

# Department of Oceanography, National Sun Yat-sen University

## Regulations and Rules for Doctoral Degree Conferral

(Applicable to students enrolling in and after the 2015–2016 academic year)

Approved during the 1st Department Affairs Council meeting on April 15, 2015

Amended during the 4th College Affairs Council meeting April 16, 2015

Ratified by the President on August 11, 2015

Article 1. The Department of Marine Science of National Sun Yat-sen University (hereinafter “the Department”) established the Regulations and Rules for Doctoral Degree Conferral (hereafter “the Regulations”) as per the Enforcement Guidelines for Postgraduate Degree Examination of National Sun Yat-sen University.

Article 2. Regulations during the study period:

1. The study duration is 2 to 7 years according to the regulations of the Ministry of Education (not including deferral or suspension).
2. Course requirements:
  - (1) Course selection must be approved by students’ supervisor.
  - (2) Before graduation, PhD students must acquire a minimum of 28 credits, including the required courses listed as follows:
    - i) Required courses in marine biology: Seminar in Marine Biology (four semesters) and Independent Studies (two semesters). Moreover, Introduction to Oceanography and at least three courses among Marine Ecology, Marine Biological Physiology, Molecular Cell Biology, and Systematics and Evolution. Students who have taken and passed these courses may apply for a credit transfer.
    - ii) Required courses in marine chemistry and geology: Colloquium (I) to (IV) and Scientific English (I) to (IV). Students who have taken and passed these courses may apply for a credit transfer.
    - iii) Required courses in physical oceanography: Seminar in Physical Oceanography (I) to (IV) and Advanced Physical Oceanography (I) and (II). Students who have taken and passed these courses may apply for a credit transfer.

iv) All courses approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Department (including elective courses of other departments that are counted toward graduation credits).

3. Supervisor assignment:

The supervisors of a PhD dissertation should be a full-time faculty member of the Department. If students request supervision by a scholar outside the Department for justifiable reasons, a faculty member of the Department must be assigned as the co-supervisor.

Article 3. PhD degree candidate qualification:

Semester definitions: the first semester is from August 1 to January 31 of the following year. The second semester is from February 1 to July 31.

1. PhD degree candidate qualification is determined through written and oral examinations. The method and content of these examinations are determined by the Doctoral Degree Candidate Qualification Committee. At least one-third of the committee members should be from outside the university, and the supervisor may not be the chairperson. The aforementioned committee should be formed by five to seven scholars within or outside the university recommended by the supervisor; the list of proposed names should be submitted to the Academic Committee for reference. The written and oral examinations may be passed or failed. In the case of failure, students may take a makeup examination one year after the grade was released. Students who fail the makeup examination will be expelled.
2. Students of the doctoral program must apply for the qualification examinations within 3 years after starting the program (not including suspension time). The application can be submitted one month after the beginning of each semester. Students must first pass the written examination before applying for an oral examination. They should complete the oral examination within two years after passing the written examination. Moreover, one month before the oral examination, students must propose a complete dissertation research plan and submit it to the Doctoral Degree Candidate Qualification Committee for review. Students who fail the oral examination may take a makeup examination within one year. Students who fail the makeup examination will be expelled.

Article 4. Doctoral degree examination:

Doctoral degree candidates must meet the following criteria before sitting the doctoral degree examination:

1. They must complete the requirements for coursework.
2. They must satisfy the language proficiency regulations.
  - (1) Chinese proficiency: They must publish at least one academic or promotional article in Chinese in newspapers or magazines. The total word count must be at least 2000 words (excluding figures and tables).
  - (2) English proficiency: TOEFL score of at least 550, TOEFL iBT score of at least 79, TOEIC score of at least 700, a passing grade for the High-Intermediate Level listening and reading tests of the General English Proficiency Test, an equivalent grade for the language proficiency test of the university, or completion of English courses approved by the supervisor for at least 6 credits (excluding English courses for freshmen).
3. They must demonstrate proofs of their academic presentation ability.
  - (1) Before graduation, they must attend at least one international academic conference and present a paper in English (paper acceptance letter from the host or the conference abstract is accepted as proof).
  - (2) Publish at least one academic paper related to the doctoral dissertation research in a Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) journal as the first author. Acceptance by the journal is considered as publication.
4. Students who fail the degree examination but have not reached the study duration may take one makeup examination in the following semester or year. Students who fail the makeup examination will be expelled.

Article 5. Graduation:

Students who meet the aforementioned criteria may apply for graduation.

Article 6. Matters that have not yet been included in the Regulations shall be governed by relevant legal regulations.

Article 7. The Regulations, as well as all amendments thereto, shall come into effect upon approval by the Department Affairs Council, approval by the College Affairs Council, and ratification by the president.

Disclaimer. The document was translated from its Chinese version. The Chinese guidelines supersede the English ones shall there be discordance between the documents.