

NATIONAL SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences Regulations of Doctoral Qualification and Degree Examinations for Graduate Students

(Applicable for Students Starting in School Year 103)

Approved by the 2nd Department General Meeting on November 5, 2002, School Year 91.
Authorized by the 2nd College General Meeting on December 16, 2002, School Year 91.
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Amended and approved by the 5th Department General Meeting on February 18, 2014, School Year 102.
Authorized by the 2nd College General Meeting on February 27, 2014, School Year 102.

- I. This set of regulations is issued based on the Ministry of the Education Degree Conferral Law and its enforcement rules, as well as “Academic Regulations” and “Enforcement Rules of Postgraduate Students Degree Examinations” of National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU).
- II. Relevant items during study periods:
 - A. Degree studying periods: two to seven years in accordance with academic regulations of the university (periods of retainment of student status and suspensions not included).
 - B. Crediting and course criteria:
 1. All course selections by students shall be approved by supervisors and the department chair.
 2. Students of PhD Program shall complete compulsory courses and the 18 required credits for graduation (including credit waiver and transference) within three years after entering the program (periods of suspensions not included) in accordance with regulations. (A student who enters via direct pursuit from a master’s program shall complete 30 credits; or 42 credits of undergraduate courses if the student is a graduate with bachelor degree in the same school year. Credit waiver and transference shall be limited to half of the required minimum credits). Students shall also complete doctoral candidate qualification examinations within three years after entry.

3. Prior to application for degree examination, students shall pass the minimum English scores established by PhD Program of the department: a TOFEL score of 500, a TOFEL CBT score of 173, a pass in primary test of intermediate-high-level GEPT, a TOEIC score of 650, a iBT-TOEFL score of 61, or an IELTS grade of 5.0. Students who participate in secondary language test but fail (English test transcript shall be submitted) may complete 4 credits of "Language Course: English" of the university before applying for degree examination.

C. Limitations to group variation:

1. A new graduate student of the department shall select one full-time assistant professor or faculty member with a higher academic rank in his/her group as a supervisor and report the selection to the department office. In principal, graduate students shall not engage in degree thesis research of other groups. Special group variation cases shall be handled and decided by anonymous votes in department general meetings, and a change is permitted when two-third or more faculty members who attend the meeting approve.

D. Supervisor variation:

1. In cases of graduate students having to change supervisors due to certain reasons, they may only do so once obtaining written agreements of their original and new supervisors. The Graduate Student Advisory Committee shall examine supervisor variation cases that are disapproved by the original supervisors; however the students may only graduate after they have been supervised by the new supervisors for at least two full semesters.

E. Others:

1. In cases of requiring faculty members from other departments to be co-supervisors, co-supervision shall be agreed by supervisors of the department.

III. Qualification examination for doctoral degree candidates:

A. Qualification examination:

1. A student shall pass the qualification examination within three years after entering the program (periods of suspensions not included). Students who do not pass the qualification examination shall face withdrawals. The form of the qualification examination is determined by a qualification examination committee organized by supervisors. The qualification examination is passed if a student scores 70 (B-) or more points.

B. Regulations for thesis/article publication:

1. After entering the program and before applying for degree examinations, students shall have published at least two articles, of which one shall be published in SCI journal and the student shall be listed as the lead author (including articles that have been accepted; articles with the student listed as the "second author/joint contributor after the second author" or "the first joint author" not included), with the supervisor of the department shall be a corresponding author.
2. All articles that are required for degree examinations shall be published with National Sun Yat-sen University Department of Biological Sciences listed as the first unit.

C. Degree examinations:

1. Graduate students may participate in doctoral candidate degree examinations once approved by their supervisors in the department after passing the doctoral candidate qualification evaluations and meeting the requirements for thesis/article publication of respective groups.
2. Examiner candidates of doctoral candidate degree examinations shall be nominated by supervisors in accordance with “Enforcement Rules of Postgraduate Students Degree Examinations” of the university, followed by approval of the department chair, who reports to the president for authorization and appointment.
3. Students who fail the degree examinations and have not yet completed study periods shall not re-sit the exams in the same semester. A student may only re-sit the exams once. Students who fail the re-sits will face withdrawals in accordance with regulations of the university.

D. Others:

1. After entering the program and before applying for degree examinations, graduate students shall publish theses in academic conferences.
- IV. Graduations: students who meet all requirements described above may apply for graduations.
- V. For matters unaddressed by the present regulations, department general meetings reserve the rights of discussion and explanation.
- VI. The present regulations shall be implemented following approvals of department and college meetings as well as authorization of the president. The same procedure shall be carried out when amendments are to be made.