

Regulations for Doctoral Degree Qualifying Examinations at I-Shou University

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Article 1 The Regulations for Doctoral Degree Qualifying Examinations at I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations") are established in accordance with Article 26 of the University Act and its Enforcement Rules as well as the Degree Conferral Law and its Enforcement Rules.

Article 2 Doctoral students shall meet the following requirements to become PhD candidates:

1. Having completed required courses and earned course credits of the doctoral program;
2. Having passed the doctoral qualifying examination; and
3. Satisfying the requirements stipulated by respective departments (institutes).

The regulations for doctoral qualifying examinations shall be stipulated by respective departments (institutes), and then submitted to respective colleges, the Office of Academic Affairs and the President for future reference.

Article 3 The doctoral qualifying examination shall be administered at least once every year, and those who have passed the examination shall be registered by respective departments (institutes).

The results and the number of times a doctoral student has taken the examination during the suspension shall not be included in the calculation.

Article 4 The doctoral degree examination shall be administered once every semester. Once doctoral students obtain the qualification as a PhD candidate in the second semester of the second year of study, with the consent of the supervisor(s) and the Chair (Director) of the department (institute), they shall apply to the department (institute) for a doctoral degree examination at least one month prior to the examination date.

After the application is approved by the department (institute), the department (institute) shall submit the dissertation, the abstract, the way how the examination is administered, the date and time, the location and a list of members to the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee to the Office of Academic Affairs for review and to the President for ratification.

Article 5 The Doctoral Degree Examination Committee consists of five members (if the

number of supervisors is two or more, there may be six members). Committee members shall be recommended by the Chair (Director) of the department (institute) and appointed by the President. The supervisors shall be ex-officio members but not the chairperson. The chairperson shall be selected among the members.

Committee members should attend the examination in person, and no deputy is allowed. The examination shall not begin unless at least four-fifths of the committee members are present, and the number of off-campus members shall be more than that of on-campus members.

More committee members may be appointed under special circumstances with special consent from the University.

Article 6 The members of the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall have expertise in the fields related to PhD candidates' dissertations. Furthermore, they must hold one of the following qualifications:

1. Having been a professor;
2. Having been an Academician or research fellow of the Academic Sinica;
3. Having been an associate professor or an associate research fellow of the Academic Sinica with outstanding academic achievements;
4. Having a doctoral degree with outstanding academic achievements; or
5. Specializing in an uncommon or exceptional field with significant contributions in the academic field.

The criteria for qualifications mentioned in Subparagraphs 3 to 5 shall be established by respective Departmental (Institute) Affairs Councils.

Article 7 A dissertation with which an academic degree has been conferred at home or abroad shall not be submitted again.

Dissertations shall be written in Chinese or English in principle; those whose major is any other foreign languages may compose their dissertations in such languages.

Article 8 The doctoral degree examination includes an oral defense and a dissertation review. The oral defense shall be conducted in public; other methods may be adopted if necessary.

Article 9 Doctoral candidates shall get 70 points out of 100 to pass the degree examination. The final grade is the average of all the scores given by each committee member. Only when all the scores are equal to or higher than 70 points shall the final result be considered passed.

Article 10 The degree examination shall be administered before January 15 (the first semester) or July 15 (the second semester) every year. After the examination, departments (institutes) shall submit the final grade to the Office of Academic Affairs before the

end of the semester.

Doctoral students who have passed the examination shall submit the dissertation with approval signatures of committee members by February 15 (the first semester) or August 31 (the second semester) every year. The graduation month shall be the month when the oral defense is held. Doctoral students who fail to submit the dissertation by the prescribed time shall still register in the following semester and submit the dissertation before the deadline in the same semester. In this case, the graduation month is the month when the dissertation is submitted. Those who fail to submit the dissertation after reaching the maximum years of study shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination and withdrawn from the University in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

Article 11 Doctoral students shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination once if they have applied for taking the examination but neither take the examination as scheduled nor withdraw the application prior to the submission deadline of the final grades.

Doctoral students who have failed the degree examination and do not reach the maximum years of study may apply for re-taking the examination only once. Those who fail again shall be expelled from the University.

Article 12 Doctoral students who have passed the doctoral degree examination shall upload the abstract and the full text of the dissertation to the website of the library of the University before graduation.

Article 13 If a dissertation gets involved in any plagiarism or fraud, which proves true by the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee, the doctoral student concerned shall be considered failing the examination and referred to the Student Reward and Disciplinary Committee for further handling.

If a doctoral degree has been conferred, the University shall revoke the degree and issue a public notice to announce the invalidation of the previously issued diploma.

Article 14 In order to avoid unfairness, doctoral students' spouses, blood relatives or relatives by marriage within the third degree of kinship, or major related parties shall not serve as supervisors or committee members. In case of any violation of the aforesaid rules, the appointment shall be dismissed, and the results shall be considered invalid after the degree examination is completed. If the degree has been conferred before the University discovers such a situation, the conferred degree shall be revoked; moreover, an announcement made to invalidate the diploma shall be issued to other colleges, universities, and institutes.

Article 15 Postgraduate students who pursue a doctoral degree through direct admission but fail

the doctoral qualifying examination may return to the master's program upon approval of the Departmental (Institute) Affairs Council and ratification of the President.

Postgraduate students who pursue a doctoral degree through direct admission and succeed in passing the doctoral qualifying examination but not the doctoral degree examination may be awarded a master's degree if the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee determines that the dissertation meets the standards for a master's degree.

Article 16 Any issue not mentioned herein shall be subject to the University Act and its Enforcement Rules, the Degree Conferral Law and its Enforcement Rules, and relevant laws and decrees.

Article 17 The Regulations become effective on the third day of promulgation after being adopted by the University Academic Council, the University Administration Council and the University Council, ratified by the President, and submitted to the Ministry of Education for future reference. The same procedure applies to any amendment to the Regulations.

Note: In the event of any disputes or misunderstanding as to the interpretation of the language or terms of these Regulations, the Chinese language version shall prevail.