The discussion of the final dissertation (tesi di laurea) is a public defence of the work done before an Examination Board. The Academic Supervisor (relatore) and Co-supervisor (correlatore) are normally sitting in the Board.

The Academic Supervisor (Relatore) briefly introduces the candidate and her/his written dissertation.

The candidate is expected to briefly present her/his research question, methodology, and main findings. This should take around 10/15 minutes and can be done with the aid of tools such as the projection of slides.

Then a discussion follows, normally opened by the Supervisor. Any member of the Board is entitled to ask questions and/or make observations, comments, or even criticism on the dissertation and the presentation. The candidate is expected to take note of the questions/comments/criticism and reply to them in a concise, clear, and polite manner, demonstrating the ability to think critically about her/his work.

At the end of the discussion, the Board meets in camera (i.e. behind closed doors). It briefly discusses the Supervisor's proposal for the grading points to be recognised to the candidate, in light of the quality of her/his written thesis and oral defense.

These points are additional to those resulting by the arithmetical calculation of the weighted average grade.

The final grade is expressed in a scale of 110.