

National Taiwan Ocean University

Guidelines for the Qualification Examination of Doctoral Degree Candidates

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- Article 1 To enhance the research and professional capabilities of doctoral students and to ensure their appropriate scholarly development, these Guidelines are established in accordance with Article 26 of the University Act and Article 9 of the Degree Conferral Act.
- Article 2 Doctoral students should be rigorously assessed by their respective departments, institutes, or degree programs (hereinafter referred to as departments). Only those who pass the qualification assessment and meet the relevant requirements for doctoral candidacy stipulated by the Ministry of Education's Degree Conferral Act may be nominated as doctoral degree candidates by their respective departments.
- Article 3 To apply for the qualification examination, doctoral degree candidates must prepare a detailed outline and basic content of their dissertation. Applications for the qualification examination are limited to once per semester and are to be accepted on dates set by each department.

Article 4 Upon receiving applications for the qualification examination, each department should organize a Qualification Examination Committee for Doctoral Degree Candidates (hereinafter referred to as the Qualification Examination Committee) to conduct the examination process. The qualification examination is conducted through an oral examination of the dissertation plan, and may also be combined with a written examination. The conditions for applying for the qualification examination, the methods of examination, and the subjects tested are to be determined by each department.

Article 5 The composition of the Qualification Examination Committee shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) The Committee shall consist of five to nine members, with the advisor(s) (including co-advisors) not exceeding half, and at least one-third (inclusive) being external members. There must be at least one full-time faculty member from the respective department. The chairperson of the committee is appointed by the President and cannot be the advisor.

(2) Members of the Committee should specialize in the research field of the doctoral candidate and must possess one of the following qualifications:

1. Current or former professors or associate professors.
2. Academicians of Academia Sinica, current or former research fellows or associate research fellows of Academia Sinica.
3. Holders of a doctoral degree with academic achievements.
4. Those in rare or specialized fields with academic or professional achievements.

The criteria for nominating members under subparagraph 3 and 4 are to be established by each department's meeting.

(3) Committee members are recommended by the advisor and submitted to the department's Doctoral Qualification Review Committee or departmental meetings for review. If necessary, the meeting may add or remove names from the list. After approval, the appointment is finalized upon the President's endorsement.

Candidates for qualification examination and committee members must not have blood or marriage relations within the third degree of kinship.

Article 6 Convening and grading of the Qualification Examination Committee:

(1) At least five members must attend; no proxy is allowed. The Committee must include at least one-third (inclusive) external members and no more than half advisors (including co-advisors), with at least one full-time faculty member from the respective department. Otherwise, the qualification examination cannot be conducted. If conducted without meeting these conditions, the result will not be recognized.

(2) The passing grade is 70 out of 100, with only one grading attempt. Each attending member individually grades anonymously. If one-third or more of the attending members grade as fail, or the overall average score is a fail, the candidate is considered to have failed.

(3) Qualification examination must be graded and cannot be deemed a 'preparatory' or 'review' meeting without a grade. Ungraded examinations are considered a fail.

Article 7 Upon passing the qualification examination, departments must notify the Academic Affairs Office to record the results.

Article 8 Doctoral students who do not complete the qualification examination within the prescribed period by their department, or who fail the examination and fail again upon reapplication, will be notified by the department to the Academic Affairs Office for mandatory withdrawal from the University.

Article 9 Each department should establish implementation guidelines for the qualification examination of doctoral degree candidates based on these Guidelines or specify them in the graduate study regulations. These must be approved by the departmental meeting, college meeting, and Academic Affairs Meeting before implementation. If the department has stricter regulations, those shall prevail.

Article 10 Matters not covered in these Guidelines shall be handled in accordance with relevant University regulations.

Article 11 These Guidelines shall be implemented after approval by the Academic Affairs Meeting.

Note: These guidelines are formulated in Chinese. In case of any discrepancies between the English and Chinese versions, the Chinese version shall prevail.