

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 2023 onwards

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

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

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

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

Amended by the College 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

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, January 15, 2015

Amended by the College Affairs Council meeting, April 16, 2005

Approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting, March 18, 2022

Amended by the College Affairs Council meeting, June 2, 2022

Approved by the College Affairs Council meeting, February 16, 2023

Amended by the College Affairs Council meeting, March 20, 2023

1. The Regulations were formulated in accordance with the "Implementation Bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination" of the 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 iBT score of over 71, a TOEIC score of over 750 or a IELTS score of over 5.5; those who attempted but did not pass language proficiency testing (need to provide the transcript of the English proficiency test), but have completed 6 credits of English-related courses (including undergraduate program English upper-intermediate or above courses, advanced scientific English at the Department of Oceanography, technical writing in English at master's program of the Department of Oceanography, introductory guide to scientific writing and oral presentation in biological research at master's program of the Department of Marine Biotechnology and Resources, or the English courses admitted by supervising professors). Nevertheless, the scores need to be above B- (70 points), and the courses are not counted as required credits for graduation.
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 venue of examination 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 (**the supervising professor appoints**): Select any 2 of the 7 courses below

(1) Marine Ecology (2) Biology (3) Physiology (4) Molecular Biology

(5) Organic Chemistry (6) Environmental Chemistry (7) 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 **the thesis proposal review for Ph.D. candidate qualification application form to the Department** four weeks in advance. The Department shall announce the decided-upon date three weeks in advance.
- ii. The research student should deliver the thesis proposals to **review committee members** two weeks before the scheduled review date.
- iii. The review committee shall **be 3 to 5 faculty members at or above the grade of assistant professor recommended by the supervising 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) The Taiwanese doctoral students at the Department of Marine Biotechnology and Resources are required to participate in exchange programs overseas before graduation. They can apply for the degree examination under one of the following conditions.

- i. **Provide the proof of exchange program or research program (over 3 months).**
- ii. **Get the dual degree with the overseas university.**
- iii. **Students with jobs (students who provide employment certificates, or applicants who are currently employed) may attend international conferences held in foreign countries and publish oral presentations one time or poster papers two times instead**

- of option one and two.
- iv. Other reasons that cannot attend the long-term exchange program. They are approved by the Department Affairs Council meeting to attend international conferences held in foreign countries and publish oral presentations one time or poster paper two times instead of option one and two.
- (5) 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 members of the Ph.D. degree examination committee shall be nominated by the supervising professor in accordance with "Implementation Bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination" of the university. The members are approved by the head of the department, and then the nomination is submitted to the University President for approval before appointment.
 - iii. Those who failed their degree examination and have not yet reached their maximum study period 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 the University's Academic Regulations.
- (6) The thesis has to be verified by the originality check system. The verification principal and the result need to meet the related regulations of "Implementation bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination" of this University.
4. Graduation: Those who meet the various requirements described above may apply for graduation.
 5. The Regulations were approved by the Department and College Affairs Councils and then submitted to the University President for sanction prior to implementation. Modifications shall follow the same procedure.