

National Sun Yat-sen University Department of Marine Biotechnology and Resources Ph.D. Program Qualification and Degree Examination Regulations

Applicable to students enrolled from academic year 2012 onwards

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, December 12, 2002

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, December 26, 2002

Amended by the Department Affairs Council meeting, March 03, 2003

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, December 23, 2004

Amended by the Department Affairs Council meeting, January 05, 2005

Amended by the Department Affairs Council meeting, June 07, 2011

Amended by the Department Affairs Council meeting, January 09, 2012

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, April 12, 2012

1. The Regulations were defined in accordance with the "Degree Conferral Law" and its implementation bylaws as issued by the Ministry of Education, as well as the "Academic Regulations" and "Implementation Bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination" of this University.
2. While student is at the University:
 - (1) Study period limit: Between two to seven years in accordance with Ministry of Education rules (not including deferred admission and suspension).
 - (2) Selection and appointment of supervising professor: The research student should select a full-time faculty member from the Department as the supervising professor. If an outside faculty member is required as the co-advisor then the consent of the supervising professor is required.
 - (3) Academic credit system and study requirements:
 - i. The research student's course selection requires the approval of the supervising professor and head of department.
 - ii. The student must complete the prerequisite courses and minimum number of credits (18 credits).
 - iii. For Master's students studying directly for a Ph.D. degree, they must complete at least 30 credits (including prerequisite credits. Up to 9 credits can be transferred from the Master's program).
 - (4) Language proficiency requirements:

A TOEFL CBT score of over 200; or a TOEFL CBT score of over 173 as well as having attended at least one international conference hosted overseas; those who attempted but did not pass language proficiency testing, but have completed 8 credits of English-related courses (except freshman English); or has passed the Advanced level of the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT). (Note)
3. Ph.D. Candidate Qualification:

Semester definition: Semester 1 runs from August 1 of each year through to January 31 of the following year; Semester 2 runs from February 1 through to July 31 of each year.

 - (1) Qualification exam: For core and optional courses the results are expressed as pass or fail. Each student may take the exam for up to three courses each time. At least three courses

must be passed within three years (not including suspensions). Those who fail to do so will be asked to withdraw from the program. Exam applications should be submitted within two weeks of the start of semester. The examination timetable will be set by the Department. The candidate must pass the qualification exam in order to apply for thesis proposal review.

- i. Core course: Introduction to Marine Science
 - ii. Optional courses: Select any 2 of the 11 courses below
(1) Marine Ecology (2) Biology (3) Physiology (4) Molecular Biology (5) Marine Geology (6) Petrology and Mineralogy (7) Ocean Dynamics (8) Ocean Physics (9) Organic Chemistry (10) Environmental Chemistry (11) Natural Products Chemistry
- (2) Thesis Proposal Review: An oral examination must be undertaken before the end of the 4th academic year to review the research student's thesis proposal and test his/her related academic knowledge. The student must wait at least 6 months after passing the oral exam to apply for degree examination. Those who failed to pass the first review should apply for a second review in the following semester or academic year. Those who fail to pass both times or did not complete the first review should be directed to withdraw from the program.
- i. Research students wishing to participate in the thesis proposal review should submit an application four weeks in advance. The Department shall announce the decided-upon date three weeks in advance.
 - ii. The research student should deliver six copies of the thesis proposal to the Department Office two weeks before the scheduled review date.
 - iii. The review committee shall consist of 3 to 5 faculty members at or above the grade of assistant professor but does not include the supervising professor.
 - iv. Once a research student passes the thesis proposal review and receives the approval of the head of department then he/she qualifies as a Ph.D. candidate.
- (3) Regulations relating to the publication of Ph.D. dissertations:
Before the degree examination, research students must publish as the lead author at least one academic paper related to their Ph.D. dissertation in the Science Citation Index (SCI) periodical. A paper accepted by SCI is considered to be published.
- (4) Ph.D. degree examination:
- i. Research students who qualify as a Ph.D. candidate while also satisfy the requirements on language proficiency and publication of related papers may be recommended by the supervising professor for Ph.D. candidate degree examination.
 - ii. The membership of the Ph.D. degree examination committee shall be nominated by the supervising professor in accordance with Articles 10, 11 and 13 of the University "Implementation Bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination". Once approved by the head of the department then the University President may be asked to approve their appointment.
 - iv. Those who failed their degree examination and have not yet reached their limit on

extension of study periods may retake the exam in the following semester or academic year. They may only retake the exam once and those who still fail to pass shall be directed to withdraw from the program in accordance with Article 75, Paragraph 3 of the University's Academic Regulations.

- v. Graduation: Those who meet the various requirements described above may apply for graduation.
- vi. The Regulations were approved by the Department and College Affairs Councils then submitted to the University President for sanction prior to implementation. Modifications shall follow the same procedure.

Note:

The TOEFL or CBT testing for language proficiency in Article 2 (4) can be substituted for some other equivalent language proficiency test score. For example: 1. A score of 533 on paper TOEFL; 2. A score of 200 on CBT TOEFL; a score of 77 on iBT-TOEFL; 4. a score of 700 on TOEIC; 5. A score of 5.0 or higher on IELTS; alternatively, (1) A score of 500 on paper TOEFL; 2. A score of 173 on CBT TOEFL; 3. A score of 61 on iBT-TOEFL; 4. a score of 650 on TOEIC; a score of 4.0 or higher on IELTS, and having attended at least one international conference.