

Yuan Ze University Regulations for Master and Doctoral Degree Qualifying Examination

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Article 1 These regulations are provided pursuant to Article 26 of University Act as well as Degree Conferral Law and its Enforcement Rules.

Article 2 All types of qualifications required for graduate students of master and doctoral program shall be determined by their respective departments. Degree qualifications required for graduate students of master program shall include the thesis defense; degree qualifications required for graduate students of doctoral program shall include the doctoral candidacy examination and doctoral degree examination.

Article 3 Graduate students enrolled in a master program may apply to defend their thesis if they meet the following conditions:

1. Have completed all courses and credit hours required by their respective departments.
2. Have passed all the other qualifications required by their respective departments.

A master's degree shall be conferred to graduate students who have finished drafting their thesis as well as passed the master degree examination through the examination committee.

Graduate students enrolled in a master's degree program in fine arts or an applied science or technology may, in lieu of a master's thesis, submit (respectively) work of art or artistic performance accompanied by a written report, or a technical report, provided with the consent of their respective department meetings.

Article 4 Master degree examination shall be applied and processed as follows:

1. Applications shall be filed within the timetable of each academic year designated in the university's school calendar.
2. Applications shall be accompanied by the following documentation:
 - (1) One copy of the first draft of thesis and the abstract, respectively.
 - (2) Recommendation letters of advising faculty.

Article 5 A master's examination committee shall be composed of three to five members, either from within or outside the university, recommended by the department or graduate school, subsequently screened and appointed by the university's president. In addition to having performed research specifically related to the subject matter of the thesis, work of art, artistic performance, or technical report submitted by the master's degree candidate, each member of a master's examination committee shall possess one of the following qualifications:

1. Have served as a professor or associate professor;
2. Be a member of Academia Sinica, or have served as a research fellow or associate research fellow at Academia Sinica;
3. Hold a doctoral degree and have achieved significant academic accomplishments;
4. Have expertise in an unusual or special academic subject and have achieved significant academic or professional accomplishments.

Criteria for recognition of the qualifications listed in subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph shall be determined separately by each department's or graduate school's meeting.

Article 6 Graduate students enrolled in a doctoral program may be recognized as doctoral candidates if they meet the following conditions:

1. Have completed all courses and credit hours required by their respective departments.
2. Have passed the doctoral candidacy examination.

Doctoral candidates who submit the first draft of dissertation may apply for the doctoral degree examination; those who pass the degree examination through the examination committee shall be conferred a doctoral degree.

Article 7 Doctoral degree examination shall be applied and processed as follows:

1. Applications shall be filed within the timetable of each academic year designated in the university's school calendar.
2. Applications shall be accompanied by the following documentation:
 - (1) One copy of overall transcript.
 - (2) One copy of the first draft of dissertation and the abstract, respectively.
 - (3) Recommendation letters of advising faculty.

Article 8 A doctoral examination committee shall be composed of five to nine members, either from within or outside the university, screened and appointed by the university's president. At least one-third of the committee is made up by outside members from other universities. In addition to having performed research specifically related to the subject matter of the dissertation, work of art, artistic performance, or technical report submitted by a doctoral degree candidate, each member of a doctoral examination committee shall possess one of the following qualifications:

1. Have served as a professor;
2. Be a member of Academia Sinica, or have served as a research fellow at Academia Sinica;
3. Have served as an associate professor or be an associate research fellow at Academia Sinica, and have achieved significant academic accomplishments;

4. Hold a doctoral degree and have achieved significant academic accomplishments;
5. Have expertise in an unusual or special academic subject and have achieved significant academic or professional accomplishments.

Criteria for recognition of the qualifications listed in subparagraphs 3 to 5 of the preceding paragraph shall be determined separately by each department's or graduate school's meeting.

Article 9 Graduate theses, whether for master or doctoral degree, shall be conducted orally except where a written exam has been requested and shall be processed as follows:

1. Oral defense shall be made known to public in advance with the announcement of its time, place and topic.
2. All members of the degree examination committee are expected to be present at the defense, and in no case may the attendance be made by an acting agent. A minimum of three members is required in the case of master's degrees defenses, a minimum of five members in the case of doctoral degrees, and both requiring one-third of attendance by outside members.
3. The grade for degree defense shall be the average of all the grades given by degree examination committee members present and a one-time grading policy for the examination shall be observed. The highest grade possible for the degree defense is 100 points; the lowest passing grade is 70 points. However, if half the members of a master degree examination committee or two-thirds the members of a doctoral degree examination committee give the examinee a grade lower than 70 points, the examinee shall be deemed as having failed the defense.
4. Any student who is found by the degree examination committee upon investigation to have committed plagiarism or used fraudulent means in preparing a thesis or dissertation shall be deemed as having failed the defense.

Article 10 Students in the direct admission into a doctoral program who do not pass the doctoral candidacy examination may apply to study at the original department's master program with the consent of the department meeting and the approval of the president of the university; those who pass the doctoral candidacy examination but fail the doctoral degree examination shall be conferred a master's degree if their doctoral dissertation is deemed by their doctoral degree examination committee to have met a standard appropriate for a master's degree.

Article 11 Graduate students enrolled in a master or doctoral program may be ordered to withdraw from the university if they meet the following conditions:

1. who have not completed all the required courses or credits during the maximum period of study.
2. who have not passed the degree examination.

Graduate students, listed in subparagraphs 2 of the preceding paragraph, who fail to pass their defense and have not exceeded their maximum period of study shall file for a second defense in the following semester or academic year. A one-time policy for the second defense shall be observed. Students who fail to pass their defense a second time shall be asked to withdraw from the university.

Article 12 The thesis or dissertation (including the abstract) must be written in Chinese as a rule; if the candidate has a thesis or dissertation from a different degree earned, this may not be presented again. Students who have passed their degree examination shall submit the required number of copies of their completed thesis or dissertation along with the electronic version (for archival purposes), their grade for the degree examination, and complete the withdrawal procedures in order to have their diploma conferred by the university. The deadline for turning in the thesis or dissertation is by the end of January for the first semester, and by the end of July for the second semester. If the deadline is passed, but the student has not reached the limit of the study term, he or she may still register in the subsequent semester. However, if the student has not turned in the thesis or dissertation and has reached the limit of the study term, the degree examination shall be considered unsatisfactory, and the student shall be ordered to withdraw from the university as stipulated by the university's regulations.

Article 13 In the event that the university confers a degree to a student who is found upon investigation to have committed plagiarism or used fraudulent means in preparing a thesis or dissertation, the university shall revoke the degree and issue a public notice to announce the invalidation of the previously issued diploma.

No one related to the examinee within three degrees of kinship or being the examinee's stakeholder is permitted to be the advising faculty or a member of the examination committee; otherwise, the qualification shall be revoked and the grade of oral defense shall not be recognized by the university. If the university confers a degree to a student who is found to do so, the university shall refer to the rule of the preceding paragraph.

Article 14 The university may confer an honorary doctoral degree to the person who has made an important contribution to academic, cultural, or professional accomplishments; regulations governing the conferral of an honorary doctoral degree shall be established by the university separately.

Article 15 These regulations will be adopted by the Academic Affairs Meeting before being reported to the Ministry of Education for ratification and implementation, as shall amendments when they are made.

If any controversies or disputes occurred regarding clauses of the contract, it shall always refer to its Chinese version.