

# **National Taiwan University of Science and Technology**

## **Doctoral Degree Dissertation Defense Examination Regulations**

Amended in the 94th, 110th, 116th & 127th Academic Affairs Meeting

- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai (84) Ji No.046414, September 20, 1995
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai (89) Ji (IV) No.89003908, January 18, 2000
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai (90) Ji (IV) No.90077978, June 1, 2001
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai (90) Ji (IV) No. 90103762, July 24, 2001
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai (91) Ji (IV) No. 91163561, November 5, 2002
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai Ji (IV) No. 1000199050, November 4, 2011
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai Jiao Ji (IV) No. 1030064046, May 14, 2014
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai Jiao Ji (IV) No. 108009885, June 26, 2019
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai Jiao Ji (IV) No. 1080151546, October 22, 2019
- File for future reference Ministry of Education letter Tai Jiao Ji (IV) No. 1090002766, January 20, 2020

Article 1 National Taiwan University of Science and Technology Doctoral Degree Dissertation Defense Examination Regulations are set out in accordance with the University Act and its enforcement rules as well as with the Degree Conferral Law and its enforcement rules.

Article 2 Doctoral degree program students within the delimited period of study who have satisfied the following requirements may apply for the doctoral degree dissertation defense examination:

- I. Have passed their doctoral candidate qualifying examination
- II. Have met their department (graduate institute) course and graduation requirements
- III. Have finished the first draft of their dissertation

Instead of a dissertation draft, graduate students in doctoral programs in the arts, applied science and technology, or physical education and sports can submit a work of art or a certification of achievement along with a paper report or submit a technical report. The evaluation standards used by these particular types of doctoral programs will go into effect after being approved by a meeting of the department (graduate institute) faculty and a meeting of the Academic Affairs Council.

For the doctoral programs mentioned above which can require, instead of a dissertation, a work of art or a certification of achievement along with a paper report, or a technical report, the standards to be required concerning the range of report types allowed, data format, types of content and other matters relating to the items submitted will be handled according to the relevant Ministry of Education regulations.

- Article 3 The procedures to apply for the doctoral degree dissertation defense examination:
- I. Required documents for application
    - a. Application form for the doctoral degree dissertation defense examination
    - b. Previous academic transcripts
    - c. Both the abstract and first draft of the dissertation
    - d. Recommendation letter from the dissertation advisor
    - e. Name list of dissertation defense examination committee members
  - II. After approval by the chair of the department and dean of the college, and review by the Academic Affairs Office, the application shall be sent to the university president for approval.
- Article 4 The procedures for the doctoral degree dissertation defense examination
- I. Establishing a doctoral degree dissertation defense examination committee
  - II. Conducting the doctoral degree dissertation defense examination
- Article 5 All dissertation defense examinations shall be conducted by a dissertation defense examination committee established in accordance with the following regulations:
- I. The dissertation defense examination committee shall consist of five to nine members (at least 1/3 of the members should come from outside NTUST). Each examination committee must select a committee chair from among its members. The dissertation advisor of the examinee is not permitted to serve as the chair.
  - II. The members of a dissertation defense examination committee must have research expertise in the field of the doctoral student's research topic and possess at least one of the following qualifications:
    - a. Be a current or former full professor or associate professor;
    - b. Be a current academician or a current or former researcher or associate researcher at the Academia Sinica;
    - c. Hold a Ph.D. degree with a distinguished record of achievement in his or her field;
    - d. Have a distinguished record of achievement or practical experience in an unusual or highly specialized field of research.
  - III. Adjunct (part-time) faculty at NTUST can serve as "outside" committee members.
  - IV. All committee members must be selected by the department or graduate institute, approved by the college dean, and then formally appointed by the president.
  - V. If the relationship between the dissertation advisor or any examination committee members and the graduate student meets any of the conditions stated in

Article 32 of the Administrative Procedure Law, the said person(s) will not be permitted to serve on the committee.

The detailed standards for determining the qualifications listed above under 5.II.c-e shall be set out and approved by the department (graduate institute or program) faculty meeting.

#### Article 6

All doctoral degree dissertation defense examinations shall be conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

I. Once the application for a dissertation defense examination has been approved, upon notification by their department, the doctoral student will submit the required number of copies of the doctoral dissertation and abstract to the graduate institute for review. Following determination that the dissertation and abstract meet requirements, the dissertation defense examination can be arranged. The dissertation defense examination shall be conducted orally, though a written exam may be given if deemed necessary.

II. The grade for the dissertation defense examination shall be the average of all the grades given by the dissertation committee members present. The lowest passing grade for the dissertation defense examination is 70 points or B-. However, if one-third or more of the members of a dissertation defense examination committee give the examinee a grade lower than 70 points, the examinee shall be deemed as having failed the examination. No dissertation examination committee can submit a grade for a dissertation defense examination more than once.

III. All members of the dissertation defense examination committee are expected to be present at the examination in person and may not authorize a proxy to represent him or her. At least five members of the examination committee must be present and at least one-third of the attending members should come from outside NTUST in order for the examination to be held. If an examination is held without meeting these conditions, the result will be considered invalid.

IV. In special circumstances, with the approval of the Dean of Academic Affairs, dissertation defense examinations can be held via online video meeting, but it should still be fair, impartial, and open, and should be recorded and videotaped from the beginning to the end, and finally saved in the related academic units. The related documents and files can only be retrieved with the approval of the chairperson of academic units.

V. If plagiarism or any other forms of cheating are found in the dissertation, work of art or certification of achievement accompanied by a paper report, or the technical report, after investigation and confirmation of the violation(s) by the examination committee, the examinee will be deemed to have failed the examination.

VI. Students who fail to pass their dissertation defense examination and who have not exceeded their maximum period of study may apply to take a second examination in the following semester or academic year. Students who fail to pass their defense examination a second time will be required to withdraw from the university.

VII. A dissertation, work of art or certification of achievement accompanied by a paper report, or a technical report that has already been used to obtain a degree in Taiwan or abroad cannot be used to meet the requirements of another degree. However, work submitted under a dual-degree program agreed to by a Taiwan university and a university abroad, where the research is supervised by both universities and each university confers a degree is not subject to the above limitation.

Article 7 Dissertation defense examinations shall be held once every semester, with the dates to be set by each department (graduate institute) from the beginning of October to the end of January for the fall semester, and from the beginning of April to the end of July for the spring semester. However, exceptions to these limits can be granted on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the Dean of Academic Affairs. After the dissertation defense examination, graduate students must submit their dissertation with the signatures of approval of the dissertation defense examination committee to their department before the results of the dissertation defense examination can be sent to the Academic Affairs Office.

The deadline for submitting the final doctoral dissertation (both paper and digital copies) is the last day for registration of the semester following the dissertation defense examination. Students who miss this deadline for submitting their dissertation but have not yet exceeded their maximum period of study shall register for the semester following their dissertation defense examination and submit their dissertation before the deadline for that semester. They will be considered to have graduated that semester. Those students who miss the deadline for submitting their dissertation and have reached the limit of their maximum period of study will be deemed to have failed their dissertation defense examination and required to withdraw from the university.

Article 8 Students directly pursuing the Ph.D. Degree who fail to pass their doctoral degree dissertation defense examination shall be granted a master's degree providing that their dissertation is deemed by their dissertation defense examination committee to have met a standard appropriate for a master's degree.

Article 9 After a doctoral degree has been awarded, if one of the following situations occurs, the degree shall be revoked and the revocation will be publicly announced. If any other laws or regulations have been violated, the matter will be handled in accordance

with those laws or regulations.

1. Any falsification of documents or other cheating is discovered to have occurred regarding the student's eligibility for admission to the program or during the student's coursework for the program.

2. Plagiarism or other forms of falsification or cheating is discovered in the dissertation, work of art or certification of achievement accompanied by a paper report, or the technical report.

After a degree has been revoked according to the above regulations, the university will demand the return of the degree certificate from the recipient. All other universities and institutions that might be affected by the revocation will be notified.

Article 10      These rules shall be implemented and go into force after being approved by a meeting of the Academic Affairs Council and put on file with the Ministry of Education for future reference.