

National Taiwan University of Science and Technology Master's and Doctoral Degree Examination Regulations

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Article 1 National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (“Taiwan Tech” or “the University”) has formulated the Master’s and Doctoral Degree Examination Regulations in accordance with the University Act, the Enforcement Rules of the University Act, the Degree Conferral Act, and the University’s General Academic Regulations.

Article 2 Graduate students who meet the following requirements may apply for the master’s or doctoral degree examination:

1. Students in a master’s program must have completed more than one semester of study; students in a doctoral program must have completed more than three semesters of study. Students in the Direct Pursuit of the Ph.D. Degree program must have completed more than three semesters of study in the doctoral program.
2. Students must have fulfilled, or be expected to fulfill in the current semester, the study requirements and graduation conditions of their department, graduate institute, or degree program (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “department”).
3. Students must have completed the academic research ethics course in accordance with the University’s Regulation of Academic Research Ethics Course.
4. Students must have completed the first draft of the thesis/dissertation, and the department must confirm that the thesis/dissertation topic and research objectives are consistent with the professional field of the department.
5. Doctoral students must have passed the doctoral degree candidate qualification examination in accordance with the University’s Doctoral Program Candidate Qualifying Examination Regulations.

For master’s and doctoral programs in the fields of arts, applied science and technology, or physical education and sports, a work or creative work, proof of achievement, together with a written report or technical report of equivalent quality to a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation, may be submitted in lieu of the thesis/dissertation.

For master's programs of a professional practice nature, a professional practice report of equivalent quality to a master's thesis may be submitted in lieu of the thesis.

The criteria for determining the applicable fields referred to in the preceding two paragraphs, and the standards for substituting a work, proof of achievement together with a written report, technical report, or professional practice report in lieu of a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, shall be implemented after approval by the college affairs meeting, the department affairs meeting, and the Academic Affairs Council.

The scope of recognition, format of materials, content requirements, and other related matters concerning the substitution of a work or creative work, proof of achievement together with a written report, technical report, or professional practice report for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation shall be handled in accordance with the Ministry of Education's Guidelines on Degree Titles Procedures, Degree Conferral Requirements, and Replacing Master's and PhD Thesis.

Article 3 Applications for the doctoral degree examination shall be handled in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Required documents:
 - 1.1 Doctoral Thesis Examination Application Form.
 - 1.2 One copy of the academic transcript for all previous semesters.
 - 1.3 One copy each of the thesis/dissertation draft and abstract.
 - 1.4 Recommendation letter from the thesis/dissertation advisor.
 - 1.5 List of degree examination committee members.
2. The application shall be approved by the department chair and the college dean, reviewed by the Office of Academic Affairs, and then submitted to the President for final approval.

Applications for the master's degree examination shall be handled in accordance with the regulations of the respective departments.

Article 4 The degree examination shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Establishment of a master's or doctoral degree defense examination committee.
2. Conducting the master's or doctoral degree examination.

Article 5 The doctoral degree examination committee shall be organized in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The doctoral degree examination committee shall consist of five to nine members, of whom at least one-third (inclusive) shall be external members. The committee shall have one convener, elected by and from among the committee members. The thesis/dissertation advisor may not serve as the convener. The spouse or relatives by blood or marriage within the third degree of kinship of the doctoral student may not serve as a member of the degree examination committee.

2. Members of the doctoral degree examination committee shall have expertise in the research field of the doctoral candidate and shall meet one of the following qualifications:
 - 2.1 Currently serving as, or having previously served as, a professor or associate professor.
 - 2.2 Academician of Academia Sinica, or currently serving as, or having previously served as, a research fellow or associate research fellow of Academia Sinica.
 - 2.3 Holding a doctoral degree and having distinguished academic achievements.
 - 2.4 In fields of a rare or highly specialized nature, or in professional practice fields, having distinguished academic or professional achievements.
3. Adjunct faculty members of the University may serve as external members.
4. Members of the degree examination committee shall be selected by the department, approved by the dean, and appointed by the President.

The qualifications specified in Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of Paragraph 2 of the preceding item shall not be determined solely on the basis of the candidate's status as a researcher or professional technical personnel, nor shall such status alone be used as the basis for appointment. The criteria for qualification shall be determined by the department affairs meeting, college affairs meeting, or degree program affairs meeting of the unit responsible for conferring the degree.

Article 6 The master's degree examination committee shall be organized in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The master's degree examination committee shall consist of three to five members. The spouse or relatives by blood or marriage within the third degree of kinship of the master's student may not serve as a member of the degree examination committee.
2. Members of the master's degree examination committee shall have expertise in the research field of the master's student and shall meet one of the following qualifications:
 - 2.1 Currently serving as, or having previously served as, a professor, associate professor, or assistant professor.
 - 2.2 Academician of Academia Sinica, or currently serving as, or having previously served as, a research fellow, associate research fellow, or assistant research fellow of Academia Sinica.
 - 2.3 Holding a doctoral degree and having distinguished academic achievements.
 - 2.4 In fields of a rare or highly specialized nature, or in professional practice fields, having distinguished academic or professional achievements.
3. Adjunct faculty members of the University may serve as external members.
4. Members of the master's degree examination committee shall be appointed by the department chair or institute director under authorization from the President.

The qualifications specified in Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of Paragraph 2 of the preceding item shall not be determined solely on the basis of the candidate's status as a researcher or professional technical personnel, nor shall such status alone be used as the basis for appointment. The criteria for qualification shall be determined by the department affairs meeting, college affairs meeting, or degree program affairs meeting of the unit responsible for conferring the degree.

Article 7 The master's and doctoral degree examination shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions:

1. After the application for the master's or doctoral degree examination has been approved, the department shall notify the student to submit the required number of printed copies of the thesis/dissertation and abstract in accordance with departmental regulations. After the department confirms that the submission meets the requirements, the degree examination shall be scheduled. The examination shall be conducted in the form of an oral examination; a written examination may be administered when necessary.
2. Students shall complete the thesis/dissertation originality similarity check prior to the degree examination, and on the day of the degree examination shall submit the similarity check report to the thesis/dissertation advisor and the degree examination committee members for reference. The standards for the similarity report shall be determined by each department.
3. The grade of 70 points or B- shall be the passing grade for the degree examination, and the final grade shall be determined by the average of the scores given by the attending committee members. However, if one-third or more of the committee members for a doctoral program, or one-half or more of the committee members for a master's program, assign a failing grade, the examination shall be deemed failed. The examination may be graded only once.
4. Members of the master's or doctoral degree examination committee shall attend the committee in person and may not appoint a proxy. For a doctoral degree examination, at least five committee members must be present, and at least one-third of the attending members must be external members. For a master's degree examination, at least three committee members must be present. If these requirements are not met, the examination shall not be conducted; if conducted, the results shall not be recognized.
5. Degree examinations shall in principle be conducted in person. If some committee members are unable to attend the oral examination in person, the department shall determine whether those members may participate through synchronous video conferencing. If all committee members or the student must participate through synchronous video conferencing, special approval shall be obtained by submitting a request to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Video-conference oral examinations shall comply with the principles of fairness, impartiality, and openness. The video conference link shall be announced one week prior to the examination, and the procedures shall follow those for in-person examinations.
6. If plagiarism or academic misconduct is found in the thesis/dissertation, work, proof of achievement, written report, technical report, or professional practice

report, and confirmed upon review by the degree examination committee, the examination shall be deemed failed.

7. If a student fails the master's or doctoral degree examination but has not exceeded the maximum study period, the student may retake the examination in the following semester or academic year, limited to one retake. If the retake is still failed, the student shall be required to withdraw in accordance with the General Academic Regulations.
8. A thesis/dissertation, work or creative work, proof of achievement, written report, technical report, or professional practice report that has already been used to obtain a degree domestically or abroad may not be submitted again. This restriction does not apply where a domestic and an overseas university jointly supervise the thesis/dissertation under academic cooperation and each institution confers a degree separately.

Article 8

Graduate students shall, at the early stage of thesis/dissertation writing, confirm with the thesis/dissertation advisor that the thesis/dissertation topic and content are consistent with the professional field of the department. Except for departments that explicitly require an oral examination of the thesis research proposal, in which the consistency of the thesis/dissertation with the professional field of the department shall be confirmed during the proposal oral examination, students of other departments shall, in accordance with the deadlines specified by their department, submit the thesis/dissertation topic and research objectives to the department for review to determine whether they are consistent with the professional field of the department. Such review shall be completed in the semester prior to the degree examination, or at the latest before the University-wide add-drop deadline of the semester in which the degree examination is held. If the review finds the topic inconsistent with the professional field of the department, the department shall require the student to make revisions and improvements. If a student disagrees with the department's review while enrolled, or if after graduation the thesis/dissertation is reported or found to be inconsistent with the professional field of the department, the matter shall be handled in accordance with the investigation procedures set forth in the University's Directives for Handling Cases of Students Violating Academic Ethics, and appropriate actions shall be taken.

Article 9

The master's and doctoral degree examination shall be held once each semester. The schedule shall be determined by each department; however, the examination shall be conducted between October and January in the first semester, and between April and July in the second semester. This restriction shall not apply where special circumstances are approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. After the degree examination is conducted, each department shall not submit the student's examination grade to the Office of Academic Affairs for recording until the student has submitted the thesis/dissertation, written report, technical report, or professional practice report bearing the signatures of approval of the examination committee members.

Submission of the master's or doctoral thesis/dissertation, written report, technical report, or professional practice report referred to in the preceding paragraph, including both hard copy and electronic file, shall be completed before the registration deadline of the following semester. If the submission is overdue but the student has not yet reached the maximum study period, the student shall still register for the following semester and submit the required documents before the final submission deadline of that semester, and graduation shall be recorded in that semester. If the student fails to submit the required documents by

the time the maximum study period expires, the degree examination shall be deemed failed, and the student shall be required to withdraw in accordance with the relevant regulations.

If the student does not meet the department's study requirements and graduation conditions in the semester in which the degree examination is held, the result of the degree examination shall be retained.

Article 10 A student who has obtained a doctoral or master's degree shall submit the doctoral or master's thesis/dissertation, written report, technical report, or professional practice report, together with the electronic file, to the National Central Library and the University Library for preservation, through the University in the form of documents, videotapes, audiotapes, optical discs, or other media.

The doctoral or master's thesis/dissertation, written report, technical report, or professional practice report preserved by the National Central Library shall be made available to the public for in-library reading of the hard copy, or for reading of the electronic file through independent equipment. With authorization in accordance with the Copyright Act, reproduction, public transmission via the internet inside or outside the library, or other acts involving copyright may be permitted. However, where the content involves confidentiality, patent matters, or other circumstances in which disclosure is not permitted by law, the student may apply before the degree examination, and upon review and confirmation by the degree examination committee at the time of the degree examination, the work may be withheld from public access or restricted from access for a specified period. Any subsequent application for change shall also be subject to review and confirmation by all original degree examination committee members, or by the department affairs meeting or equivalent meeting of the department in which the student was enrolled.

The preservation or provision by the libraries referred to in the preceding two paragraphs shall not affect the copyright of the respective doctoral or master's thesis/dissertation, written report, technical report, or professional practice report.

The procedures for preservation, non-disclosure, restricted access for a specified period, application and change of application, review procedures, and copyright authorization referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be separately prescribed by the University Library.

Article 11 If a student's thesis/dissertation is found, upon verification, to be inconsistent with the professional field of the department or to violate academic ethics, the thesis/dissertation advisor shall bear responsibility for inadequate supervision. The department to which the advisor belongs may impose disciplinary action in accordance with its established accountability principles, and shall submit the disciplinary measures and subsequent improvement plan to the Office of Academic Affairs for record.

Article 12 For students in the Direct Pursuit of the Ph.D. Degree program, if the degree examination does not meet the requirements for the doctoral degree but satisfies the requirements for the master's degree, a master's degree may be conferred upon resolution of the doctoral degree examination committee.

Article 13 A conferred degree shall be revoked under any of the following circumstances, and the revocation shall be publicly announced and the issued degree certificate shall be cancelled; where other laws or regulations are violated, the matter shall also be handled in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations:

1. Where the student's admission qualifications or period of study involves falsification, fraud, or other misconduct.

2. Where the thesis/dissertation, work or creative work, proof of achievement, written report, technical report, or professional practice report involves fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, ghostwriting, or other misconduct.

After a degree has been revoked in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the University shall notify the person concerned to return the degree certificate, and shall notify other junior colleges, universities, and relevant authorities (institutions) of the revocation and cancellation.

Article 14 These Regulations shall be implemented after approval by the Academic Affairs Council and shall be filed for record with the Ministry of Education; the same shall apply to amendments.

The English version is provided for reference only.

The Chinese version shall prevail in case of any discrepancies between the English and Chinese versions.