

# National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

## Doctoral Degree Thesis Defense Examination

### Regulations

Amended in the 94<sup>th</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup>, 116<sup>th</sup> & 127<sup>th</sup> Academic Affairs Meeting  
Referred to Letter No. 046414 by the Ministry of Education, September 20, 1995  
Referred to Letter No. 89003908 by the Ministry of Education, January 18, 2000  
Referred to Letter No. 90077978 by the Ministry of Education, June 1, 2001  
Referred to Letter No. 90103762 by the Ministry of Education, July 24, 2001  
Referred to Letter No. 91163561 by the Ministry of Education, November 5, 2002  
Referred to Letter No. 1000199050 by the Ministry of Education, November 4, 2011  
Referred to Letter No. 1030064046 by the Ministry of Education, May 14, 2014

- Article 1 National Taiwan University of Science and Technology Doctoral Degree Thesis 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 The duration of a doctoral program is from 2 years to 7 years. Graduate students who have satisfied the following requirements may apply for the doctoral degree thesis defense examination:
- I. Have passed their doctoral candidate qualifying examination
  - II. Have completed all courses and credit hours required by their respective departments within the designated period of study
  - III. Have finished drafting their thesis
- Article 3 The procedures to apply for the doctoral degree thesis defense examination:
- I. Required documents for application
    - a. Application form for the doctoral degree thesis defense examination
    - b. Previous academic transcripts
    - c. Both the abstract and first draft of the thesis
    - d. Recommendation letter from the thesis advisor
    - e. Name list of thesis 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 thesis defense examination
- I. Establishing a doctoral degree thesis defense examination committee
  - II. Conducting the doctoral degree thesis defense examination
- Article 5 All thesis defense examinations shall be conducted by a thesis defense examination committee established in accordance with the following regulations:
- I. The thesis 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 thesis advisor of the examinee is not permitted to serve as the chair.

- II. The members of a thesis defense examination committee must possess at least one of the following qualifications:
  - a. Be a current or emeritus full professor;
  - b. Be a current academician or a current or former researcher at the Academia Sinica;
  - c. Be a current or emeritus associate professor or current associate researcher at the Academia Sinica with a distinguished record of achievement in his or her field;
  - d. Hold a Ph.D degree with a distinguished record of achievement in his or her field;
  - e. Have a distinguished record of achievement in an unusual or highly specialized academic discipline or profession.
- 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 thesis 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 thesis defense examinations shall be conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- I. Once the application for a thesis defense examination has been approved, upon notification by their department, the doctoral student will submit the required number of copies of the doctoral thesis and abstract to the graduate institute for review. Following determination that the thesis and abstract meet requirements, the thesis defense examination can be arranged. The thesis defense examination shall be conducted orally, though a written exam may be given if deemed necessary.
- II. The grade for the thesis defense examination shall be the average of all the grades given by the thesis committee members present. The lowest passing grade for the thesis defense examination is 70 points or B-. However, if one-third or more of the members of a thesis defense examination committee give the examinee a grade lower than 70 points, the examinee shall be deemed as having failed the examination. No thesis examination committee can submit a grade for a thesis defense examination more than once.
- III. All members of the thesis 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. If plagiarism or any other forms of cheating are found in the thesis, after investigation and confirmation of the violation(s) by the examination committee, the examinee will be deemed to have failed the examination.
- V. Students who fail to pass their thesis 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.
- VI. A thesis that has already been used to obtain a degree in Taiwan or abroad cannot be used to meet the requirements of another degree.

Article 7 Thesis defense examinations shall be held 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. After the thesis defense examination, graduate students must submit their thesis with the signatures of approval of the thesis defense examination committee to their department before the results of the thesis defense examination can be sent to the Academic Affairs Office.

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

Article 8 Fast-track doctoral students who fail to pass their doctoral degree thesis defense examination shall be granted a master's degree providing that their thesis is deemed by their thesis defense examination committee to have met a standard appropriate for a master's degree.

Article 9 In the event that plagiarism or cheating is discovered in the thesis after the doctoral degree has been awarded, upon investigation and confirmation of the violation(s), the degree shall be revoked, the revocation will be publicly announced, and 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. If any other laws or regulations have been violated by the plagiarism or cheating, the matter will be handled in accordance with those laws or regulations.

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. The same procedure applies to any amendment of these rules.