

Regulations Governing the Study, Qualifying Examination, and Degree Examination for Doctoral Students

Department of Shipping and Transportation Management,
National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology

Chapter I Admission

Article 1

These Regulations are enacted in accordance with the Regulations Governing Degree Examinations for Graduate Students of National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology.

Article 2

Matters concerning admission, study, examinations, and procedures for leaving the University for doctoral students shall be handled in accordance with these Regulations and other relevant University regulations.

Chapter II Coursework

Article 3

In accordance with the University Act and the academic regulations of the University, the period of study for doctoral students shall be two to seven years.

Doctoral students who are in employment while pursuing their studies and who have not completed the required coursework or doctoral dissertation within the prescribed period of study may apply for an extension of the period of study for a maximum of two additional academic years.

Article 4

The minimum number of credits required for graduation is 36 credits, including:

I. Required course: Business Research Methods, 3 credits.

II. Doctoral dissertation: 6 credits.

III. Elective courses: At least 27 credits.

During the first academic year, a doctoral student shall enroll in no fewer than 3 credits and no more than 18 credits per semester.

Doctoral students shall complete at least one elective course taught entirely in English. A maximum of 6 credits taken from other graduate institutes/departments or other universities can be recognized as graduation credits. For international students, up to 9

credits can be recognized with the approval of the Department. Any credits beyond these limits shall not be counted toward the credits required for graduation.

Chapter III Dissertation Supervision

Article 5

A doctoral student shall select a dissertation advisor before the end of the first academic year. In special circumstances where the student is unable to select a dissertation advisor within the prescribed period, the student may apply for an extension by providing reasons, subject to approval by the Chair of the Department. In any event, a doctoral student shall submit the request for selection of a dissertation advisor no later than the end of the second academic year. If a doctoral student is unable to seek a dissertation advisor within the prescribed period, or if the dissertation advisor is unable to continue supervision for any reason, the Chair of the Department shall provide necessary assistance.

Article 6

A doctoral student may normally request dissertation supervision only from a full-time professor or associate professor of the Department. Under special circumstances, such as the faculty member being abroad or the faculty member's expertise not matching the student's research interests, the student may, subject to the approval of the Chair of the Department, invite a full-time professor from outside the Department to serve as dissertation advisor. In such cases, the student shall additionally appoint a full-time professor or associate professor of the Department as a co-advisor.

Chapter IV Qualifying Examination for Doctoral Degree Candidates

Article 7

I. Composition of the Qualifying Examination Committee

The Department shall establish a Qualifying Examination Committee for Doctoral Degree Candidates and a Doctoral Degree Examination Committee to handle matters relating to degree examinations.

The Qualifying Examination Committee for Doctoral Degree Candidates shall be convened by the Chair of the Department and shall consist of five or seven full-time faculty members at the rank of assistant professor or above from the Department.

II. Eligibility and Application Procedures

A doctoral student who has completed at least one year of enrollment and at least 12 credits of coursework may submit an application form and the required supporting documents to apply for the doctoral qualifying examination.

Applications shall be submitted to the Department during Weeks 1 through 4 of each semester.

III. Qualifying Examination Subjects, Evaluation, and Qualification

The doctoral qualifying examination consists of three subjects. The examination subjects are divided into two categories:

- (1) Research Methodology, which is a required examination subject and is entitled Business Research Methods; and
- (2) Professional Subjects. The professional examination subjects cover four major fields:
 - Maritime Transportation;
 - Air Transportation;
 - International Logistics; and
 - Law and Insurance.

The list of examination subjects for each field shall be announced separately. Doctoral students shall select two professional examination subjects from different fields among the announced professional examination subjects. At least one of the professional examination subjects “must” be substituted by an international academic conference paper in accordance with the provisions for examination-subject substitution.

A score of 70 out of 100 shall be the passing standard for each examination subject. A student who fails an examination subject may apply to retake the examination within the prescribed period of study. The examination subject may not be changed, and the student is permitted only one retake.

A student who fails the retake shall be required to withdraw from the University.

A doctoral student shall obtain Doctoral Candidate status only after passing all qualifying examination subjects.

IV. Regulations Governing Substitution of Examination Subjects by International Academic Conference Papers or Journal Articles

(1) International Academic Conference Papers

A paper published at an international academic conference may be used only for the substitution of a qualifying examination subject.

At the time of application, the student shall submit:

- The full text of the published paper;
- Proof of acceptance or attendance issued by the conference organizer; and

- Relevant information concerning the international academic conference, including the organizer, date, location, significance of the conference, countries represented by participants, and the number of papers included in the conference proceedings.

One paper may be used to substitute for only one professional examination subject.

(2) Journal Articles

When a journal article is used to substitute for a qualifying examination subject, the article must have been published in a journal indexed in SSCI, SCI, SCIE, or TSSCI. Co-authorship shall be limited to the dissertation advisor.

At the time of application, the student shall submit:

- The full text of the published article;
- Proof of publication or an official acceptance letter; and
- Documentation verifying that the journal was indexed in the relevant database at the time of publication or acceptance.

One journal article may be used to substitute for only one examination subject, including the required examination subject.

A journal article used to substitute for a qualifying examination subject may not subsequently be used as the required publication for application for the doctoral degree examination.

V. Schedule for the Doctoral Qualifying Examination

The Department shall conduct the doctoral qualifying examination once every semester, and the examination procedures shall be completed before the end of the semester.

VI. Time Limit for Completing the Doctoral Qualifying Examination

In principle, doctoral students shall pass the qualifying examination within three years after admission. In any event, the qualifying examination shall be completed no later than six years after admission. A doctoral student who can provide proof of full-time employment may apply for an additional extension of up to two years.

A doctoral student who fails to pass all examination subjects within the prescribed period and number of attempts shall be reported by the Department to the Registration Division in accordance with relevant regulations and shall be dismissed from the University.

Article 8

After obtaining the approval of the dissertation advisor, a doctoral degree candidate shall submit an Application Form for Dissertation Proposal Review and the Notice of Passing the Qualifying Examination to the Department in order to apply for the dissertation proposal review.

The doctoral dissertation proposal review shall be conducted by a review committee consisting of at least three scholars or experts from within or outside the University, including the dissertation advisor. The committee shall review the written materials and conduct an oral examination. The dissertation proposal shall be approved by at least one-half of the committee members.

The doctoral dissertation proposal review shall be passed within six years after admission. A doctoral student who can provide proof of full-time employment may apply for an additional extension of up to two years.

Chapter V Degree Examination

Article 9

The Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall consist of five to nine members, of whom at least one-third shall be external members. The Chair of the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall be elected by and from among the committee members. The dissertation advisor may not serve as the Chair. Members of the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall possess specialized research expertise in the research field of the doctoral degree candidate and shall meet at least one of the following qualifications:

- (1) Currently serving or having previously served as a professor or associate professor.
- (2) Being an Academician of Academia Sinica, or currently or formerly serving as a research fellow or associate research fellow of Academia Sinica.
- (3) Holding a doctoral degree and having made significant academic achievements.
- (4) Being a scholar or professional in a rare or specialized field of study and having made significant academic or professional achievements.

The criteria for determining qualifications under Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph shall be established by the Department Affairs Council.

Article 10

I. Eligibility for Applying for the Doctoral Degree Examination

A doctoral degree candidate who meets the following requirements and submits the required documents may apply for the doctoral degree examination:

- (1) Proof of having passed the doctoral dissertation proposal review.
- (2) Having published one journal article related to the doctoral dissertation in an SSCI-, SCI-, SCIE-, or TSSCI-indexed journal. If the article has been accepted but not yet published, an official acceptance letter shall be submitted. Whether the journal meets the requirements shall be determined based on whether the

journal was indexed in the relevant database at the time the submitted article was accepted or published. Co-authorship of the journal article shall be limited to the dissertation advisor. Recognition of journal rankings in special fields shall be reviewed and determined by the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee.

II. Date of the Doctoral Degree Examination

The date of the doctoral degree examination shall be scheduled at least six months after the date on which the doctoral dissertation proposal review was passed.

The Department shall be notified, and the examination shall be publicly announced at least two weeks before the examination date. The doctoral degree examination shall be open for observers on the day of the examination.

III. Evaluation of the Doctoral Degree Examination

The doctoral degree examination shall be graded on a 100-point scale, with 70 as the passing score. The final examination grade shall be determined based on the average score assigned by the attending committee members. However, if one-half or more of the attending committee members assign a failing grade, the examination shall be deemed failed, regardless of the average score. A student who fails the doctoral degree examination shall not be permitted to retake the examination. Required courses shall be retaken in accordance with relevant regulations.

Chapter VI Supplementary Provisions

Article 11

These Regulations may be amended in accordance with the academic development needs of the Department upon resolution by the Department Affairs Council.

Any amendment that introduces additional restrictions or requirements beyond the existing provisions shall not be applied retroactively.

Article 12

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, as well as the University's academic and administrative regulations. These Regulations shall take effect after being discussed and approved by the Department Affairs Council. The same procedure shall apply to any subsequent amendments.

Revision History

- Approved by the Department Affairs Council on November 1, 2018
- Amended by the Department Affairs Council on December 13, 2018
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- Amended by the Department Affairs Council on December 3, 2020
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