

## DISCIPLINE RECORD

### Academic year 2026/2027

#### 1. Information about the program

University	Constanta Maritime University
Faculty	Navigation and Maritime Transport
Department	Management in Transport
Domain of study	Engineering and Management
Academic level	Master
Study programme/ qualification	Business Administration in Transport

#### 2. Information about discipline

Course title	Research practice for Dissertation thesis				
Lecture tenured					
Application tenured					
Year of study	VI	Semester	II	Type of examination	V
Conditions of discipline	Course category: DF – Fundamental subjects, DS – Specialization subjects, DC – Complementary subjects				DS
	Course type: DOB – compulsory subjects; DOP – elective subjects; DFA – optional subjects				DOB

#### 3. The total time estimated

I a) Number of hours per week	0	Course		Seminar		Laboratory		Project	
I b) Total hours per semester from the curriculum	60	Course		Seminar		Laboratory		Project	

II Time distribution for the semester:	ore
II a) Study after manual, course support, bibliography and notes	
II b) Additional documentation in library, specialized electronic platforms	100
II c) Training seminars / labs, homework, essays, portfolios and essays	138
III Tutorial	
IV Examinations	2
V Other activities:	

Total hours of individual study II (a+b+c)	238
Total hours per semester (Ib+II+III+IV+V)	300
Number of credits	10

#### 4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

Curriculum	•
Expected learning outcomes	•

#### 5. Conditions (if necessary)

Progress of the course	•	
Progress of application	Seminar	•
	Laboratory	•
	Project	•

#### 6. Objectives of discipline (based on the grid of specific skills acquired – no7)

The overall objective of discipline	• To support students in carrying out the applied research for their dissertation in Business Administration in Transport, from empirical design and data collection to analysis, interpretation and drafting of the main chapters.
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The specific objectives of discipline	<p>By the end of the discipline, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operationalise the research questions and methodology defined in the dissertation proposal in a concrete empirical setting (company / port / transport system).</li> <li>• Collect, manage and document empirical data (quantitative and/or qualitative) relevant to efficiency, financial viability, risk, quality and innovation in transport and port operations.</li> <li>• Apply appropriate analytical and statistical methods, including ICT tools, to process and interpret the collected data.</li> <li>• Draft and refine key dissertation chapters (methodology, results, discussion, conclusions and recommendations) in accordance with academic standards.</li> <li>• Translate research findings into clear managerial recommendations and risk/summary reports that can inform decision-making in transport and port organisations.</li> </ul>
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**7. Expected learning outcomes:**

No.	Knowledge	Skills	Responsibility and autonomy
1	The student understands techniques for financial risk assessment.	The student analyzes internal organizational processes.	The graduate independently proposes risk mitigation strategies.
2	The student is aware of trends and innovations in the transport sector.	The student conducts qualitative and quantitative market research.	The graduate leads initiatives to improve the quality of transport services.
3	The student masters ICT solutions applicable to business problems.	The student advises on strategic business decisions based on data analysis.	The graduate assumes responsibility for implementing ICT innovations.
4	The student comprehends organizational behavior and needs analysis.	The student builds and maintains effective business relationships.	The graduate identifies and reports previously undetected organizational needs.
5	The student knows the principles of financial performance evaluation.	The student accurately interprets complex financial statements.	The graduate manages financial risk with autonomy.
6	The student analyzes external factors impacting the business environment.	The student performs SWOT and PESTEL analyses.	The graduate recommends innovations in current business practices.
7	The student understands quality assurance standards in transport services.	The student ensures compliance with quality and safety metrics.	The graduate is responsible for continuous service quality improvement.
8	The student has knowledge of project management methodologies.	The student applies modern economic and decision-making techniques.	The graduate initiates and manages projects with minimal supervision.
9	The student is knowledgeable about ethical principles in engineering management.	The student communicates technical information clearly to diverse audiences.	The graduate promotes ethical and social responsibility in professional practice.
10	The student masters techniques for data acquisition and processing.	The student evaluates business performance through financial indicators.	The graduate takes responsibility for continuous professional development.

**8. Competences covered by the discipline, according to the diploma supplement**

Professional competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides advice on efficiency improvements</li> <li>• Analyzes external factors affecting companies</li> <li>• Adapts to changing situations</li> <li>• Exercises results-oriented leadership towards colleagues</li> <li>• Assesses financial viability</li> <li>• Ensure project management</li> <li>• Performs quality control</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures continuous training for audits</li> <li>• Focuses on innovation in current practices</li> <li>• Plans transport operations</li> <li>• Port operations manager</li> </ul>
Transversal competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create risk reports</li> <li>• Seek innovation in current practices</li> <li>• Propose ICT solutions to business problems</li> </ul>

### 9.Contents

Course	Nr. hours	Teaching methods	Obs.
•			
•			
•			
Bibliography			
•			
Selective bibliography			
•			

Application (Seminar / laboratory / project)	Nr. hours	Teaching methods	Obs.
1. Defining research objectives and methods	10	Individual mentoring/tutoring with academic and company supervisor; guided project-planning discussion; reflective log on chosen objectives and methods.	
2. Identifying the stages of accomplishing the work	10	Work-based learning through supervised task analysis; drafting a work plan/Gantt chart with feedback; step-by-step coaching on milestones	
3. Collection and analysis of bibliographic materials	10	Guided documentation study; supervised searches in company/online databases; preparation of an annotated bibliography checked by the supervisor.	
4. Study on the current state of research in the field	10	Independent literature review with periodic feedback; critical reading assignments; short written syntheses discussed with the supervisor.	
5. Addressing the objectives and conducting the research accordingly	10	Learning-by-doing in the host organisation; supervised fieldwork/data collection; regular progress meetings and formative feedback.	
6. Application of research results to the case study	10	Case study method; joint interpretation sessions with company mentor; preparation and presentation of a practice report with recommendations.	
Bibliography			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constanta Maritime University, Guidelines for drawing up and defending the Graduation Thesis for students seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, <a href="https://cmu-edu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Guidelines-for-drawing-up-and-defending-the-thesis-July-2017.pdf">https://cmu-edu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Guidelines-for-drawing-up-and-defending-the-thesis-July-2017.pdf</a></li> <li>• Greener, S. (2008). <i>Business research methods</i>. Ventus Publishing. Free textbook via Bookboon. <a href="https://bookboon.com">https://bookboon.com</a></li> <li>• Dr. Graham Basten. <i>Introduction to Scientific Research Projects</i>. <a href="https://bookboon.com/en/introduction-to-scientific-research-projects-ebook">https://bookboon.com/en/introduction-to-scientific-research-projects-ebook</a></li> <li>• Greener, S., Martelli, J. (2020). <i>An introduction to business research methods</i> (4th ed.). Bookboon. <a href="https://bookboon.com/en/an-introduction-to-business-research-methods-ebook">https://bookboon.com/en/an-introduction-to-business-research-methods-ebook</a></li> <li>• Mehiri, R. (2017). <i>Research methodology: An introduction</i>. Mohamed Khider University of Biskra. <a href="https://www.univ-biskra.dz/enseignant/Mehiri/Research_Methodology-An_Introduction.Dr_R_MEHRI.pdf">https://www.univ-biskra.dz/enseignant/Mehiri/Research_Methodology-An_Introduction.Dr_R_MEHRI.pdf</a></li> <li>• Crossley, J. (2021, September). <i>How to write the conclusion chapter</i>. GradCoach. <a href="https://gradcoach.com/dissertation-conclusion-chapter/">https://gradcoach.com/dissertation-conclusion-chapter/</a></li> </ul>			
Selective bibliography			

- Constanta Maritime University, Guidelines for drawing up and defending the Graduation Thesis for students seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, <https://cmu-edu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Guidelines-for-drawing-up-and-defending-the-thesis-July-2017.pdf>

**Additional Notes**

- Students may take photographs or make audio-video recordings in classrooms where teaching activities are conducted **only with the consent of the instructor** and **under the conditions established by the instructor**.
- Upon entering the classroom, students are kindly requested to **switch their mobile phones to silent mode** and **refrain from using them during classes**.
- All materials received by students, either directly or through postings on the platform *campus.cmu-edu.eu*, are subject to **national and international copyright legislation**. These materials may be used by students **solely for educational purposes**. Any other use or posting on publicly accessible websites without the consent of the copyright holder may be punished in accordance with **Law no. 8/1996 on copyright and related rights** and the **Berne Convention**.

**10. The corroboration of contents of discipline with expectations epistemic community representatives, professional associations and representative employers in the corresponding program**

- The discipline's content is aligned with the epistemic community in business and transport, which expects rigorous, empirically grounded master theses using appropriate methods and academic writing standards. It reflects the focus of professional associations on evidence-based efficiency improvement, risk awareness, quality and innovation in transport and logistics. At the same time, it responds to representative employers' needs by training students to investigate real problems in transport and port operations, analyse company data with modern ICT tools and formulate practical, implementable recommendations in their dissertation work.

**11. Examination**

Type of activity	Examination Criteria	Methods of examination	Percentage of final grade
Course			
Seminar			
Laboratory			
Project	The verification of the dissertation involves: - analysis based on criteria of the results and conclusions obtained; - checking the way of collecting the bibliography - evaluation of the quality of the work / research undertaken - observance of the rules for structuring the work observance of the rules for writing the paper		100%

**Grading Requirements**

Minimum score required: **50 points: 50-54->nota 5; 55-64-> nota 6; 65-74-> nota 7; 75-84-> nota 8; 85-94-> nota 9; 95-100-> nota 10**

**Additional Notes**

- A **midterm exam** may be organized during the semester.
- If a student participates in **conferences** (student, local, national, or international) or **competitions** (national or international) related to the subject of this course, they may receive **additional points** or **equivalence for certain assignments, papers, and/or attendance**, depending on the results obtained.
- During written examinations, students are **not allowed to use mobile phones or any other electronic devices, except for simple scientific calculators**.

Minimum performance standards: 50 points (nota 5)

Date of completion	Signature of lecture tenured	Signature of application tenured
25.09.2025		

Date of approval in the department	Signature of Director of Department
26.09.2025	Lecturer Ana Cornelia OLTEANU PhD

Date of approval in the faculty council	Signature of Dean
29.09.2025	Associated Professor Nicoleta ACOMI EngD