

# NATIONAL SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

## Department of Oceanography Regulations of Qualification Evaluations and Degree Examinations for Graduate Students

(Applicable for Students Starting in School Year 103)

Approved by the Preparatory Meeting on December 5, 2012.

Amended and approved by the Department General Meeting on September 25, 2013.

Amended and approved by the Department General Meeting on May 7, 2014.

- I. National Sun Yat-sen University Department of Oceanography (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”) specifically issues the “Regulations of Qualification Evaluations and Degree Examinations for Graduate Students” (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations”) based on the Ministry of the Education Degree Conferral Law and its enforcement rules as well as “Academic Regulations” and “Enforcement Rules of Postgraduate Students Degree Examinations” of National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU).
- II. Relevant items during study periods:
  - A. Degree studying periods: two to seven years in accordance with regulations of the Ministry of Education (periods of retainment of student status and suspensions not included).
  - B. Course criteria:
    1. All course selections by students shall be approved by supervisors.
    2. A doctoral student shall complete study of 28 , minimum graduating credits prior to graduation, including compulsory and compulsory-elective courses of each division as listed below:
      - a) Compulsory course of Division (A) Marine Biology: Seminar in Marine Biology (four semesters) and Independent Studies (two semesters). A student may apply for course waiver for courses already studied and passed.  
  
Compulsory-elective courses: Introduction to Oceanography and at least three of the following four courses—Marine Ecology, Physiology of Marine Biology, Molecular Cell Biology, and Systematics and Evolution. A student may apply for course waiver for courses already studied and passed.
      - b) Compulsory-elective courses of Division (B) Marine Geology and Chemistry: Colloquium (I) – (IV) and Scientific English (I) – (IV). A student may apply for course waiver for courses already studied and passed.
      - c) Compulsory-elective courses of Division (C) Physical Oceanography: Seminar in Physical Oceanography (I) – (IV) and Advanced Physical Oceanography (I) – (II). A student may apply for course waiver for courses already studied and passed.
      - d) All courses approved in meetings of the Department’s curriculum committee (including elective courses which are included in graduation credits by other departments/institutes).

### 3. Assignments of supervisors:

Thesis supervisors of graduate students shall be full-time faculty members of the Department. If faculty members of other departments are required for supervision due to important reasons, faculty members of the Department shall be invited for co-supervision.

### III. Qualification evaluation for doctoral degree candidates:

Definitions of semesters: the first semester starts on August 1 of each year and ends on January 31 of the year after; and the second semester starts on February 1 of each year and ends on July 31 of the same year.

- A. Doctoral students of Division (A) Marine Biology shall pass doctoral degree candidate qualification evaluations within four school years (suspension periods not included) after entrance to become doctoral degree candidates. Students who fail to qualify as doctoral candidates within four school years shall face withdrawals. Doctoral candidate qualification evaluations are conducted the form of written examinations and are held by the division once every semester. Each student may participate in course examinations for at most three times. A score of 70 is the pass score. Textbooks of each course shall be announced in advanced. A portion of the examinations are open-book exams. The examined courses include (1) Molecular Biology and Cell Biology, (2) Individual Biology, and (3) Group, Community and System Ecology.
- B. Written and oral examinations are conducted for doctoral students of Division (B) Marine Geology and Chemistry as well as Division (C) Physical Oceanography. Contents of written and oral examinations are determined by doctoral candidate qualification evaluation committees for doctoral students. A supervisor shall recommend five to seven scholars in or outside the university to be members of a doctoral candidate qualification evaluation committee and report them to the academic committee for review and documentation (the members from outside the university shall be over one-third of all members, and the supervisor shall not serve as a committee convener). The written and oral examinations are marked as "Pass" or "Fail." One supplementary examination per failed course is allowed within one year after announcement of examination performances. Students who fail in the re-sit shall face withdrawals.
- C. Doctoral students of Division (B) Marine Geology and Chemistry as well as Division of Physical Oceanography shall apply for qualification examinations within two years after entrance (periods of suspension not included). Application shall be submitted within the first month once a semester starts. Examinees shall pass written examinations before applying for oral examinations and shall complete qualification oral examinations within two years after passing the written examinations. Students are required to complete and submit thesis research proposals one month before the oral examination day for doctoral candidate qualification evaluation committees to review. A supplementary examination is available for one time within one year if an oral examination is not passed. Students who fail in re-sits shall face withdrawals.

### IV. Doctoral degree examination:

Doctoral candidates shall meet the following requirements to participate in doctoral degree examinations:

- A. Completing study requirements.
- B. Regulations for language proficiency:

1. Chinese proficiency: At least one academic or extended article in Chinese shall be published on a newspaper/magazine. The total number of words shall be at least 2,000 (excluding charts and diagrams).
2. English proficiency: A TOEFL score of 550 or above, a TOFEL-iBT scored of 79 or above, a TOEIC score 700 or above, passing listening and reading tests of GEPT in high-intermediate level or above, a level equivalent to required language test performances of the university, or completing 6 credits of an English course approved by a supervisor (English courses for freshman not included).

C. Regulations for thesis/article publication:

1. A student shall attend at least one international academic conference and make a presentation in English prior to graduation (a letter of acceptance for article publication issued by a foreign conference organizer shall be submitted as proof).
2. At least one academic article related to doctoral thesis research shall be published in a journal of SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded). For an article which has been accepted but not yet published, a letter of acceptance shall be submitted as proof.

D. Students who fail the degree examinations and have not yet completed study periods may re-sit the exams in the semester or the school year after. A student may only re-sit the exams once. Students who fail the re-sits will face withdrawals in accordance with regulations of the university.

- V. Graduations: students who meet all requirements described above may apply for graduations.
- VI. For matters unaddressed in the Regulations, please refer to relevant laws and regulations.
- VII. The Regulations shall be implemented following approvals of department and college general meetings as well as the authorization of the president. The same procedure shall be carried out when amendments are to be made.