

Regulations for the Ph.D. Program

Department of Psychology, National Cheng Kung University

(Applicable to students admitted or re-admitted starting from Academic Year 115)

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Article 1 Purpose

These Regulations are enacted by the Department of Psychology (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”) of National Cheng Kung University to supplement the University’s Graduate Student Regulations and the Rules Governing Graduate Degree Examinations.

Article 2 Credit Requirements for Graduation

Within the prescribed period of study, Ph.D. students of the Department shall complete at least 19 credits for graduation (excluding 12 dissertation credits). The credit requirements are as follows:

I. Common Required Courses: 10 credits

- (1) SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY (I), (II), (III), and (IV): 4 credits in total.
- (2) EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN (3 credits) or RESEARCH METHOD IN BEHAVIOR SCIENCE (3 credits).
- (3) INDEPENDENT STUDY: 3 credits.
- (4) If a student has already completed the above courses in the Department, other courses may be used to fulfill the required credits with the approval of the Thesis Advisor.

II. Elective Courses: 9 credits

With the approval of the Thesis Advisor, Ph.D. students shall take elective courses and the Thesis Advisor shall determine the field/category of each course.

- (1) Methodology courses: at least 2 credits.
- (2) Specialization-area courses: at least 3 credits.
- (3) Interdisciplinary courses: at least 2 credits. Whether a course is considered interdisciplinary shall be determined with reference to the Appendix "Negative List for Interdisciplinary Courses." The Thesis Advisor shall specify the course title(s) in the application documents and explain why the course(s) are considered interdisciplinary.
- (4) ADVANCED TEACHING PRACTICUM (I): 1 credit, and ADVANCED TEACHING PRACTICUM (II): 1 credit.

III. Make-up Course Requirements

Students who have not previously completed the following four courses shall take them as make-up undergraduate courses offered by the Department: STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION (I), STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION (II), METHODS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT (I), and METHODS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT (II) (each 3 credits).

Students who wish to apply for an exemption from these make-up requirements shall, in accordance with relevant regulations, submit the required application form after the first day of the semester of admission.

IV. Teaching Practicum Requirements (Prior to Dissertation Submission for Review)

Before submitting the dissertation for review, Ph.D. students shall complete:

- (1) TEACHING PRACTICUM (I) or TEACHING PRACTICUM (II) at least twice in total (separate requirements apply to international/overseas students).
- (2) ADVANCED TEACHING PRACTICUM (I) and ADVANCED TEACHING PRACTICUM (II) at least once each.

V. Credit Transfer

Credit transfer shall be handled in accordance with University regulations and is subject to approval by the course instructor and the Department Chair.

VI. University-Level Graduate General Education

Before submitting the dissertation for review, Ph.D. students shall complete the University-required graduate general education requirements, including: academic ethics (at least 6 hours), Chinese and English academic writing competency (at least 1 hour), and communication and presentation competency (at least 1 hour).

VII. Dissertation Requirement

One doctoral dissertation is required. All Ph.D. students shall complete the dissertation submission and review procedures.

Article 3 Selection of Thesis Advisor and Responsibilities

- (1) At the time of registration, a student shall designate a Thesis Advisor and submit a Thesis Advisor Consent Form within one month after the semester begins. The Thesis Advisor must be a full-time faculty member of the Department and shall be responsible for supervising the student's academic and research work. If the above procedures are not completed, the Department Chair shall provide assistance.
- (2) When necessary, the Department Chair may temporarily serve as the Thesis Advisor.
- (3) The Thesis Advisor shall be approved by the Department Chair.
- (4) A student may apply to the Department to change the Thesis Advisor.

Article 4 Qualifying Examination

- (1) A student may apply for the Qualifying Examination only after completing the Department-required 19 graduation credits. The Thesis Advisor shall recommend one additional faculty member to serve as the convener, and a "Ph.D. Candidate Qualifying Examination Committee" (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall be formed to administer the Qualifying Examination.
- (2) The Committee shall consist of three to five members (including the Thesis Advisor). The convener shall recommend on-campus and off-campus scholars/experts whose expertise is relevant to the student's research area. Committee members shall be appointed by the Department Chair.
- (3) The application for the Qualifying Examination shall be submitted within four years after enrollment, and the Qualifying Examination shall be completed within five years. Students who fail to complete the examination within the stipulated period and number of attempts shall be reported to the Registrar's Division for dismissal.
- (4) The Qualifying Examination includes a written examination and an oral examination. Students shall complete the "Application Form for the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, Department of Psychology, National Cheng Kung University" and submit it to the Department Office.

V. Written Examination

1. The written examination comprises three subjects: Methodology; a subject designated by the Thesis Advisor; and one elective subject selected by the student. The examination subjects shall be administered upon approval by the Committee. The full score is 100, and 70 is the passing score. Each subject may be evaluated up to two times. The final result shall be determined by the average score assigned by the examiners. The oral examination may be conducted only after the written examination has been passed.

2. Substitution of the written examination with publications:

- (1) For each subject of the Qualifying Examination, a publication produced after enrollment may be used to substitute the written examination.
- (2) A publication in which the student is the first author may substitute all three written examination subjects. For publications where the student is listed as a non-first author, each publication may substitute one written examination subject.
- (3) Publications must be published in TSSCI, SSCI, or SCI journals, or in journals of comparable standing recognized by the Department with a sound peer-review system. If a manuscript has not been published but has been accepted, proof of acceptance must be provided.
- (4) Applications for substitution must be submitted during the written-examination application period. The applicant shall submit two copies of supporting materials, including the full text of the paper, the journal's call-for-papers or submission information, a brief description of the journal, documentation of author contributions and/or external review evidence, and must clearly indicate which written-examination subject(s) the publication is intended to substitute, for Committee review.

VI. Oral Examination

To apply for the oral examination, students shall submit one international conference presentation paper (with overseas travel records or proof of presentation) and a research proposal. The oral examination shall be conducted upon Committee review and approval. The full score is 100 and 70 is the passing score. The final result shall be determined by the average score assigned by attending committee members.

VII. Upon passing the Qualifying Examination, the Department shall report to the Registrar's Division and nominate the student as a Ph.D. degree candidate.

Article 5 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Oral Defense

- (1) A Ph.D. degree candidate shall, in consultation with the Thesis Advisor, formulate the dissertation topic and proposal, and form a "Dissertation Proposal Guidance and Examination Committee" to conduct the dissertation proposal oral defense. The application

shall be submitted within six years after enrollment. After the proposal oral defense, the candidate shall revise the research proposal in accordance with the committee's feedback.

(2) The Dissertation Proposal Guidance and Examination Committee shall consist of five to nine members, of which at least one third (inclusive) shall be external members. Members shall meet the University's qualifications for examiners, and shall be appointed upon the Department Chair's approval. The Thesis Advisor may not serve as the convener.

Article 6 Ph.D. Degree Examination

I. Eligibility Requirements

(1) The applicant must be a Ph.D. degree candidate.

(2) At least six months must have elapsed since the approval date of the dissertation proposal oral defense.

(3) At the time of application, the applicant shall have published at least one TSSCI, SSCI, or SCI paper. The submission date of the paper must be at least nine months after enrollment. A master's thesis (published or unpublished) may not be used as a substitute. The Ph.D. student must be the first author, and the Thesis Advisor must be the corresponding author.

(4) The applicant shall deliver a public oral presentation of research findings to the Department faculty and students.

II. English Proficiency Requirement

The applicant shall meet the Department's English proficiency requirement (equivalent to CEFR B2 level). Applicants whose native language is English or another foreign language, or who have obtained a bachelor's degree or above in an English-speaking country, may submit relevant proof of proficiency or degree credentials for verification by the Department Chair.

III. Committee Composition

The Ph.D. Degree Examination Committee shall consist of five to nine members, of which at least one third (inclusive) shall be external members. The Thesis Advisor shall recommend candidates, and the Department Chair shall select examiners with specialized expertise in the applicant's dissertation field, in accordance with University qualifications for examiners. The final appointment shall be submitted to the President of the University for approval. The Thesis Advisor may not serve as the convener.

IV. Application Documents

Applicants shall complete the "Application Form for the Ph.D. Degree Examination, Department of Psychology, National Cheng Kung University," and submit the following documents to the Department Office for eligibility review and degree examination application:

(1) Degree Examination Application Form.

(2) Academic transcript.

- (3) Dissertation draft and abstract.
- (4) Accepted publications and a list of publications.
- (5) Similarity check report.

V. Review Procedure

The review shall cover required courses and credits, Qualifying Examination status, and the period of study. After confirming eligibility, the Department Affairs Meeting shall form a "Department of Psychology Ph.D. Degree Examination Eligibility Review Panel," consisting of Department faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or above. The Department Chair shall serve as the convener. The panel shall review:

- (1) The dissertation draft and abstract.
- (2) The published paper(s).

VI. The convener of the Eligibility Review Panel shall submit meeting minutes to the Department Office as a reference for approval of the degree examination application. Within the prescribed period, the Department Office shall compile and submit the following for the Department Chair's approval: the Degree Examination Application Form and documents listed under Paragraph IV; the list of examiners; the degree examination schedule; the examination budget; and the panel meeting minutes. The application shall be submitted for approval by the Vice President for Academic Affairs before the degree examination may be conducted.

VII. Matters not specified herein shall be handled in accordance with the University's Rules Governing Graduate Degree Examinations.

Article 7 Transfer to Another Department/Program

- (1) After completing at least one academic year of study (or at least one semester for international/overseas students), a student who, due to special circumstances, obtains approval from both the original department/program and the intended receiving department/program, and receives approval from the Vice President for Academic Affairs, may apply for a transfer (including a transfer of program category). Such transfer is limited to one time only. Once approved, the student may not return to the original department/program.
- (2) Applicants seeking to transfer into the Department's Ph.D. Program shall complete the University "Graduate Student Transfer Application Form," attach supporting documents such as an academic transcript, and submit the application at least one month before the semester begins. Late applications will not be accepted.
- (3) Applicants shall be interviewed by the Department Chair. The Admissions Committee shall convene for review, and the Thesis Advisor may attend.
- (4) Matters not specified herein shall be handled in accordance with the University Graduate Student Regulations and University Academic Policies.

Article 8 Implementation

These Regulations shall take effect upon approval by the Department Affairs Meeting. Amendments shall follow the same procedure.

Appendix Negative List for “Interdisciplinary Courses” in the Ph.D. Program

I. Courses clearly identical or highly similar to the student’s research field

- (1) Courses that are identical or closely related to the student’s research topic (i.e., within the student’s existing area of expertise).
- (2) Courses that fall within the research field of the Thesis Advisor or co-advisor.

II. General skills courses (without cross-disciplinary characteristics)

- (1) English, writing, oral presentation, and presentation skills.
- (2) Software application skills for data processing (e.g., basic use of Excel, Word, and basic SPSS operations).
- (3) Courses primarily focused on skill training rather than professional domain knowledge.

III. General education-type courses

- (1) General education courses in humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences (if not specifically oriented to a professional field).
- (2) General physical education courses.
- (3) On-campus courses that are primarily popularization-oriented or basic general-knowledge courses.

IV. Repetitive or extension-type courses

- (1) Courses that substantially overlap with previously completed course content.
- (2) Advanced courses taken by students who already have adequate training in the field.

Notes

- (1) If a course is offered across colleges or departments but its content still falls within the scope of psychology, it shall be regarded as non-interdisciplinary.
- (2) The criteria for determination include whether the course expands new knowledge and perspectives beyond the student’s existing expertise, and whether it facilitates future interdisciplinary collaboration or innovative applications.
- (3) In case of dispute, students are advised to provide the course syllabus for joint review by the Thesis Advisor and the Department.

Disclaimer

This English translation is provided for reference only. In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the English translation and the Chinese original, the Chinese original shall prevail.