

# National Tsing Hua University Doctoral Degree Exam Statutes

Amendment to Articles 4, 5, 8, 8-1, 12, 14 and 14-1 by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2024 academic year dated May 29 2025

(The complete revision history is provided at the end of the statutes.)

Article 1 These bylaws have been established in accordance with “University Act” Article 26 and “Degree Conferral Act”.

Article 2 A graduate student that meets the following criteria may become a doctoral candidate:

- (1) Completed all of the courses required for the doctoral degree program
- (2) Passed the Ph.D. qualifying examination
- (3) Passed the foreign language ability verification examination
- (4) Fulfilled other requirements established by his/her department, graduate institute, or degree program of study.

The Ph.D. qualifying examination and the foreign language ability verification examination are established by the respective department, graduate institute, or degree program and announced on their websites.

Article 3 Each department, institute, or degree program’s Ph.D. qualifying examination should be held at least once a year. Those whom have passed the exam will be registered by the department, graduate institute, or degree program. A doctoral graduate student who is unable to pass the qualifying exam within a timeframe established by the department, graduate institute, or degree program will be expelled.

The time limit for passing the doctoral qualification examination after enrollment and the number of attempts allowed shall be specified in the qualification examination regulations of each department, graduate institute, or degree program. For the semesters that passed during a graduate student’s leave of absence, the number of qualifying exams taken, as well as the exam results, remain applicable.

Article 4 Doctoral graduate students who have completed at least two academic years of study (or three academic years for graduate students in direct pursuit of Ph.D. degree) and who have received doctoral candidacy may apply for doctoral degree examination upon receipt of approval from their doctoral advisor, who shall verify if the student’s dissertation is related to the field of study of the student’s department, graduate institute, or degree program. An application for doctoral degree examination is filed by submitting one copy of each of the following documents to the applicant’s department, institute, or degree program:

- (1) Draft of the dissertation (including an abstract)
- (2) Academic transcript

- (3) Application form for the doctoral degree examination
- (4) Report of the dissertation originality check

The standards for the dissertation originality check shall be determined by the respective department, graduate institute, or degree program of the applying student and supplied to the examination committee for reference.

Once approval to take the doctoral degree examination is granted by the department (graduate institute or degree program) chair, the applying student's department (graduate institute or degree program) shall affix a list of the doctoral degree examination committee members to the application form and submit the processed form to the Division of Registration for secondary approval, after which the examination may be scheduled.

Starting from the 2015 academic year, in addition to complying with the aforementioned regulations, doctoral students must also complete the Academic Research Ethics Education Course and pass the course assessment with a qualifying score before the end of their first academic year, in accordance with the university's "Directions for Implementation of Academic Research Ethics Education Courses." Only upon meeting this criterion may students apply to their respective departments (graduate institutes or degree programs) for the doctoral degree examination.

At the end of each semester, the Division of Registration shall compile degree examination committee member lists for all applying students and forward them to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President of NTHU for approval and filing for future reference.

Article 4-1 International students who have enrolled in NTHU in or after the 2020 academic year shall complete the required credit hours of Mandarin courses in accordance with the Mandarin Course Requirements for NTHU International Students before they can graduate.

The graduation date for international students who are unable to graduate in the same semester they completed the dissertation review due to their enrollment in the aforementioned Mandarin courses may be extended, but may not exceed the maximum period of study permitted.

Unless otherwise stipulated by academic departments or graduate institutes, the credit hours received for the Mandarin courses do not count toward the credit hours required for graduation.

Article 5 A doctoral degree examination committee is comprised of five to nine members, of which at least 1/3 need to be external university members. The advisor shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee (this does not apply to dual degree programs jointly offered with overseas universities); however, the advisor may not serve as the chair. The chair shall be elected by the committee members from

among themselves.

A doctoral graduate student's spouse or third-degree relatives by blood or by marriage cannot serve on the doctoral degree examination committee. Examination committee members are appointed by the university president based on the nominations of chairs from each department, graduate institute or degree program.

Article 6 Doctoral degree examination committee members, in addition to possessing research expertise on the doctoral degree candidate's dissertation topic, must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Currently serving or having served as a professor or associate professor
- (2) Appointed to academicianship at Academia Sinica OR currently serving or having served as a researcher or associate researcher at Academia Sinica
- (3) Holding a doctoral degree AND with notable academic achievements
- (4) Having notable academic or professional achievements in a rare or highly specialized academic field

The specific standards for subparagraphs 3 and 4 in the preceding paragraph shall be determined in the General Meeting of the degree-awarding department (graduate institute or degree program).

Article 7 Students who have been approved to take the doctoral degree examination should follow the "Regulations Governing the Formats of Graduate Thesis and Dissertation" to complete the formal draft of the dissertation (including the abstract) and submit it, along with the Dissertation Advisor Approval Form, to the department, graduate institute or degree program for forwarding them to the degree examination committee members for review and arrange the examination date.

Article 8 The doctoral degree dissertation should be written in Chinese or English; however, the abstract must be provided in both Chinese and English.

Any dissertation used to obtain another degree cannot be submitted again.

Article 8-1 The dissertation shall be submitted in bound form before the doctoral degree examination; however, if binding is not feasible, a loose-leaf format may be submitted temporarily. After passing the degree examination and completing the final review of the dissertation, the dissertation must be properly bound.

Matters related to the submission of electronic files of the dissertation and abstract shall be handled in accordance with the announcements on the website of Library.

Article 9 The doctoral degree examination date is scheduled based on the start and end dates of the university's academic calendar. Each department, graduate institute or degree program schedules the date and location of the exam.

Those who have applied for early registration may conduct the doctoral degree examination after the end of the semester and before the registration date of the next semester.

Article 10 The doctoral degree examination includes a dissertation exam and a dissertation

review.

The dissertation exam is a publicly held oral exam, and when deemed necessary, an additional exam is held separately in another format.

Article 11

The doctoral dissertation examination results are comprehensively evaluated by the content of the dissertation and oral examination (and other forms of exams). A doctoral degree examination's grade is based on an average of all the attending committee members' anonymous assessment scores. The evaluation may only be taken once. A score of 70 points (or B- on the Letter Grade) is considered passing. However, if more than 1/3 of the committee members rule that the candidate did not pass, a failing grade will be given instead.

Students who fail the dissertation examination shall have their degree examination result recorded as a failing grade.

Article 12

After the degree examination, if the dissertation is deemed to require revision by the examination committee, the student must revise the dissertation accordingly and resubmit it to the committee members for further review. The review process does not involve a separate grade. Upon approval, the dissertation examination committee members shall sign the "Final Thesis/Dissertation Review Form", thereby completing the final dissertation review confirmation (hereinafter referred to as the "final dissertation approval"). If the final dissertation approval is not completed within the same semester as the degree examination, the examination result shall be considered invalid. Once the final dissertation approval is completed, the grade for the dissertation examination will serve as the final result of the degree examination.

The student must upload the finalized electronic version of the dissertation to the university's Dissertations & Theses Repository. The academic advisor shall serve as the authorized reviewer to confirm the completion of the final dissertation approval. (In the case of co-advisors, one advisor shall be designated to serve as the reviewer.)

The student must submit the "Thesis/Dissertation Affidavit" to the department, graduate institute, or degree program before obtaining the "Final Thesis/Dissertation Review Form" for record. Students who fail to submit the signed Affidavit shall not be eligible to receive their degree certificate.

If a dissertation is found to contain fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, ghostwriting, or any other form of academic misconduct, the case shall be handled in accordance with "National Tsing Hua University Guidelines for Handling Academic Ethics Violations by Students Who Have Not Yet Graduated".

Article 13

For those who did not pass the degree examination, prior to reaching the maximum study period, he/she may apply to take a re-examination during the next semester or next academic year. If the student fails again, he/she will be expelled.

Article 14

Once the student has passed the dissertation examination and final dissertation

approval, each department, graduate institute or degree program should submit each graduate student's dissertation examination grade and a copy of the "Final Thesis/Dissertation Review Form" to the Division of Registration, Office of Academic Affairs. Students must submit two hard copies of the finalized and approved dissertation to the university library as a part of the school leaving procedure.

Dissertations shall be made publicly accessible to promote academic exchange and sharing. However, if the content involves confidential information, patent-related matters or is restricted by law, the student must provide supporting documents approved from both the advisor and the Chief of the department or graduate institute in order to apply for the delayed publication. Regulations regarding to the delayed publication of dissertations shall be established by the university library. For those who did not pass the doctoral degree examinations, the grades must be submitted to the Division of Registration, Office of Academic Affairs within two weeks for filing by the department, graduate institute or degree program.

Article 14-1     Doctoral candidates may be awarded a doctoral degree upon completing the required period of study, receiving the required courses and credits, satisfying graduation requirements, passing the doctoral degree examination and completing the final dissertation approval.

Students who complete all graduation requirements between August 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year shall be classified as first semester graduates; those who complete all graduation requirements between February 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year shall be classified as second semester graduates.

Graduating students must complete all school leaving procedures in according with NTHU "Directions for Student Deregistration Procedures" before the registration date of the following semester.

Doctoral students in fine arts, applied science or technology, or sports field may submit a collection of work or proof of achievements along with a written report, or a technical report instead of a traditional doctoral dissertation for degree consideration. The recognition criteria and review of the aforementioned fine arts, applied science or technology, or sports shall be determined by the respective college's affairs meeting or an equivalent-level meeting and shall be implemented upon approval by a relative academic affairs meeting of university level.

The specific scopes of recognition, formatting, contents, required items, and other rules governing eligible works, proof of achievement, written reports and technical reports for the aforementioned programs shall be stipulated by the Ministry of Education.

Article 14-2     Dissertations, works, proofs of achievement, written reports, and technical reports that have been used to acquire an academic degree at another institution, domestic

or abroad, shall be excluded from degree consideration as described in Article 14-1. However, this restriction does not apply to domestic universities through academic collaboration with overseas institutions, jointly supervise a dissertation and separately confer degrees.

Article 15 If, after a doctoral degree has been conferred, a student's dissertation, collection of works, proof of achievement, written report, or technical report has been proven to be falsified, tampered with, plagiarized, ghostwritten, or otherwise fraudulent shall be dealt with in accordance with NTHU Directions for Handling of Doctoral/Master's Degree Papers in Violation of Academic Ethics.

Article 16 Pursuant to NTHU Academic Regulations, graduate students in direct pursuit of a doctoral degree who fail to advance to doctoral degree candidacy, who suspend their pursuit of the doctoral degree for any reason, or who fail the doctoral degree examination while not meeting the conditions set forth in Paragraph 2 of this Article, may apply to transfer back to the corresponding master's degree program by submitting an application form, which shall be reviewed by the General Meeting (or similar meetings with authority) of the current doctoral and the intended master's departments, graduate institutes, colleges, or degree programs and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President of NTHU before taking effect.

Graduate students in direct pursuit of a doctoral degree who have reached the maximum period of study and advanced to doctoral degree candidacy but failed the doctoral degree examination, and whose doctoral dissertation is determined by the doctoral degree examination committee to meet the requirements of a master's thesis, may be awarded a master's degree instead.

Article 17 Matters unaddressed herein shall be processed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of NTHU and the Ministry of Education. These bylaws shall come into effect upon ratification at the subsequent Academic Affairs Meeting.

**(The complete revision history)**

Filed for review under Ministry of Education Letter Tai(85)-Gao(II)-Zi No.85082940 dated September 30 1996

Amendment by the 5<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2001 academic year dated June 13 2002

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai(91)-Gao(II)-Zi No.91096395 dated July 8 2002

Amendment by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2003 academic year dated June 3 2004

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.0930091930 dated July 13 2004

Amendment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2005 academic year dated December 29 2005

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.0950024203 dated February 22 2006

Amendment to Article 11 by the 1<sup>st</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2010 academic year dated October 27 2010

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.0990210257 dated December 8 2010

Amendment to Article 4 by the 7<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2010 academic year dated June 2 2011

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1000107662 dated July 1 2011

Amendment to Article 5 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2011 academic year dated December 20 2011

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1010131566 dated July 13 2012

Amendment by the 1<sup>st</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2014 academic year dated October 16 2014

Confirmed on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1040093288 dated July 14 2015

Amendment to Article 4 by the 1<sup>st</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2018 academic year dated October 25 2018

Amendment to Articles 1, 4, 6, 14-2, 15 and 16 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2018 academic year dated March 14 2019

Amendment to Articles 14-1 and 17 by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2018 academic year dated June 20 2019  
Confirmed Articles 1, 4, 6, 14-2, 15, 16 and 17 on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1080103384 dated September 9 2019  
Confirmed Article 14-1 on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1080141112 dated September 27 2019  
Amendment to Articles 4, 4-1, 7 and 8 by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2019 academic year dated June 18 2020  
Confirmed Articles 4, 4-1, 7 and 8 on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1090094261 dated July 22 2020  
Amendment to Articles 2, 12 and 17 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2022 academic year dated December 22 2022  
Approval on record under Ministry of Education Letter Tai-Gao(II)-Zi No.1120006385 dated March 10 2023  
Amendment to Article 14 by the 1<sup>st</sup> session of Academic Affairs Meeting for 2024 academic year dated October 24 2024