

Regulations for Doctoral Degree Examinations at I-Shou University

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Amendments to Article 14 adopted by the University Council on July 13, 2022, and promulgated with the consent from the President dated on August 1, 2022

Article 1 The Regulations for Doctoral Degree Examinations at I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as "the Regulations") are made by I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as "the University") pursuant to Article 26 of the University Act and the Degree Conferral Law.

Article 2 Doctoral students shall meet the following requirements to be qualified as a doctoral candidate:

1. having completed all the prescribed program subjects and earned the required credits;
2. having passed the doctoral qualifying examination; and
3. satisfying the requirements set forth by their departments (institutes/programs).

Regulations concerning the doctoral qualifying examination shall be stipulated by departments (institutes/programs) themselves, and then the regulations shall be submitted to their colleges for approval, to the Office of Academic Affairs for checking any conflict or inconsistency with other regulations and rules, and finally to the President for ratification.

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 their departments (institutes/programs).

The number of times a doctoral student has taken the examination during the suspension of schooling and the result thereof will not be counted.

Article 4

The doctoral degree examination shall be administered once every semester. Once a doctoral student holds the qualifications needed to be a doctoral candidate in the second semester of the second year of study or beyond, with the consent from his/her supervisor(s) and the Chair (Director) of his/her department (institute/program), he/she shall apply to his/her department (institute/program) for holding a doctoral degree examination at least one month prior to the examination date.

After the application is approved by the department (institute/program), the department (institute/program) shall submit the doctoral dissertation, the abstract, the information about the method, time, and location of examination, and a list of candidates for committee membership for a doctoral degree examination committee to the Office of Academic Affairs for review and to the President for ratification. Students undertaking a doctoral program in the field of fine arts, applied science, technology, or sports may submit a creative work, a proof of merit accompanied by a written report, or a technical report instead of a doctoral dissertation. The criteria for determining fields to which this rule applies shall be implemented after being approved by the University Academic Council.

Article 5

The following are the fields where a creative work, a proof of merit accompanied by a written report, or a technical report can be substituted for a doctoral dissertation:

1. Fine arts: A creative work, along with the theoretical analysis in the written report, in the field of music, performing arts, drama, theater arts, dance, folk arts, sound & image arts, visual arts, new media art, design, etc. has made a major and substantive contribution;
2. Applied science or technology: A patent, technology transfer, or innovation in the field of life sciences, environment, physical sciences & chemistry, mathematics & statistics, information & communication technologies, engineering & engineering trades, manufacturing, architecture & construction, agriculture, transportation, etc.; a national or international technical award for a case study; or industry-university collaboration, technical applications & derivatives, or an improvement

project, along with the theoretical analysis in the technical report, has made a major and substantive contribution; and

3. Sports: For a doctoral student in the field of recreational sports, sports, or physical education, or any athlete(s) coached by him/her, who has participated in a major domestic and/or international sports tournament(s) and won a major place, a proof of merit, along with the theoretical analysis in the written report, has made a major and substantive contribution; the scope of sports tournaments mentioned above shall be subject to the announcement by the competent authorities.

The criteria for recognizing creative works, proofs of merit, written reports, and technical reports specified in the preceding paragraph, as well as documents to be submitted, shall be implemented after being approved by respective Departmental (Institute/Program) Affairs Councils and the University Academic Council.

Article 6 Written reports and technical reports shall contain the following information, respectively:

1. Fine arts: the inspiration for the creation (exhibition/performance), a description of the work, theoretical foundations, an interpretation and analysis of methods and techniques, contributions of the work and the research results, and other relevant achievements.
2. Applied science or technology: the R & D inspiration, a description of the case, theoretical foundations, an interpretation and analysis of methods and techniques, contributions of the research results, and other relevant achievements.
3. Sports: the process of participation in the sports tournament(s), a description of the athlete(s), theoretical foundations, an interpretation and analysis of methods and techniques, contributions of the research results, and other relevant achievements.

Article 7 A doctoral degree examination committee shall have five members (or six members if there are two supervisors or more), and the administrative heads of departments (institutes/programs) shall submit a candidate list to the President for selection and appointment. The supervisor of a doctoral student applying for taking the doctoral degree examination shall be the ex-officio member, but he/she shall not serve as the chairperson. The chairperson shall be elected among other committee members. Committee members shall attend the examination in person and are not permitted to authorize another person to act on their behalf. The examination shall not begin

unless at least four-fifths of the committee members are present, and the number of members from outside the University shall be equal to or more than that of members from within the University.

Where necessary, additional committee members from within or outside the University may be added to a doctoral degree examination committee with prior consent from the University.

Article 8 The members of a doctoral degree examination committee shall have done a specialized study in the research field of the applying doctoral candidate and also have one of the following qualifications:

1. being currently serving or having served as a professor or associate professor;
2. being an Academician of the Academia Sinica, or currently working or having worked at the Academia Sinica as a research fellow or associate research fellow;
3. having a doctoral degree and significant academic accomplishments; or
4. having expertise in an unusual or highly specialized research field and having achieved significant results in their respective academic or professional field(s).

The criteria for determining the qualifications specified in Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph shall be established by respective Departmental (Institute/Program) Affairs Councils.

Article 9 A doctoral dissertation, creative work, proof of merit, written report, or technical report that has already been submitted to obtain a degree in Taiwan or abroad shall not be submitted again. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this restriction does not apply if the University has engaged in institutional collaboration with a university abroad, and the two universities have jointly supervised the doctoral dissertation and separately conferred a corresponding degree.

In principle, a doctoral dissertation, written report, or technical report shall be written either in Chinese or English. Notwithstanding the foregoing, doctoral students who major in languages other than English may write the doctoral dissertation or report in the language of the area of study.

Article 10 The doctoral degree examination consists of an oral defense and a review of the examinee's doctoral dissertation, written report, or technical report.
The oral defense shall be held in public; other examination methods may be adopted if necessary.

- Article 11 The scoring method is based on a 100-point scale, with 100 being the highest possible score and 70 being the lowest passing score. The final grade is the average of scores given by each of the committee members, and an examinee is considered passing the doctoral degree examination only when he/she receives 70 points or higher from all the committee members.
- Article 12 Doctoral degree examinations shall be held before January 15 (for the first semester) or July 15 (for the second semester) every year. After all doctoral degree examinations are completed, departments (institutes/programs) shall, before the end of the semester, submit examinees' final grades to the Office of Academic Affairs. Successful examinees shall, before February 15 (for the first semester) or August 31 (for the second semester), submit their doctoral dissertations, written reports, or technical reports with the signatures of all the committee members affixed, and the month of graduation is the month in which the oral defense is held. Those who have missed the aforesaid submission deadline shall complete the registration process in the following semester and submit their doctoral dissertations, written reports, or technical reports before the end of the semester, and the month of graduation is the month in which the doctoral dissertation, written report, or technical report is submitted. Those who fail to submit their doctoral dissertations, written reports, or technical reports upon expiry of the prescribed duration of study shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination and expelled from the University in accordance with the applicable regulations and rules.
- Article 13 If a doctoral student has applied for but not taken the doctoral degree examination or withdrawn his/her application before the deadline of submitting final grades as referred to in the preceding article, he/she shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination once.
- Doctoral students who have failed the doctoral degree examination once within the prescribed duration of study may apply for taking the examination for a second time. Those who still fail the examination shall be expelled from the University.
- Article 14 Successful examinees shall complete the following steps before graduation:
1. Uploading the abstract and the full-length manuscript of their doctoral dissertations, written reports, or technical reports to the Electronic Theses & Dissertations Service of the University.
 2. Submitting a comparison report on dissertation originality signed by their supervisors to their department (institute/program) offices. The standards of the aforesaid comparison report shall be deliberated by respective

Departmental (Institute/Program) Affairs Councils, approved by the competent College Affairs Councils, and then submitted to the University Academic Council for future reference.

- Article 15 In order to achieve fairness and avoid a conflict of interest, the spouse, any of the relatives by blood or marriage within the third degree of kinship, or any of the major interested parties of a doctoral student shall not serve as the supervisor or a member of the doctoral degree examination committee. The appointment shall be canceled if any of the aforesaid situations occur. In case of a violation, the doctoral student involved shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination if he/she has passed the examination.
- If a doctoral dissertation, creative work, proof of merit, written report, or technical report contains fabricated, altered, or plagiarized materials, was written by someone else, or constitutes some other form of fraud, with clear evidence provided by the committee member(s), the doctoral student involved shall be considered failing the doctoral degree examination and referred to the Student Reward and Disciplinary Committee for further processing.
- A doctoral degree conferred by the University shall be revoked if either of the situations specified in the preceding two paragraphs occurs with clear evidence provided, and the University shall ask the person involved to return the degree diploma and notify other institutions of higher education and relevant institutions (agencies) of the revocation and invalidation of the doctoral degree and degree diploma.
- Article 16 Graduate students pursuing a doctoral degree through direct admission who have failed the doctoral qualifying examination may return to their original departments (institutes/programs) or transfer to another master's program in a similar or related field upon approval of the competent Departmental (Institute/Program) Affairs Council and ratification of the President.
- Graduate students pursuing a doctoral degree through direct admission who have passed the doctoral qualifying examination but failed the doctoral degree examination may be awarded a master's degree, provided that the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee determines that the doctoral dissertation, written report, or technical report meets the standards for a master's degree.
- Article 17 Matters not mentioned herein, if any, shall be subject to the University Act and its enforcement rules, the Degree Conferral Act, and other applicable laws.
- Article 18 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 reported to the Ministry of Education for future reference. The same procedure applies to any amendments 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.