

# **Regulations for National Sun Yat-sen University Department of Marine Environment and Engineering Doctoral Degree Conferment**

## **Applicable for New Admissions from Academic Year 2021 Onward**

Adopted in Department Affairs Meeting, March 2, 2021

Approved in the College Affairs meeting, April 1, 2021

Adopted in Department Affairs Meeting, June 21, 2021

Adopted in Department Affairs Meeting, October 21, 2021

Approved in the College Affairs meeting, November 5, 2021

Adopted in Department Affairs Meeting, April 8, 2022

Approved in the College Affairs meeting, June 2, 2022

1. These Regulations are established in accordance with the provisions of the National Sun Yat-sen University Guidelines on Implementation of Doctoral and Master's Degree Examination.
2. Relevant items during study periods:
  - (1) Study period: The study period is two to seven years, excluding periods of admission deferral and leaves of absence.
  - (2) Credit System and Course Requirements:
    - i. Courses for credit must total a minimum of 18 credits, with a minimum graduation requirement of 24 credits. For those directly pursuing a doctoral degree, the minimum graduation requirement is 35 credits. Master's program students who are directly pursuing a doctoral degree must not only meet the aforementioned criteria but also fulfill the course requirements outlined in the "Regulations for the Conferment of Master's Degrees" in the department.
    - ii. Doctoral students are required to complete the qualifying examination for doctoral candidacy within three years of admission and must earn the prescribed number of credits within four years. Failure to meet either of these requirements shall be dismissed from the University.
  - (3) Selection and appointment supervising professor:

If a graduate student needs to change the selected thesis advisor for any reason, the change must be approved in writing by both the current and new thesis advisors. The application for change must be submitted to the department office no later than one semester before the degree examination.
  - (4) Others:

Any dispute over interpretations of these regulations shall be resolved in the court of law based on the Chinese version.

If guidance is required from an external instructor, approval from the thesis advisor is necessary, and the application must be submitted to the department office no later than one semester before the degree examination.

### 3. Qualifying Examination for Doctoral Candidacy

Definition of Semester: The first semester is from August 1st to January 31st of each year, and the second semester is from February 1st to July 31st.

#### (1) Qualifying Examination:

- i. The format of the qualifying examination is determined by the Review Committee and includes both written and oral components. The written part focuses on fundamental academic knowledge, while the oral part assesses the review of the doctoral dissertation proposal and research progress. The oral examination should be conducted publicly.
- ii. Application deadlines for the qualifying examination are until October 15th for the first semester and until March 15th for the second semester. The qualifying examination should take place before the end of the semester as stipulated in the university calendar.
- iii. Composition of the Qualifying Examination Review Committee:  
The committee is composed of five to seven members, including assistant professors or individuals with equivalent qualifications, invited by the advisor. The advisor cannot serve as the convener during the qualifying examination.
- iv. Before the qualifying examination, the committee should convene at least once, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.
- v. The written examination consists of at least three subjects, with a passing score of seventy points or above for each subject. The subjects and passing standards are determined by the Qualifying Examination Review Committee.
- vi. Students who fail the qualifying examination twice will be dismissed from the University.

#### (2) Doctoral Dissertation Publication:

Graduate students must publish at least two academic papers before obtaining their degree. One of these papers must be published in an SCI or SSCI journal, with the student listed as the first author. Acceptance of the paper by the journal is considered equivalent to publication.

#### (3) Language Proficiency:

- i. Graduate students are required to take a language proficiency test. Test scores must reach a minimum of 650 on the TOEIC or an equivalent level

Any dispute over interpretations of these regulations shall be resolved in the court of law based on the Chinese version.

on other internationally recognized standardized tests. If the test scores fall below the specified standards (documentation of English proficiency test scores is required), students may substitute by completing a total of 4 credits in advanced English courses at the undergraduate level or relevant graduate-level courses. However, the grades must be at least B- (70 points), and these credits will not count toward graduation credits. Holders of degrees from universities recognized by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan or individuals with nationality from an English-speaking country, as well as foreign students from countries where English is the official language, are exempt from this requirement.

- ii. Before graduation, students must attend at least one international academic conference where they orally present in English. Documentation, including an acceptance letter from the organizing committee and evidence of actual participation in the oral presentation, must be provided.
- iii. Prior to applying for the degree examination, students must complete and submit the required documents related to the language proficiency requirements mentioned above.

( 4 ) International Exchange

Before graduation, students must engage in international exchange, fulfilling one of the following conditions before being eligible to request the degree examination:

- i. Apply for an overseas exchange/study program (lasting 3 months or more).
- ii. Complete a foreign study program or project (lasting 3 months or more) as outlined in the department's degree program planning (semester/summer).
- iii. Obtain a dual degree from an overseas university with which the university has a collaborative agreement.
- iv. For part-time students (with proof of employment upon admission) and those unable to go abroad for an extended period due to other factors (such as pregnancy or childcare), participation in at least one international conference or forum and presenting a paper is required.

In the event that international travel is not possible due to global health concerns, participation in online international conferences may be considered as an alternative, with the details subject to approval by the Graduate Student Affairs Committee of the department.

( 5 ) Doctoral Degree Examination:

Any dispute over interpretations of these regulations shall be resolved in the court of law based on the Chinese version.

- i. Upon passing the qualifying examination for doctoral candidacy and meeting the relevant regulations for dissertation publication, graduate students may be recommended by their advisor to participate in the doctoral degree examination.
    - ii. The selection of examination committee members for the doctoral degree examination will be nominated by the advisor according to the "Guidelines on Implementation of Doctoral and Master's Degree Examination" of the university. After the approval of the department chair, the nomination will be submitted to the university president for final appointment.
    - iii. The doctoral's thesis shall be checked by an originality analysis system, and the principles and results of the check must comply with the relevant provisions of the "Guidelines on Implementation of Doctoral and Master's Degree Examination".
    - iv. Students failing their degree examination but still within required years of studies are eligible to retake the examination in the following semester or academic year. The retake is limited to once and those who still fail in the retake shall be dismissed from the University.
  4. Graduation: Students who meet the above requirements may apply for graduation.
  5. These regulations shall be implemented upon approval by the departmental and the college affairs meeting, and after approval by the university president.
- Amendments shall follow the same procedure.

Any dispute over interpretations of these regulations shall be resolved in the court of law based on the Chinese version.