

INTERNAL MSc REGULATION

Article 1

General provisions

The Departments of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine of the School of Health Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki organize and continue to operate from the academic year 2024-2025 an English-speaking Interdepartmental Postgraduate Studies Program (IDPS) entitled "Application of Endoscopic Surgical Techniques in Gynecology", in accordance with the provisions of this decision and the

provisions of Law 4957/2022. The Department of Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is designated as the expedited Department.

Article 2

Cultural Subject-Purpose

The purpose of the English-speaking Interdepartmental Postgraduate Studies Program

(MSc) is to train postgraduate students in modern developments regarding endoscopic and general surgical skills for the treatment of gynecological diseases.

The purpose of the MSc is:

1. The specialized and in-depth theoretical training of its students in the offered field of knowledge of endoscopic surgical treatment of gynecological diseases.
2. The specialized and in-depth practical training of its students in the offered field of knowledge of endoscopic surgical treatment of gynecological diseases, with laboratory practice in the necessary clinical skills.
3. The conduct of relevant research by them and the writing of a scientific paper.

The learning outcomes and qualifications of those who successfully complete the Program consist of acquiring the necessary knowledge for the diagnosis and treatment of benign gynecological, urogenital and pelvic oncological diseases, as well as practical surgical and endoscopic skills in surgical anatomy in order to apply them in daily practice, ensuring greater efficiency and respect for patient safety. The developments in the applications of Medicine and the related surgical and endoscopic techniques are rapid. These developments are constantly changing the data of the applications, especially those related to the specialty of gynecology. This fact implies the necessity for acquiring an updated theoretical background, as well as continuous practical training in surgical and endoscopic skills, for the optimal approach,

assessment and surgical treatment of pathology in women. In the D.P.M.S. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and on the acquisition of practical skills, with the ultimate goal of high-level education in endoscopic surgical gynecological skills as well as the scientific documentation of their application. Taking into account the principles of surgical anatomy and endoscopic surgical treatment of various gynecological diseases, the D.P.M.S. presents the possibilities offered by modern developments in their effectiveness.

The cooperation of the two Departments, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, offers the possibility of monitoring and carrying out laboratory exercises in operating room conditions and training in surgical techniques on specially constructed models as well as animal tissues or on appropriately prepared cadavers. Trainees in the framework of the study program, upon completion of the mandatory laboratory exercises, will acquire surgical skills which they will be able to apply in the daily practice of surgical work, ensuring greater efficiency, respecting the safety of patients.

Article 3

Postgraduate Degree

The English-speaking MSc awards a Postgraduate Diploma (D.M.S.) entitled "Application of Endoscopic Surgical Techniques in Gynecology".
The MSc has no specializations.

Article 4

Duration of Studies - Operation of the D.P.M.S.

The duration of the D.P.M.S. is set at a minimum at one (1) full academic year [two (2) academic semesters plus the summer period], which also includes the time for the preparation and assessment of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (M.D.E).

The maximum permitted time for completing studies is set by increasing the normal duration of study by two (2) academic semesters.

Study at the MSc is mandatory. The MSc will operate until the academic year 2028-2029, with the possibility of extension, subject to its non-certification during the periodic evaluation of the Department.

Article 5

Categories of Graduates/Diplomas

The categories of candidates who may be admitted to follow Postgraduate Studies Programs are:

- i. Holders of first-cycle degrees from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) [Universities and Technological Educational Institutions (TEIs)] in Greece.
- ii. Holders of first-cycle degrees from similar institutions abroad.

Specifically, in the D.P.M.S. entitled "Application of Endoscopic Surgical Techniques in Gynecology"

graduates from the Faculties of Health Sciences, the Departments of Medicine, Pharmacy,

Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Obstetrics or Genetics, Nursing of domestic Universities or of foreign institutions as well as graduates of departments of A.E.I. or TEI. of the country or of foreign institutions, of a related subject.
Candidates for the D.P.M.S. may also be final year students of the above Departments, provided that they have graduated before the approval of the final list of candidates admitted.

Article 6

Number and Selection Criteria of Admitted Students

The number of admitted students per year is set at a minimum of sixteen (16) and a maximum of thirty-two (32) postgraduate students.

The MSc, following a decision of the Curriculum Committee, announces positions through an open procedure. Specifically, the invitation states the admission requirements, the number of admitted students, the categories of candidates, the method of admission, the selection criteria, etc., the deadlines for submitting applications, as well as the required supporting documents. Applications accompanied by the necessary supporting documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the D.P.M.S., either in printed or electronic form.

The selection criteria for admitted students are as follows:

1. Possession of a first-cycle degree/diploma from Greece or abroad.
2. Possession of a postgraduate diploma or diplomas from a Greek University or an equivalent foreign institution.
3. Personal interview.
4. Announcements at Greek conferences.
5. Announcements at international conferences.
6. Publications in Greek journals.
7. Publications in international journals.
8. Participation in research programs.
9. Recognized professional experience.

For the participation of candidates in the selection process for the MSc, a good knowledge of the English language is considered essential, which, when their native language is not confirmed, is certified either by a degree from a corresponding English-speaking university department or by possession of recognized proficiency diplomas of at least level B2.

The supporting documents related to the above criteria are submitted either as an exact copy or as a simple photocopy.

Article 7

Selection Process for Admitted Candidates

The selection process for candidates begins with the Secretariat of the D.P.M.S., which checks the completeness of the file and then draws up a list of candidates who have submitted all the necessary supporting documents by the deadline.

By decision of the Curriculum Committee, an Admitted Candidates Selection Committee is appointed, which consists of three (3) faculty members of the same or related subject who belong to the S.E. of the MSc.

. Based on the required supporting documents, the Committee evaluates the candidates with the point allocation provided below:

- The degree grade [five (5) points for “Good”, seven (7) points for “Very Good” and ten (10) points for “Excellent”].
- Diploma or diplomas of postgraduate studies at a Greek University or an equivalent institution abroad [up to ten (10) points].
- The personal interview conducted by the members of the Coordinating Committee of the D.P.M.S. [up to sixty (60) points]. In the personal interview, scientific training [up to twenty (20) points], research experience [up to twenty (20) points], relevant extra-university activity and any special outstanding qualifications [up to 20 points] are evaluated.
- Announcements at Greek conferences [one (1) point /announcement, up to five (5) points].
- Announcements at international conferences [two (2) points /per announcement up to ten (10) points].
- Publications in Greek journals [five (5) points /publication, up to fifteen (15) points].
- Publications in international journals [ten (10) points /publication, up to thirty (30) points].
- Participation in research programs [ten (10) points /per program, up to thirty (30) points].
- Recognized professional experience [ten (10) points / year, up to three (3) years of experience, maximum thirty (30) points].

The maximum number of points that the candidate can obtain is determined by the above criteria and amounts to two hundred (200) points.

The Committee draws up a complete list of all candidates and, after the relevant check, rejects those who do not meet the minimum criteria set out in the announcement and then invites the qualified candidates who have collected the prerequisite documents to an interview. The Committee ranks the candidates based on the total number of points they have collected. After completing the process (evaluation based on the documentation file and the interview), the final list of successful candidates is drawn up. If there are more candidates with the same total number of points, then for their final ranking, the grade of the diploma or degree is taken into account, although in this case if a tie occurs, then for their final ranking, the points of the courses related to the D.P.M.S. which will be specified in the respective announcement are taken into account.

The final list of successful candidates and any runners-up is validated by the E.P.S. of the MSc and is posted on the MSc website. Objections to the results may be filed within five (5) working days from the notification of the results.

The successful candidates should register with the Secretariat of the D.P.M.S. within ten (10) working days from the notification of the list of successful candidates. In case of non-registration of one or more students, the runners-up will be invited to register, if any, based on their order in the approved evaluation list. In case of admission positions remaining vacant, they will be covered until the stipulated percentage of admissions (in accordance with the provisions of the announcement) is exhausted, either by ranking, as successful, candidates in descending order of total score or by a supplementary announcement of the vacant positions.

Article 8

Duration and Terms of Study

The duration for the award of the D.M.S. is set at a minimum at one (1) full academic year [two (2) academic semesters plus the summer period], which also includes the time for the preparation and assessment of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (M.D.E). The maximum permitted time for completing studies is determined by increasing the normal duration of study by two (2) academic semesters.

Postgraduate students are provided with the possibility of part-time study, the duration of which may not exceed double the normal duration of study. The application for part-time study is submitted at the beginning of each semester, accompanied by the supporting documents required by the Department. The postgraduate student may attend half of the courses of the proposed study program.

Also, postgraduate students may be granted, upon request at the beginning of the semester, a suspension of studies, which may not exceed two (2) consecutive semesters.

During the suspension, the postgraduate student loses the status of student. The suspension period is not counted towards the maximum duration of study.

Furthermore, upon a justified request before the completion of the regular duration of study, the postgraduate student may request an extension of studies, which concerns the completion of the studies or the preparation of the postgraduate thesis. After the end of the extension of studies, the postgraduate student is deleted from the D.P.M.S. by decision of the collective body.

Postgraduate students are required to:

1. Attend the courses of the curriculum without fail. Attendance of courses and exercises is mandatory. Deviations are permitted only for serious justified reasons. The permissible limit of absences, regardless of whether the absences are justified or not, is up to four (4) per course. If the postgraduate student accumulates five (5) absences or more, he/she will have to re-attend the course.

In this case, he/she will be subject to the evaluation process again, so if he/she accumulates five (5) absences for a second time, or fails the course examination, he/she will be deleted from the Program.

2. Participate in all educational and research activities.

3. Submit course declarations on time each semester.

4. Submit the required assignments for each course within the stipulated deadlines.

5. Attend the exams.

6. Submit to the Secretariat, together with their postgraduate thesis to be evaluated, a solemn declaration that there is no evidence of plagiarism.

7. Pay the tuition fees within the specified dates.

8. Have settled all their financial obligations, as well as any other obligations to the Institution, before the oath-taking. Otherwise, they will not be entitled to take the oath and/or receive the postgraduate diploma.

9. It is possible to study simultaneously in an undergraduate program and a postgraduate program or in two (2) postgraduate programs of the same or another Department, of the same or another HEI.

10. To respect and abide by the decisions of the bodies of the D.P.M.S. as well as the academic ethics. Failure to comply with the above, without a documented justification, may lead to failure in a course or exclusion from the program.

11. To fulfil their financial obligations on the dates specified by the Program Secretariat.

Failure to comply with all of the above without a serious and documented justification constitutes a reason for the postgraduate student to be dismissed from the program.

Students of the MSc who have been dismissed for any reason, except disciplinary offenses, have the right to apply to be readmitted to study again, at any new start of a cycle of studies. The application of a withdrawn student competes normally and on equal terms with the prospective students of the specific series and based on the current criteria. In the event that a withdrawn student is accepted into the Program, he is obliged to start from the first semester, with the corresponding financial burden.

Article 9

Right to Free Tuition-Scholarships

Postgraduate students may study for free, provided they meet economic or social criteria. A prerequisite for granting the right is the possession of a first-cycle degree or diploma corresponding to a grade equal to or higher than seven and a half with an excellent grade out of ten (7.5/10).

The total number of beneficiaries may not exceed the number corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of all registered students per year.

The submission of applications for free tuition per P.M.S./D.P.M.S. in accordance with this is made after the completion of the student admission process to the D.P.M.S.

A student of the P.M.S./D.P.M.S. has the right to free tuition, which meets the condition of par. 1, provided that the following criteria apply:

a) The average of the sum of the taxable incomes of the last two (2) financial years of all the family members of the applicant for exemption from tuition fees, namely the applicant himself, his parents, regardless of whether they file a joint or separate tax return, and his siblings up to twenty-six (26) years of age, provided that they are unmarried and have their own taxable income within the meaning of article 7 of Law 4172/2013 (A' 167), does not exceed seventy percent (70%) of the national median disposable equivalent income, according to the most recently published data of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.), if the applicant has not completed the twenty-sixth (26th) year of age and is unmarried or has not entered into a civil partnership.

b) The average individual taxable income of the last two (2) financial years of the applicant does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the national median disposable equivalent income, according to the most recently published data of EL.STAT., if the applicant has completed the twenty-sixth (26th) year of age.

c) The average of the sum of the taxable income of the last two (2) financial years of the applicant for exemption from tuition fees and of his or her spouse or cohabitant, provided that he or she is married or has entered into a cohabitation agreement, regardless of whether they submit a joint or separate tax return, does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the national median disposable equivalent income, according to the most recently published data of EL.STAT. If the applicant for the exemption has not completed the twenty-sixth (26th) year of age and is a child of a three-child or large family or a child of a single parent or an orphan of at least one (1) parent or a person with a disability or a member of a household with a person with a disability, he may request a half (50%) exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees, provided that the average in paragraph a) of paragraph 4 of article 86 of law 4957/2022 exceeds seventy percent (70%) and does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the national median equivalent disposable

income. The examination of the criteria for exemption from tuition fees is carried out by the Curriculum Committee and a reasoned decision is issued to accept or reject the application. The possibility of exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees is provided exclusively for studying at one (1) D.P.M.S. organized by a domestic university.

This does not apply to citizens of third countries.

The D.P.M.S. provides for the granting of one (1) excellence scholarship per academic year to a

postgraduate student, following a recommendation by the S.E. and a decision by the E.P.S. The scholarship is registered in the approved Budget of the D.P.M.S. The scholarship covers the exemption from paying fifty percent (50%) of tuition fees to the student who completes the study program in one year and obtains the highest score among his/her fellow students, in all courses.

In case the postgraduate student has a scholarship or grant from another body, he is not entitled to a scholarship from the D.P.M.S.

The more specific terms, obligations and rights of the scholars will be determined and will be adjusted per academic year by decision of the E.P.S.

Article 10

Curriculum

The D.P.M.S. begins in the winter semester of each academic year.

A total of seventy-five (75) credit units (ECTS) are required to obtain the Postgraduate Diploma. The D.P.M.S. curriculum is structured into two (2) academic semesters, duration thirteen (13) weeks each, and the summer period. Students' obligations can be completed during a full academic year.

The preparation of the curriculum is determined by the E.P.S. The beginning and end of the semesters are determined by the E.P.S. and by the academic calendar of the A.U.T.H. Indicatively, the winter semester begins in the first week of October, while the spring semester begins in mid-February. At the end of the second (B') semester, during the summer months, students complete their master's thesis and submit it by the end of September.

In the first (A') semester, four (4) theoretical courses and one (1) laboratory exercise are taught, while in the second (B') semester, five (5) laboratory exercises and one (1) theoretical course are taught. The laboratory exercises are carried out in the Anatomy and Surgical Anatomy laboratory of the Department of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Government Gazette 1889/Issue B/28-5-2019), in the Experimental Surgery of the Companion Animal Clinic of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Government Gazette 398/Issue B/28-3-2005 and Government Gazette 397/Issue B/3-4-2006) and in laboratories of the 1st Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic of the Papageorgiou General Hospital of Thessaloniki (Government Gazette 993/Issue B/21-3-2018). The commencement of the postgraduate thesis (taking up a topic, preparing and presenting a research diagram) takes place in the second (2nd) semester and is prepared and completed (writing – presenting) during the summer period, i.e. at the end of the full academic year.

All courses of the program are taught in English and the language of preparation of the postgraduate thesis is also English.

The examination of the postgraduate thesis is carried out on the condition that the postgraduate student has successfully passed all courses of the first and second semesters. The final

assessment and grading of the candidate's postgraduate thesis is decided by the three-member Examination Committee, while the public examination of the candidate's postgraduate thesis is not mandatory.

The total Credit Units of the courses of the D.P.M.S. are seventy-five (75) credit units (ECTS) and specifically thirty (30) credit units (ECTS) for the courses of the first (A') semester, thirty (30) credit units (ECTS) for the courses of the second (B') semester as well as 15 (ECTS) for the preparation of the postgraduate thesis.

Curriculum

The MSc "Application of endoscopic surgical techniques in gynecology" is structured into two (2) semesters.

A) Indicative curriculum

First semester (Total ECTS 30) (5 compulsory courses)				
	Title course	Course type	Distance learning	ECTS
1	Theoretical anatomy courses	Compulsory	100%	6
2	Theoretical courses in endoscopic surgery I	Compulsory	100%	6
3	Theoretical courses in gynecological oncology	Compulsory	100%	6
4	Theoretical courses in urogynecology	Compulsory	100%	6
5	Laboratory exercise in surgical anatomy on special models or cadaver	Compulsory	0%	6
Second semester (Total ECTS 30) (6 compulsory courses)				
1	Theoretical courses in endoscopic surgery II	Compulsory	100%	5
2	Laboratory exercise of ergonomics in laparoscopy	Compulsory	0%	5
3	Laboratory exercise in tissue suturing	Compulsory	0%	5
4	Laboratory exercise of application of endoscopic surgical techniques in pigs I	Compulsory	0%	5
5	Laboratory exercise in hysteroscopy	Compulsory	0%	5
6	Laboratory exercise of application of endoscopic surgical techniques in pigs II	Compulsory	0%	5
Third semester (Total ECTS 15) Preparation of a MSc Thesis				
	Title course	Course type		ECTS
	Postgraduate Diploma Thesis	Compulsory		15

	(Preparation, writing and presentation of the postgraduate diploma thesis)			
Final Total for obtaining the master's degree				ECTS 75

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Individual modules-teaching objectives/

First Semester

A1 Theoretical anatomy courses

The theoretical anatomy courses cover knowledge concerning the surgical anatomy of the pelvic floor, the anatomy of the pelvis and para-aortic retroperitoneal space, the vasculature, lymphatic drainage and innervation of the genital organs, the topographical anatomy and the anatomy of the pelvis during laparoscopy, the vasculature, lymphatic drainage and innervation of the female genitourinary system.

A2 Theoretical courses of endoscopic surgery I

The theoretical courses of endoscopic surgery I concern knowledge on ergonomics, laparoscopy tools, pneumoperitoneum techniques, the principles of using electrodiathermy, the pathophysiology of pneumoperitoneum, laparoscopic surgery, laparoscopic hysterectomy, laparoscopic fibromyomectomy, laparoscopic treatment of ovarian cysts, laparoscopic principles of appendectomy, laparoscopic treatment of endometrioma, laparoscopic salpingectomy, laparoscopic treatment of pelvic inflammatory disease, laparoscopic repair of fallopian tubes, laparoscopic treatment of endometriosis, laparoscopic suturing techniques, basic principles of robotic surgery and newer developments, the use of laser, laparoscopic methods of infertility treatment and the role of endoscopy in the era of artificial insemination, complications of laparoscopy, endoscopic methods of family planning, perinatal outcome and mode of delivery after laparoscopic surgery, anesthetic problems in the cardiovascular system when using endoscopic surgery and training in endoscopic surgery and safety.

A3 Theoretical courses in

gynecological oncology

The course includes general principles of investigation of gynecological tumors, techniques of laparoscopic treatment of endometrial cancer, cervical cancer, the use of sentinel lymph nodes, endoscopic techniques of surgical approach, the role of laparoscopy in ovarian cancer, the use of robotic surgery, endoscopic pelvic techniques and paraaortic lymphadenectomy, radical hysterectomy techniques, preoperative control of appendicular tumors, laparoscopic fertility preservation in patients with malignancy, laparoscopic staging, anesthetic problems in oncology patients and endoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, psychological issues in communication with the cancer patient and his family - approval for surgery, research methodology in gynecological cancer, general applications of endoscopic surgery in oncology for patient safety.

A4 Theoretical courses in urogynecology

The course includes the place of Laparoscopy in urogynecology, robotic surgery, the laparoscopic application of hysterectomy techniques, the Burch technique, endoscopic prevention of uterine prolapse during hysterectomy, laparoscopic treatment techniques for uterine prolapse, the position of the vagina in relation to laparoscopic hysterectomy, childbirth after incontinence procedures, complications and medicolegal problems from the use of implants in Urogynecology, complications and medicolegal problems from the use of implants in Urogynecology, lifestyle pelvic floor surgery, pelvic floor disorders and female/male sexuality, minimally invasive/surgical treatment of prolapse pelvic floor, surgical/non-surgical treatment of obstetric injuries of the pelvic floor, aesthetic and reconstructive surgery of the pelvic floor, total laparoscopic treatment of internal genital prolapse with the help of native tissues.

A5 Laboratory exercise in surgical anatomy on special models or cadaver

Laboratory exercise in surgical tissue preparation techniques in open operating room and/or

laparoscopic operating room conditions on models or cadavers.

B1 Theoretical courses of endoscopic surgery II

The course includes training in endoscopic surgery and safety, principles of diagnostic hysteroscopy, applications of hysteroscopy, office hysteroscopy, invasive hysteroscopy with and without electrodiathermy for treatment of endometrial pathology and infertility, the location of diagnostic hysteroscopy in the age of 3d ultrasound, complications in hysteroscopy, the latest technical developments-technologies in endoscopic surgery and training, embryoscopy, aspiration-ovum retrieval, the place of informatics as a science in endoscopy, the relationship of statistics with endoscopy, criminal law issues in endoscopic surgery, informed consent and medical malpractice in endoscopic surgery, civil issues in the practice of endoscopy in gynecology.

B2 Ergonomics practice in laparoscopy

The internship involves training in laparoscopic camera handling, camera-hand ergonomics, hand ergonomics, 2-hand ergonomics coordination, Veress and Trocar needle placement training, ovarian cystectopic pregnancy simulation and pneumoperitoneum creation temple.

B3 Laboratory exercise in laparoscopic tissue suturing

The laboratory exercise involves training in the correct grasp of the needle with the laparoscopic needle holders, the insertion of the needle with the dominant hand at a predetermined point on the tissue, the protection of the tissues with the nondominant hand and traction of the suture and the completion laparoscopic nodes (intra-abdominalexta-abdominal).

B4 Laboratory exercise in the application of endoscopic surgical techniques in pigs I

Hands-on exercise in anesthetized pigs, surgical techniques of pneumoperitoneum, tissue preparation, hemostasis, suturing, nephrectomy,

hysterectomy and lymph node cleansing in laparoscopic operating room conditions.

B5 Laboratory exercise in hysteroscopy

Includes training in the handling of the hysteroscopic camera and/or resectoscope training and/or training in the use of the bettochi hysteroscope and biopsy forceps, treatment of endometrial pathology (polyposis-diaphragm).

B6 Laboratory exercise in the application of endoscopic surgical techniques in pigs II

Hands-on practice in anesthetized pigs, surgical techniques of pneumoperitoneum, tissue preparation, hemostasis, suturing, nephrectomy, hysterectomy and lymph node cleansing in laparoscopic operating room conditions.

Summer period

Master of Science thesis

MASTER OF SCIENCE THESIS

During the second (B') semester, the postgraduate student is required to prepare a preliminary research outline for the M.D.E. and to choose supervising professor, with the latter's consent. The supervisor may be: a) Teacher - Faculty Member of the participants in the D.P.M.S. Departments b) Teacher - Faculty Member of other D.P.M.S. Departments, who has been assigned to teach a course at the D.P.M.S. or c) Teacher of the D.P.M.S. of the categories, as described in par. 3 of article 83 of law 4957/2022, following a decision of the E.P.S.

The members of the Three-Member Examination Committee must have the same or related scientific specialization as the subject of the D.P.M.S.

For the preparation of a Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (M.D.E.), the E.P.S. following a request from the candidate on specified dates, in which the proposed title of the postgraduate thesis is indicated, the proposed supervisor and a summary of the proposed thesis is attached, appoints the supervisor and forms a Three-Member Examination Committee for the approval of the thesis, one member of which is the supervisor. The postgraduate student's research outline specifies the topic to be analyzed, the methodology of his scientific approach, as well as the bibliography to be used. The acceptance of the postgraduate student's research proposal by the supervisor is based on the criteria of the relevance of the topic to the subject of the D.P.M.S., the expected scientific contribution to the relevant research field and the apparent elements of originality in terms of the approach to the specific subject under investigation. The acceptance of each research proposal is validated by a decision of the D.P.M.S.'s E.P.M.S. The topic of the M.D. is registered in a special list of postgraduate theses kept at the MSc Secretariat. This list necessarily includes the name and surname of the candidate and the supervisor, the date of

approval of the topic by the E.P.M.S. and the date of completion of the procedure, either by acceptance or rejection. The postgraduate thesis is theoretical, must be written in English and its length must not exceed 10,000 words in Arial font (12 point). Depending on the progress of the preparation of the postgraduate thesis, the postgraduate student informs the supervising professor, who monitors whether the objectives and specifications of the research are met. After completing the writing of the M.D.E., the postgraduate student sends his/her postgraduate thesis to the Three-Member Examination Committee. The Three-Member Examination Committee decides on the final assessment and grading of the candidate's postgraduate thesis. When the writing of the postgraduate thesis is completed, it is sent electronically to the Secretariat of the D.P.M.S., with the approval of the supervising professor that it meets the requirements to be admitted for assessment.

Within thirty (30) days from the submission of the M.D.E., the Three-Member Examination Committee decides on the grading of the M.D.E., with a grading scale from zero (0) to ten (10), sending the minutes of the candidate's evaluation to the Secretariat of the D.P.M.S. If, after this deadline, it is established that a member of the Committee has not met his or her relevant obligations, this member is replaced by a decision of the E.P.S. In this case, the process of acceptance and grading of the M.D.E. must be completed within twenty (20) days.

In order for a M.D.E. to be accepted by the Three-Member Examination Committee, it must meet the following requirements:

- a) The topic and content of the paper must be relevant to the subject of the D.P.M.S.
- b) The discussion of the topic, without necessarily having completely new elements, must be done in such a way as to approach the sources and bibliography, so as to present the candidate's personal research effort and performance.

By decision of the E.P.S., and provided that no extension of studies has been previously granted, it is possible to extend the time for writing and submitting the M.D.E. by two (2) semesters. If this deadline passes without action, the postgraduate student is deleted and the cycle of studies is considered not to have been completed.

In exceptional cases, if there is an objective inability or a serious reason, it is possible to replace the supervisor or member of the Three-member Examination Committee following a decision of the Curriculum Committee.

It is not possible to change the topic of the student's M.D.E., except by decision of the E.P.S. following a reasoned proposal by the supervising professor. Changing the topic of the M.D.E. does not in any case constitute a reason for extending the above deadlines.

Article 11

Method of organizing the educational process

Each semester includes at least thirteen (13) weeks of teaching.

The assignment of the teaching work of the D.P.M.S. is carried out by decision of the Committee of the Curriculum, following a recommendation from the Coordinating Committee of the D.P.M.S. The teaching activity includes determining the content of the course within the framework of the syllabus of its more specific thematic, bibliography, notes and evaluation method.

The D.P.M.S. follows the blended learning system, which combines the face-to-face educational process with modern distance learning.

The program is full-time and mandatory for all of the courses taught. The limit of absences that each postgraduate student is entitled to is up to four (4) in each course.

Article 12

Knowledge testing

1. The evaluation of postgraduate students is carried out exclusively by the teaching staff of the D.P.M.S. The testing of individual courses will be carried out by means of written or oral examinations, assignments or a combination of the above. The exams may be carried out either online or using electronic certified applications.

2. The grading scale for the evaluation of the performance of postgraduate students is defined from zero (0) to ten (10), as follows: Excellent (8.5 to 10), Very Good (6.5 to 8.49), Good (6 to 6.49). In order for the completion of a course to be considered successful, both the average grade and the examination grade for each course must be at least six (6).

3. For each course in the curriculum, there are two (2) examination periods. The first examination will be held one week after the end of the teaching of the courses of the 1st and 2nd semesters and the second re-examination will be held within a reasonable time, after the end of the regular examination and the announcement of the results. 4. If the postgraduate student fails two (2) times in the examination of a course or courses and is considered not to have successfully completed the program, he/she will be examined, upon his/her application, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the examination period in which he/she has failed, by a three-member committee of Faculty members of the School, who have the same or a related subject of knowledge as the course being examined and are appointed by the E.P.S. The person in charge of the examination, the lecturer, is excluded from the committee.

4. The grade of the Postgraduate Diploma (MPD) is derived from the weighted average of the courses of the MPD and the Postgraduate Thesis (the weighting is made by the credit units of the courses and the MDE) and is calculated, with an accuracy of two decimal places, in the following way: The grade of each course and the Postgraduate Thesis is multiplied by the corresponding number of credit units (ECTS) and the sum of the products is divided by the number of credit units required to obtain the MPD. Specifically: $MPD \text{ Grade} = \frac{\text{Grade of course 1} \times \text{ECTS of course 1} + \text{Grade of course 2} \times \text{ECTS of course 2} + \dots + \text{Grade of postgraduate thesis} \times \text{ECTS of postgraduate thesis}}{\text{Total number of ECTS}}$.

Article 13

Administrative Bodies of the D.P.M.S.

The competent Bodies for the administration and operation of the D.P.M.S. are:

The Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which exercises responsibilities as defined in the current legislation.

The Postgraduate Studies Committee of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, consisting of the Vice-Rector, as Chairman, who is responsible for academic matters and of one (1) member of the Teaching Staff (FAC) from each School and one member coming from the categories of members of Special

Educational Staff (EEP), Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP), and Special Educational Staff (EEP).

The Curriculum Committee consisting of members of the Faculty of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and is formed by decision of the Senate of the University of Thessaloniki following

the recommendation of the Assemblies of the collaborating Departments. In particular, the Curriculum Committee is formed in accordance with the Special Cooperation Protocol by five

(5) faculty members of the involved Departments, of which four (4) faculty members of the Department of Medicine, one (1) faculty member of the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and exercises the responsibilities of par. 2 of article 82 of Law 4957/2022. The Coordination Committee (CC), which consists of the Director of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and four of the members of the Academic Council [three (3) faculty members of the Department of Medicine and one (1) faculty member of the Department of Veterinary Medicine] who have a relevant field of study and undertake teaching work at the Department of Veterinary Medicine. The members of the S.E. are determined by decision of the E.P.S.

The Director of the D.P.S.C. who comes from the faculty members of the expediting Department of the E.P.S.C. by priority of the rank of professor or associate professor and is appointed by decision of the Curriculum Committee.

Article 14

Teachers

The teaching work of the D.P.S.C. is assigned by the competent body to the following categories of teachers:

- Faculty members of the collaborating Departments.
- Members of the category E.E.P., E.D.I.P. and E.T.E.P. of the collaborating Departments, holders of a PhD, unless the subject is of exceptional and indisputable specificity for which the preparation of a PhD thesis is not possible or usual.
- Emeritus and Retired Faculty members of the collaborating Departments.

By reasoned decision of the Faculty Council, when the teaching staff of the categories mentioned above is not sufficient, it may assign teaching work to faculty members of other Departments of the same HEI or invite faculty members of other HEI. or researchers from research

centers of article 13A of law 4310/2014 (A' 258), including the research centers of the Academy of Athens and the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens. In addition, the E.P.S. by its decision, taking into account the proposal of the Director of the D.P.M.S.

may invite, as visiting professors, renowned scientists who hold a position or qualifications of a professor or researcher in a research center, or scientists of recognized prestige with specialized knowledge or relevant experience in the field of knowledge of the program, from Greece or abroad, in accordance with the provisions of par. 1 of article 83 of law 4957/2022.

In any case, the assignment of teaching the courses, seminars and exercises of the D.P.M.S. is decided by the E.P.S., following a recommendation by the S.C. The obligations of the teachers include, among others, the description of the course or lectures, the citation of relevant bibliography, the determination of the method of examination of the course, and communication with the postgraduate students. All categories of teachers may be remunerated exclusively from the resources of the P.M.S./D.P.M.S. By decision of the competent body of the P.M.S./D.P.M.S. regarding the assignment of the teaching work, the amount of the remuneration of each teacher is determined. Specifically, lecturers who are members of the Faculty of Education may be paid additionally for work they provide to the P.M.S./D.P.M.S., provided that they fulfill their minimum legal obligations, as defined in par. 2 of article 155 of law 4957/2022.

The last paragraph applies proportionally to members of the E.E.P., E.D.I.P. and E.T.E.P., provided that they fulfill their minimum legal obligations.

By decision of the Curriculum Committee, additional teaching work may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the collaborating Departments, under the supervision of a D.P.M.S. lecturer.

The obligations of teachers include, among others, the description of the course or lectures, the presentation of the bibliography, the method of examining the course, the communication with postgraduate students. The hourly compensation of teachers for teaching courses is regulated by a proposal of the Academic Council and a decision of the Academic Council, in accordance with the terms of the law.

Article 15

Program Resources - Financial Management

The resources of the D.P.M.S. come from:

- a) tuition fees,
- b) donations, sponsorships and all kinds of financial support,
- c) bequests,
- d) resources from research projects or programs,
- e) own resources of the A.U.T.,
- f) the state budget or the public investment program,
- g) any other legitimate reason.

For their participation in the D.P.M.S., students pay a total tuition fee of four thousand euros (€4,000.00). The tuition fee is paid either in full or in two (2) equal installments, the first upon registration and the second before the start of the second (B¹) semester in a bank account held by the Special Research Funds Account (SRA) of the A.U.T.H. The management of the D.P.M.S. resources is carried out by the Special Research Funds Account (SRA) of the A.U.T.H.

Article 16

Assessment-Periodic Assessment of the P.M.S./D.P.M.S.

The evaluation of courses is carried out in accordance with the current standards of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

After completing a course, postgraduate students evaluate it electronically, through the information system of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's MO.DIP.

The evaluation of teachers is carried out according to the criteria of their knowledge and ability to transmit

them to students, their level of preparation, the use of the most modern and internationally established - for high-level postgraduate studies - bibliography, their willingness to answer questions, the timely grading and return of assignments and written exams, compliance with the teaching hours of the course and office hours, etc.

The D.P.M.S. is evaluated in the context of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the National Authority for Higher Education.

In this context, the overall assessment of the work carried out by each P.M.S./D.P.M.S. is evaluated, the degree of fulfillment of the objectives set at the time of its establishment, its viability, the absorption of graduates into the labor market, the degree of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the feasibility of extending its

operation, as well as other matters relating to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education. If, during the evaluation stage, it is determined that it does not meet the conditions for continuing its operation, its operation is completed with the graduation of the already registered students in accordance with the founding decision and the regulation of postgraduate and doctoral studies.

Article 17

Academic ethics and plagiarism

1. When submitting any postgraduate thesis, the postgraduate student is obliged to state whether he/she used the work and opinions of others. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic misconduct. Plagiarism is considered to be the copying of someone else's work, as well as the use of someone else's work - published or not - without due reference. The citation of any documentary material, even from the candidate's own studies, without a relevant reference, may constitute a decision by the Curriculum Committee to delete it. In the above cases and after a reasoned proposal by the supervising professor, the Curriculum Committee may decide to delete it.
2. Any misconduct or violation of academic ethics is referred to the Coordinating Committee of the D.P.M.S. for judgment and recommendation to address the problem at the E.P.S. Violations also include the misconduct of copying or plagiarism and, more generally, any violation of the provisions on intellectual property by a postgraduate student when writing assignments within the framework of the courses or preparing the postgraduate thesis.

Article 18

Awarding of a Postgraduate Diploma

The Curriculum Committee shall determine the successful completion of the studies and decide to award the Postgraduate Diploma to the graduates.

The title of the Postgraduate Diploma (D.M.S.) is a public document and is issued by the Secretariat of the granting Department. The Diploma shall state the Departments that participate in the organization of the D.M.S., the emblem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the date of completion of the studies, the date of issue of the D.M.S., the graduation protocol number, the title of the D.M.S., the details of the postgraduate student and the evaluation classification Good, Very Good, Excellent.

In addition to the Postgraduate Diploma, a Diploma Supplement is issued, which is an explanatory document that provides information regarding the nature, level, general educational framework, content and status of the studies successfully completed and does not replace the official degree or the detailed course grade. Graduated postgraduate students may receive, even before their official recognition as graduates, a certificate for the successful completion of the course of studies of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme. The graduation ceremony is determined by a decision of the Curriculum Committee.

Article 19

Transitional Provisions

Any issues not provided for by this act shall be regulated by applicable legislation. The decision shall enter into force upon its publication.