations for Conducting Online Examinations (OPO) shall be observed.

(15) [1]Examination papers, multiple-choice examinations and digital examinations / e-examinations may be wholly or partially conducted using a system provided or authorized for examination purposes by the University Computer Center or the Center for Digital Teaching, Campus Management, and Higher Education Didactics (virtUOS), and/or through the medium of video and audio transmission as an online examination without the examinees needing to be physically present in a specific examination room. [2]The examiner shall decide whether or not to conduct an examination as an online examination. [3]Students shall have no claim to an examination being conducted as an online examination. [4]If the exam is conducted as an online exam, the regulations outlined in the Regulations for Conducting Online Examinations (OPO) shall be observed.

(16) [1]Graded coursework that requires supervision may be conducted in examination rooms outside the university, provided that sufficient supervision by university staff or personnel authorized by the university and compliance with all data protection regulations are ensured. [2]The decision on whether an exam shall take place in examination rooms outside the university shall be taken by the examination committee. [3]Students participating in a semester abroad may complete graded coursework at the university abroad if the examiner agrees and supervision of the exam is ensured by the university abroad; in this case, approval from the examination committee is not required.

(17) [1]Graded coursework may be carried out in a foreign language upon request by the student in consultation with the examination committee and the respective examiner. [2]Program-specific examination regulations and their subject-specific components may also allow for graded coursework to be completed in a foreign language.

(18) [1]The choice of examination format shall be determined by the examiner, utilizing only those admissible formats listed in the module description. [2]The examiner shall announce the format of the graded coursework (first examination) no later than the beginning of the course (see also Section 9).

(19) Graded coursework may be checked for potentially unacknowledged text passages or other sources using appropriate plagiarism detection software.

(20) The provisions in accordance with Section 21 Disadvantage Compensation and Protective Regulations remain unaffected.

Section 7a Registration for and Admission to Graded Coursework

(1) [1]Examinees shall register for each piece of graded coursework through the university's campus management system. [2]In justified exceptional cases, registration may be handled through the examinations office.

(2) Students are not entitled to participate in graded coursework for modules that are not part of their study program.

(3) [1]Only persons enrolled in a Master's program may be admitted to graded coursework in Master's programs. [2]In substantiated exceptional cases the examination committee may admit candidates on a case-by-case basis.

(4) [1]Admission to graded coursework may be made dependent on whether a candidate has already achieved certain prerequisite results (required examination prerequisites). [2]The type and scope of the required prerequisites shall be specified in the module description. [3]A student is only entitled to retake required prerequisite examinations at the earliest the next time the course or examination is offered.

(5) The examiner shall decide on student admission to the graded coursework.

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(6) [1]Examinees are not obligated to attend the first examination date offered. [2]The retaking of graded coursework is regulated by Section 9 subsection 2.

Section 7b Coursework Credits (Studiennachweise)

(1) [1]Module descriptions may specify that, in addition to graded coursework, students may also be required to complete coursework credits to pass a module. [2]These coursework credits shall be designed in such a way that the anticipated average workload for the coursework credits together with the other workload for the module or its components corresponds to the number of credit points allocated. [3]The various types of work include minutes, seminar reports, internship reports, and short presentations with discussion (where applicable without written composition). [4]The type of ungraded coursework as well as the conditions under which it can be attained - if this is not specified in the module description - shall be decided by the course instructor, taking into account sentences 2 and 3. [5]If coursework credits are graded, the grades do not count as examination grades. [6]If a student's ungraded coursework fails to meet the requirements, no coursework credit shall be awarded.

(2) [1]Coursework credits that have been passed may not be retaken. [2]If a student fails a coursework credit, they may retake it any number of times. [3]As a rule, students shall be offered the opportunity to retake a coursework credit soon after the result of the coursework credit is announced.

(3) Section 7 subsections 1 and 19 and Section 10 subsections 1-4 shall apply accordingly.

Section 7c Public Access to Oral Examinations

Oral examinations are, in principle, not open to the public.

Section 8 Assessment of Graded Coursework

(1) Graded coursework is graded in accordance with Section 7 and is included in the module grade in accordance with Section 8a.

(2) [1]The individual examiners shall use the numbers 1 to 5 for the assessment of individual examinations.

1	Very Good	Excellent work
2	Good	Work which is considerably above average requirements
3	Satisfactory	Work which meets average requirements
4	Sufficient	Work which, despite certain deficiencies, meets requirements
5	Fail	Work with significant deficiencies which does not meet requirements

[2]For purposes of differentiation, the individual grades can may be increased or decreased by 0.3; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded. [3]The following terms are to be used on English certificates:

1	Very Good
2	Good
3	Satisfactory
4	Sufficient
5	Fail

(3) [1]If the examination is only assessed by one examiner, the grade awarded by the examiner is the grade awarded for the examination. [2]The examination is passed if at least the grade "sufficient" (4.0) is awarded.

(4) [1]If an examination is assessed by several examiners, the grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades awarded by the examiners. [2]All decimal places are struck off aside from the first and the figure is not rounded up or down. [3]The examination is passed if at least the

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grade "sufficient" (4.0) is awarded. [4]The respective grades are shall be awarded for the following scores:

up to and including 1.5	Very Good
From 1.6 to 2.5	Good
From 2.6 to 3.5	Satisfactory
From 3.6 to 4.0	Sufficient
From 4.1	Fail

[5]If the individual grades with decimal places differ by two or more full grades, the examination committee may, upon request by the candidate, appoint a third examiner. [6]The grade of the examination is calculated in accordance with sentences 1 to 4.

(5) [1]Written graded coursework is generally assessed at the latest within four weeks of the coursework. [2]To prepare for the assessment of written examinations an examiner may enlist the support of persons who themselves have the qualification or hold an equivalent qualification to the one that the examination is intended to ascertain; Section 5 subsection 7 sentences 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly. [3]The grade shall be communicated to the student soon afterwards. [4]If an observer is present during an oral examination, their feedback is to be given to the examiner or examiners before the grade is decided. [5]The result of an oral examination shall be communicated to the candidate after the examination has been completed.

(6) [1]Justification for the grade together with key points influencing the examiners' decision shall be communicated in writing at the student's request. [2]This justification shall be kept in the examination file, together with the student's examined work.

Section 8a Assessment of Modules

(1) [1]In modules with only one piece of graded coursework, the module grade corresponds to the grade of this graded coursework (Section 8). [2]The module is passed if the graded coursework is graded as passed. [3]The module descriptions may include additional requirements for passing, such as obtaining a coursework credit in accordance with Section 11 or other conditions. [4]In modules where no graded coursework is required, the module is considered passed if the coursework credit or credits have been obtained.

(2) [1]The module grade for modules in which the examination is divided into several sub-examinations shall be calculated from the average grade of the sub-examinations weighted according to the credit points of the relevant components, provided that no alternative weighting is specified in the module description. [2]If no credit points are clearly assigned to the graded sub-examinations and no alternative weighting is specified in the module description, the module grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the graded sub-examinations. [3]Section 8 subsection 2 sentence 3 as well as Section 8 subsection 4 sentence 4 shall apply accordingly. [4]A module in which the examination is divided into several sub-examinations is graded as passed if the calculated module grade is 4.0 or better. [5]The module description may include additional requirements for passing, such as passing all or specific sub-examinations, obtaining coursework credits in accordance with Section 7b, or other conditions.

Section 8b Notification of Examination Results

[1]Students shall be notified of the assessment of their graded coursework and coursework credits through the university's Campus Management System. [2]Examinees are required to check regularly for new entries.

Section 9 Retaking Examinations

(1) [1]Failed modules may be retaken an unlimited number of times. [2]Passed modules may not be retaken for the purpose of improving a grade.

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(2) [1]For all modules that are offered in the same semester and completed with a single exam, two examination dates are usually offered: a first exam date and a resit date. [2]The resit date shall be offered in the same semester or shall be offered no later than in the first week of lectures of the following semester. [3]The examination format used for the first regular examination and the first retake examination does not have to be the same; possible formats shall be listed in the module description. [4]The examiner shall announce the examination format for the retake examination at least two weeks before the examination. [5]The examinations for the regular exam date and the resit date shall be based on the same module content. [6]The candidate is not obliged to make use of the next opportunity to take a module examination. [7]The candidate, however, is only entitled to an offer of one regular examination date and one retake date on the content covered by the components or the classes they have attended for the module. [8]The university is only obligated to offer the candidate examinations and retake attempts related to the learning objectives laid down in the module description.

(3) A student may retake a failed Master's thesis once only.

(4) [1]If the Master's thesis is awarded a "fail" grade or if it is deemed to have been graded as "failed", it may be retaken six weeks after its assessment at the earliest and shall be retaken twelve months after its assessment at the latest – here, the date of receipt of the application to retake the examination is decisive. [2]Immediately after a Master's thesis has been awarded a "fail" grade, the candidate shall be requested by the chairperson of the examination committee to retake the examination within the following 12 months following notification. [3]When granting approval for a retake examination, the chairperson of the examination committee shall also inform the candidate that failing to meet the retake date or a repeated fail grade in the examination shall result in the examination being irrevocably failed.

(5) Any unsuccessful attempts to pass an examination in a corresponding degree program in Cognitive Science at another university or at a comparable university of applied sciences in the Federal Republic of Germany shall be taken into account in calculating the candidate's number of retake attempts in accordance with subsections 1, 2 and 3

Section 10 Non-Attendance, Withdrawal, Examination Infringements, Violation of Regulations

(1) [1]An examination shall be awarded a "fail" (5.0) grade if the candidate does not attend an examination date without sound reason or withdraws from the examination once it has started without sound reason. [2]Deregistration is possible up to one week before the examination date via the Campus Management System of the university or in writing to the examinations office or the examiner without the candidate specifying any reasons. [3]Sentence 1 applies correspondingly if an examination is not completed within the specified completion period or if the candidate fails to comply with the submission date for a written examination without sound reason.

(2) [1]Reasons for non-attendance or withdrawal (within one week prior to the examination date) or reasons for withdrawal after the commencement of an examination shall be communicated in writing immediately to the relevant examination committee and substantiated. [2]If a candidate falls ill, they must submit a medical certificate which contains the information necessary for the examination committee to determine that the candidate is incapable of taking the examination; the examination committee may request that the candidate submit an official medical certificate issued by a public health officer. [3]If the examination committee does not accept the reasons put forward by the candidate, the candidate shall be informed in writing.

(3) [1]In cases where a submission date cannot be complied with for sound reason, the examination committee shall decide whether the submission date for the coursework may be deferred, or whether a new task shall be set. [2]Where evidence of illness is provided, the submission date shall generally be deferred by the duration of the attested illness and the candidate's inability to take the examination. [3]The submission date for the graded coursework may generally be extended by a maximum of twice the original completion time; otherwise, the examination attempt shall be

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considered not to have been undertaken, and a new examination task shall be assigned. [4]Section 12 subsection 5 sentence 4 remains unaffected.

(4) [1]If the examinee attempts to influence the result of graded coursework or coursework credits by committing an examination infringement or possessing or using unauthorized resources, then the graded coursework or coursework credit in question shall be awarded a "fail" (5.0) grade. [2]The same shall apply if the examinee, without citing a text or text sections written by other persons, shall use them in such a way as to deceitfully create the false impression that they are the student's own independent work, if an examinee communicates inappropriately with one or more other examinees or with third parties during an examination, exchanges solutions with one or more other examinees or third parties, or passes solutions on to another examinee or examinees. [3]The examiner shall decide in accordance with sentences 1 and 2 after hearing the candidate. [4]Until the examiner's decision has been taken, the candidate shall continue the examination unless, based on the decision of the examination invigilator, the provisional exclusion of the candidate is essential to ensure the correct continuation of the examination. [5]Anyone committing a violation against the correct examination procedure may be excluded from continuing the examination in question; the decision in such cases about whether the graded coursework in question shall be awarded a "fail" grade shall be taken by the examiner after hearing the examinee.

(5) [1]In particularly serious cases, - in particular in the case of repeated violations of Section 4 sentences 1 and 2 - when an examinee uses unauthorized technical aids or when the entire work of a third party is copied or plagiarized without any recognizable relevant personal contribution to the examination, then the entire Bachelor's or Master's examination may be graded as "irrevocably failed". [2]The examination committee shall decide on such matters after hearing the candidate.

Section 11 Admission to the Master's Thesis

(1) [1]Applications for admission (registration) to the Master's thesis shall be made in writing to the examination committee within the time frame specified by the examination committee. [2]Registration deadlines set by the examination committee may be extended or retroactively extended if a candidate puts forward reasonable grounds for doing so, especially if it would be unjust to allow the legal consequences resulting from the expiration of the deadline to remain.

(2) Students shall be admitted to the Master's thesis if they provide proof of having passed 72 credit points in examinations in accordance with Section 4.

(3) [1]The following documents shall be attached to the registration for the Master's thesis, insofar as they are not already in the possession of the examination committee:

1. proof of the coursework for the modules in accordance with subsection 2;
2. proof of having been enrolled in the Master's program in Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University for at least the semester preceding the examination,
3. proof of a period of study in accordance with the examination regulations amounting to at least 72 credit points (CP) within the scope of the actual course program,
4. a declaration stating whether a Master's examination or parts of such an examination in the study programs of Cognitive Science or at an equivalent university has or have been irrevocably failed;
5. a proposal for examiners.

[2]If it is not possible to attach a document required under sentence 1 in the prescribed manner, the examination committee may allow the candidate to provide documentation in an alternative manner.

(4) [1]The examination committee shall decide whether to grant a candidate admission. [2]A candidate may be refused admission if

1. the admission requirements in accordance with subsection 2 are not met;
2. the documentation in accordance with subsection 3 is incomplete or

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3. the candidate has already irrevocably failed the Master's examination in a study program of Cognitive Science or an equivalent program at an equivalent university.

(5) [1]The declaration of admission, including the examination dates, or the refusal of admission shall be made in accordance with Section 41 of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG). [2]In addition, Section 18 shall be observed.

(6) Candidates may withdraw their admission application up to the point in time at which the topic of the Master's thesis is issued.

Section 12 Master's Thesis

(1) [1]The Master's thesis shall demonstrate that the candidate has deepened and broadened the knowledge they have acquired at the Bachelor level and that they are able to work independently within a prescribed time period on a problem from within the field of Cognitive Science using scientific and scholarly methods. [2]The topic of the Master's thesis and the nature of the assignment shall comply with the purpose of the examination (Section 2) and must be designed in such a way that the candidate may tackle the task within the specified time, from collecting materials through to writing the final version of the thesis. [3]The kind of task and the nature of the assignment must be defined when the topic is issued.

(2) [1]The Master's thesis may be completed as a group project, provided the topic is suitable and with the consent of both the examiner(s) and the students; the suitability of the topic is determined by the examiner. [2]The individual candidate's contribution for assessment shall be assessable in its own right and clearly identifiable through the citing of sections, page numbers or other objective criteria referring specifically to each individual's work, and comply with the requirements in accordance with subsection 1.

(3) [1]The person proposed as the first examiner shall suggest the topic after consulting the candidate. [2]Upon application by the candidate, the chair of the examination committee responsible shall ensure that the candidate receives a topic in good time. [3]The topic is officially assigned by the chair of the examination committee. [4]When the topic is assigned, the chairperson of the relevant examination committee shall appoint the examiner who has decided the topic to be the first examiner and shall also appoint a second examiner. [5]The candidate shall be supervised by the first examiner during the preparation phase of the thesis.[6]The topic may only be returned once and only within the first third of the completion period. [7]As a rule, the title of the Master's thesis is identical to the issued topic. [8]The title of the Master's thesis may still be changed with the approval of the first examiner, as long as the thematic focus of the work is retained.

(4) [1]The thesis shall be assessed by two examiners in accordance with Section 6 subsection 1. [2]At least one of the examiners shall be a member of the status group of professors and lecturers or have a *Habilitation* or hold an interim professorship. [3]The examination committee shall decide on exceptions to sentence 2. [4]At least one of the examiners shall be a member of the Osnabrück University.

(5) [1]The time from the assignment of the topic to the submission of the Master's thesis is six months, including the collection of materials. [2]A reduction of this period by more than three weeks is only possible upon justified request to the examination committee. [3]The topic may be returned only once and only within the first third of the completion period in accordance with sentence 1. [4]In individual cases, the examination committee may upon justified request and as an exception extend the completion period to a total duration of up to five months.

(6) When submitting their thesis, the candidate shall confirm in writing that the thesis – or in the case of group work that section of the project that is marked accordingly – has been written by the candidate themselves and that the candidate used no sources or resources other than those cited.

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(7) The Master's thesis shall be submitted on time to the chairperson of the examination committee; the time of submission shall be officially recorded.

(8) [1]The assessment of the Master's thesis shall as a rule be completed by the examiners within eight weeks. [2]If the Master's thesis is submitted before the regular deadline, the examiners are not obligated to begin grading immediately after submission. [3]They may decide to start the evaluation process only after the submission deadline specified in the admission document and are entitled to take full advantage of the entire correction period specified in sentence 1. [4]The assessment shall be conducted in accordance with Section 8, subsections 2, 4, and 6. [5]Section 7, subsection 19 shall apply accordingly.

Section 13 Master's Examination

(1) [1]A Master's examination consists in accordance with Section 4 of modules composed of graded coursework in accordance with Section 7 as well as the Master's thesis in accordance with Section 12.

(2) The content-related examination requirements of the individual modules specified in Section 4 subsection 1 are defined in the module handbook.

(3) The Master's examination is graded as passed if all modules specified in subsection 1 in conjunction with Section 4 subsection 1 have been passed, and the Master's thesis has been awarded at least the grade "sufficient" (4.0).

(4) A Master's examination is graded as irrevocably failed if one of the modules in accordance with Section 4 subsection 1

- has been awarded the grade "fail" (5.0) or is deemed to have been a "fail" (5.0) and
- it is not possible to retake it or
- replace it with another module

or the Master's thesis

- has been awarded the grade "fail" (5.0) or is deemed to have been a "fail" (5.0) and
- it is not possible to retake it.

Section 14 Final Grade of the Master's Examination

(1) The overall grade for the Master's examination is composed of the arithmetic mean of the graded coursework (module grades) in the mandatory component and the mandatory elective component, weighted by the respective credit points of each module, and the arithmetic mean of both evaluations of the Master's thesis in a ratio of 3:2. On the final academic record, only the first decimal place of the overall grade shall be documented without rounding.

(2) [1]If a student has successfully completed more mandatory elective modules than the degree program requires, the student shall choose which of the mandatory elective modules are to be taken into account when calculating the overall grade. [2]Mandatory elective modules not included in the mandatory electives can be included in the Distinguishing Elective Courses. [3]All successfully completed mandatory elective modules are listed on the transcript of records with their corresponding grade; Section 17 subsection 2 sentence 3 shall apply accordingly.

(3) [1]If the overall grade is between 1.0 and 1.2, the student shall be awarded the distinction of "mit Auszeichnung bestanden". [2]This distinction is to be recorded on the ceremonial degree certificate (Urkunde), degree certificate (Zeugnis) and transcript of records (Leistungsübersicht). [3]The translation "with distinction" shall be used.

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Section 15 ECTS Grades

The ECTS comparison tables shall be included in the Diploma Supplement in accordance with the most current version of the ECTS Handbook.

Section 16 Recognition of Coursework Credits, Graded and Ungraded Coursework and Recognition of Professionally Acquired Skills

(1) *Recognition of credits earned at Osnabrück University or state-recognized German universities:* [1]Ungraded coursework credits, graded and ungraded coursework earned at Osnabrück University or any other state-recognized German university shall upon application be recognized, provided there is no significant difference between the completed coursework and that which it is intended to replace. [2]The assessment of whether a significant difference exists shall be established based primarily on the following criteria: quality of the university, learning outcomes, level of competencies acquired and to be acquired, profile of the programs of study, workload.

(2) Recognition of coursework and examinations that have been completed at universities abroad: [1]Coursework credits and graded and ungraded coursework that students have completed during student exchange or student mobility programs shall be recognized upon application if, prior to the commencement of the exchange or mobility program, a relevant learning agreement has been completed and has been approved by the examination committee. The examination committee may delegate the decision regarding approval to a qualified person or persons; the delegation shall be documented. [3]Coursework credits and graded and ungraded coursework obtained outside the programs mentioned in sentence 1 at a university in a Contracting State of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of April 11, 1997 ('Lisbon Recognition Convention') shall be recognized upon application, provided there is no significant difference between the completed coursework and examinations do not differ significantly from those they are intended to replace. [3]The assessment of whether a significant difference exists shall be established based primarily on the following criteria: quality of the university, learning outcomes, level of competencies acquired and to be acquired, profile of the programs of study, workload. [5]Coursework credits and graded and ungraded coursework completed outside the programs mentioned in Sentence 1 at a university outside a Contracting State of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of April 11, 1997 ('Lisbon Recognition Convention') shall be recognized upon request, provided the completed coursework and examinations are equivalent to those they are intended to replace.

(3) *Recognition of coursework and examinations completed outside universities:* [1]Coursework and examinations completed outside the university context and professional skills and qualifications shall be recognized upon application provided the completed work is equivalent in content and level to those they are intended to replace.

(4) [1]A student may submit an application for recognition at any time provided that their entitlement to take the examination within the degree program they are enrolled in has not expired; an application is inadmissible if registration for the examination that is to be replaced by the recognized or credited achievement has already taken place, or if the examination has already been successfully completed or irrevocably failed. [2]Students are under an obligation to cooperate; students shall submit the documentation and information sources required for an adequate assessment of recognition or accreditation to take place, in particular graduation certificates, module descriptions, framework curricula and/or comparable documents. [3]The application shall specifically name the examination that is to be replaced. [4]The documentation submitted must be in German or English; if documentation is only available in another language, it shall be submitted with an accompanying official translation in German or English (original or officially certified copy).

(5) [1]The examination committee shall decide about matters of accreditation and recognition within a reasonable period, usually six weeks. [2]The examination committee may seek an opinion from an appropriate expert in the relevant field in order to prepare its decision. [3]Rejections shall be justified.

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(6) [1]Recognized graded coursework results shall be adopted provided that the grading systems are compatible. [2]Grades from incompatible grading systems shall be converted in accordance with the modified Bavarian formula unless otherwise specified by the examination committee. [3]If conversion is not possible, the examination result in this specific case shall be recognized with a "pass" grade. [4]Recognized and accredited coursework credits and graded and ungraded coursework results are to be marked as such on the student's transcript.

Section 17 Certificates and Official Records

(1) At the student's request, the examinations office shall issue an official record detailing individual, passed graded coursework and coursework credits which the student has completed so far.

(2) [1]Upon application by the student, the examinations office shall immediately issue the student with a degree certificate listing the overall grade and, separately, the grade for the passed Master's thesis, and a ceremonial degree certificate in German and upon further application in English. [2]The date of issuance recorded on the degree certificate shall be the day on which the student was awarded their last graded coursework result or their last coursework credit. [3]A supplement (transcript of records) shall also be issued with the degree certificate detailing all the coursework and examinations the student has passed and giving the corresponding grades. [4]The final academic record shall additionally state the title of the Master's thesis and the names of the two examiners. [5]The graduation documents shall be issued in accordance with the design guidelines approved by the President's Cabinet.

(3) [1]The student shall be issued with a Diploma Supplement in accordance with the template of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) in its up-to-date version in German and English. [2]In addition, a document shall be issued in both German and English clearly indicating the field of specialization within the study program based on the total number of credits earned in the Mandatory Elective Component and the Distinguishing Elective Courses from the three areas of focus assigned to the modules in accordance with Section 4. [3]In addition, those areas of focus in which at least 20 credit points have been earned in the mandatory elective modules shall be listed in descending order based on the total number of credit points contributed from the mandatory elective component and the distinguishing elective courses.

(4) [1]If a student leaves the university or changes degree programs, the student is entitled to apply to have an official record issued documenting all of their existing graded and ungraded coursework results and their evaluations; in deviation from Section 4b, credit points may also be awarded for successfully completed components of a module that has not yet been successfully completed.[2]If the Master's examination has been irrevocably failed or is deemed to have been "irrevocably failed," the certificate referred to in sentence 1 shall be issued without application.

Section 18 Appeal Procedure

(1) [1]Negative decisions and other administrative steps with a detrimental impact taken in accordance with these examination regulations shall be explained in writing, state the procedure for appeal, and be communicated in accordance with Section 41 of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG). [2]In accordance with Sections 68ff. of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (VwGO), a student shall be entitled to file an appeal against these decisions to the examination committee within a period of one month after issuance of the notification of the decision. [3]To meet the deadline, it is sufficient for the appeal to be submitted in writing to the relevant examinations office within one month of the notification. [4]The examinations office then passes on the appeal to the relevant examination committee.

(2) [1]The examination committee shall decide on the appeal. [2]If the appeal is filed against a grade awarded by an examiner, the examination committee shall decide upon the appeal in accordance with subsections 3, 4 and 5 after reviewing the matter.

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(3) [1]If, in their appeal, the candidate raises concrete and substantial objections to the specific grades awarded or expert assessments made by an examiner, the chairperson of the examination committee shall pass on the appeal to the respective examiner for review. [2]If the examiner changes their grade as requested in the appeal, the examination committee shall remedy the appeal accordingly. [3]Otherwise, the examination committee shall review the decision on the basis of the examiner's statement, checking in particular whether

1. the examination process accorded with the regulations,
2. the grading was based on incorrect facts,
3. customary grading principles were not observed,
4. a defensible, plausible and coherent solution to a problem was adjudged incorrect or
5. the examiner was guided by considerations not relevant to the business at hand.

[4]The same shall apply if a candidate appeals against grades awarded by more than one examiner. [5]The review procedure in accordance with sentences 3 and 4 shall as a rule be completed within two months. [6]The chairperson shall issue the decision on the objection to the appellant.

(4) [1]Graded coursework shall be regraded by other examiners not yet involved in this examination if

- the examination committee ascertains that a violation has been committed in accordance with subsection 3 sentence 3 and
- the examination committee has not remedied the matter in the course of the procedure so far and
- concrete and substantial objections to specific grades and expert assessments have been submitted and
- the examiner does not alter their decision in accordance with the appeal.

[2]If the examination format does not allow for regrading, the examination shall be retaken.

(5) The appeal procedure may not lead to a lowering of the examination grade.

Section 19 Inspection of the Examination File

(1) [1]Upon application, the candidate shall be entitled upon completion of each examination to inspect their written examinations, the examination reports written by the examiners, and examination minutes. [2]The student shall submit their application to the chairperson of the examination committee within six months at the latest after passing the respective examination or after receiving notification that they have not passed an examination. [3]Upon application, the candidate may also be granted access to their examination file. [4]The chair of the examination committee shall determine when and where the file may be accessed. [5]The right to inspect the file also includes the right to take notes, duplicates, copies and photos.

(2) Subsection 1 shall apply accordingly to electronic exams and digitalized files.

Section 20 Annulment of Examination Decisions

(1) If a candidate has committed an assessment offense in an examination (graded coursework or Master's thesis), the examination committee shall be entitled to retrospectively change the grades for the examinations in which the candidate has committed an offense and, where relevant, declare the examination to be completely or partially failed.

(2) [1]If the student has failed to comply with the prerequisites for admission to an examination albeit without the intention to deceive, this shortcoming is considered rectified if the student passes the examination. [2]If the candidate has willfully obtained admission to a degree program or to an

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examination by deceitful means, the examination committee shall decide on the withdrawal of the illegal administrative file, taking account of statutory provisions.

(3) The candidate shall be given the opportunity to discuss the issue with the examination committee before any decision is taken.

(4) [1]The incorrect final academic record shall be revoked and replaced with a correct final academic record in accordance with Section 17 or a certificate in accordance with Section 17. [2]The student's corresponding degree certificate shall be revoked along with the incorrect final academic record if the candidate has been awarded a "fail" grade due to an assessment offense. [3]A decision in accordance with subsection 1 and subsection 2 sentence 2 is excluded after a period of ten years from the date of issue of the examination certificate.

Section 21 Disadvantage Compensation and Protective Regulations

(1) [1]If the candidate can plausibly show that they are unable to take part in some or all of an examination in the intended format due to a long-term or ongoing physical or health-related impairment, then the examination committee shall make arrangements for the candidate (e.g. an extended time period) to complete the examination or to take a comparable examination in a different format as listed in the module description. [2]The candidate is obliged to submit the relevant documentary proof; submission of an officially recognized medical certificate may be required as proof in accordance with sentence 1.

(2) [1]Upon application by the candidate, periods of maternity leave, as defined in the up-to-date version of the law for the protection of working mothers (MSchG), shall be taken into account. [2]Supporting documentation shall be included in the application. [3]Periods of maternity leave interrupt any deadlines in accordance with these examination regulations; the duration of periods of maternity leave shall not count as time passing toward a deadline.

(3) [1]Equally, any deadlines relating to parental leave in accordance with the up-to-date law on the granting of child benefit and parental leave (BErzGG) shall be observed if an application of this kind is made. [2]The candidate shall inform the examination committee in writing - including any supporting documentation - which period or periods they intend to take as parental leave at least four weeks before the date from which the candidate intends to commence a period of parental leave. [3]The examination committee shall assess whether the statutory requirements exist which would justify a claim for parental leave as an employee in accordance with the BErzGG, and shall immediately inform the candidate in writing of the result as well as, where relevant, the newly specified examination deadlines. [4]The time period allowed for the student to complete their Master's thesis may not be interrupted by parental leave. [5]Instead, the thesis topic is deemed not to have been allocated. [6]Once the student's parental leave is over, the candidate shall be allocated a new topic.

(4) In addition, the examination committee shall also take into consideration periods of absence from a study program if a student acts as a carer for persons in the sense as defined in Section 12 subsection 3 no. 3 of the NHG.

Section 22 Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions

(1) [1]These examination regulations shall enter into force following their publication in the official gazette of Osnabrück University on 01.10.2025.

(2) [1]Notwithstanding subsection 1, students who were already enrolled in the Cognitive Science Master's program in the summer semester 2024 shall continue their studies in accordance with the examination regulations relevant to them. [2]Upon application to the relevant examination committee, they may switch to the new examination regulations.

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(3) [1]The examination regulations for the Cognitive Science Master's program in the versions dated 29.12.2006 (Osnabrück University official gazette no. 08/2006, p. 843) and dated 09.06.2020 (Osnabrück University official gazette no. 04/2020 dated 09.06.2020, p. 307) shall be permanently repealed on 30.09.2026. [2]Students in accordance with subsection 2 sentence 1 shall after 01.10.2026 automatically become subject to the examination regulations for the Cognitive Science Master's program that are valid at that time.

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