

Institute of Statistics, National Chiao Tung University

Regulations on Academic Studies for Doctoral Program Students

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1. These regulations are provided in accordance with the National Chiao Tung University Regulations for Master and Doctoral Degrees Conferment.
2. Principally, the methods of admitting to our institute doctoral program are: directly admission to the doctoral program, screening-based admission, entrance examination-based admission, international students' application for admission and overseas Chinese students' application for admission. The applications of transfer students will be reviewed case by case.
3. The period of study for our doctoral program is limited to two to seven years, on-job postgraduates may extend the period of study for one more year.
4. Our institute students who are admitted directly to the doctoral program must complete at least 30 credits before graduation, and the credits earned before the doctoral program are not included in the calculation. Also, our institute courses shall not be less than 18 credits. Other doctoral students must complete at least 24 credits before graduation, and our institute courses shall not be less than 12 credits. The credits earned from other institutes should be approved by our institute. The credits that can be waived are reviewed case by case, and approved by Institute Affairs Council. Doctoral students must pass the Ph.D. candidate qualifying examinations and the doctoral degree examinations.

5. The students who are admitted directly to the doctoral program must have at least 30 credits (not including seminars and dissertation studies) of the graduation credits which average grade is above 80 (included) points. Other doctoral students must have at least 24 credits (not including seminars and dissertation studies) of the graduation credits which average grade is above 80 (included) points.
6. The principles of choosing advisors for our institute doctoral students:
 - (1) Our institute doctoral student must choose a NCTU full-time professor (including the professor, associate professor, assistant professor) as a dissertation advisor. If the dissertation advisor is not a professor of our department or institute, then it must be approved by the Institute Affairs Council.
 - (2) After the student choose the dissertation advisor, for establishing the relationship with the dissertation adviser, the student must submit the completed “Dissertation Advisor Agreement Form” with signatures of the dissertation adviser and the Director of the Institute to the Institute Office. The formality must be completed within five semesters after admission (including leave of absence from study). If the student fails to complete the formality, then the Director will assist the student to find a dissertation advisor.
 - (3) There is no limitation on the number of students for each professor of our institute to supervise.
 - (4) For some reason, the student or the advisor wants to cancel the dissertation supervising relationship; both of them must reach the agreement via communication. The student must then find another dissertation advisor. If the parties cannot reach a consensus, then it will be resolved by the Institute Affairs Council.
7. The qualifying examinations are the way to assess of our institute doctoral students.
 - (1) There are two qualifying examination forms:
 - (a) The student whose college and master majors are in (Applied) Mathematics or Statistics (not including international students via application-based admission) must pass the written qualifying examinations.
 - (b) The student whose college or master degree is not in (Applied) Mathematics or Statistics, or the international student who is admitted via application may choose to pass the written qualifying examinations or the reviewed qualifying examinations. This type of doctoral students must choose the qualifying examination form within one semester after admission (including leave of absence from study), fill out “The Choice Sheet of Doctoral Qualifying Examination Form” signed by the Director of the Institute, and submit to the Institute Office for future reference. Once the doctoral qualifying

examination form is chosen, it cannot be changed.

- (c) When there is a dispute about the doctoral student's college or master major, then it must be submitted to Institute Affairs Council to confirm the qualification.
- (2) The student who chooses the written qualifying examinations:
- Must pass the qualifying examinations within five semesters (including leave of absence from study) after admission.
 - The qualifying examinations are held on the second Friday of the first semester every academic year.
 - The students who want to participate in the qualifying examinations must complete at least 15 graduation credits including Statistical Inference, Advanced Probability Theory and (Generalized) Linear Model before taking the examinations.
 - The deadline for signing up the qualifying examinations is last Friday of July.
 - After signed up, the Examination Affairs Committee members will be decided at a meeting within a week.
 - The Institute Affairs Council will be convened to discuss the examination questions at the first week of school.
 - In case of special circumstances, the said principles shall be altered in accordance with the resolution of Institute Affairs Council.
- (3) The written qualifying examinations include the following two subjects:
- (a) Statistical Inference
 - (b) Linear Model
- (4) The written qualifying examinations and the passing criteria are decided by the Institute Affairs Council.
- (5) If there are failed subjects in written qualifying examinations, the students can retake the test for only once. The students who fail the qualifying examinations should be expelled. If the student is NCTU graduate student who is admitted directly to the doctoral program, NCTU under regulations will confer him/her the master degree.
- (6) The Examination Affairs Committee members of the written qualifying examinations will be composed by full-time teachers of our institute.
- (7) The students who choose the reviewed qualifying examinations must take specific Statistics courses (the grade should be reached 80 points); before graduation, there must be SCI or SSCI accepted papers with the advisor as co-author, and the student must be the first author or corresponding author of papers. Also it has to be submitted to Institute Affairs Council to discuss, and

the student can graduate after approved by Institute Affairs Council.

- (8) There are required courses in the reviewed qualifying examinations, according to the individual student's background. Institute Affairs Council would select 4-7 courses for the student to attend. The doctoral students who choose the reviewed qualifying examinations must complete these courses within 4 semesters after admission (including leave of absence from study), and the grades of all subject must reach 80 points. If students unable to complete the courses within the prescribed number of years, in addition to the special circumstances and obtaining the consent of Institute Affairs Council to extend the period of study, the students should be deemed to fail the qualifying examinations and should be expelled. If the student was a NCTU graduate student who was admitted directly to the doctoral program, NCTU under regulations will confer him/her the master degree.
 - (9) The credits of required courses in the reviewed qualifying examinations are not included in the 30 (students who admitted directly to the doctoral program)/24 (other doctoral students) credits of graduation requirements.
 - (10) The doctoral students who pass the written qualifying examinations or complete the required Statistics courses in the reviewed qualifying examinations will become doctoral candidates.
 - (11) The choice of qualifying examination forms can be retroactively applied to students who were at the time (11/06/2012) the relevant provisions revised. Only the required Statistics courses in the reviewed qualifying examinations and the related regulations are decided by Institute Affairs Council separately.
 - (12) The relevant provisions of written qualifying examinations can be retroactively applied to students who were at the time (04/02/2013) the relevant provisions revised. Only the required courses before participating in qualifying examinations and the related regulations are decided by Institute Affairs Council separately.
8. The Ph.D. candidate who passed all assessment requirements of the Article 5 and Article 7 provisions, proposed the dissertation, and was recommended by the advisor may apply for the doctoral examinations. When the Ph.D. candidate was approved by the Examination Committee, the Committee would report to NCTU to confer the doctorate.
 9. A Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall be composed of five to nine members appointed by our institute, and members from inside and outside of NCTU are each required to account for at least one third.
The Doctoral Degree Examination Committee member must fulfill the following requirements:
 - (1) A member must at least be (have been) an Associate Research Fellow of Academia Sinica (or other research units of the equal level), and meet one of

the following requirements:

- (a) At least ten SCI / SSCI Statistics-related papers published.
 - (b) There were three SCI / SSCI Statistics-related papers accepted or published in recent five years.
- (2) A member must have a doctoral degree and meet one of the following requirements:
- (a) Earned a Ph.D. degree in less than two years.
 - (b) There were two SCI / SSCI Statistics-related papers accepted by or published in recent five years.
- (3) A member must have outstanding academic or professional achievements in rare or specific fields and approved by the Institute Affairs Council.
- There must be two thirds (or more) of the said Examination Committee members whose research field related to Statistics.
10. Our institute doctoral degree examinations must be conducted orally and must comply with the following rules:
- (1) All oral defenses must be conducted openly. The time, place and title of dissertation must be announced before the oral defense.
 - (2) All the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee members must attend in person. No replacement allowed. To hold the examinations, at least five committee members should attend, and members from inside and outside of NCTU are each required to account for one third (or more), and two-thirds (or more) of the members whose research field must be related to Statistics.
 - (3) The President of NCTU must appoint a committee chairperson from among the committee members. The adviser of candidate cannot be the chairperson.
 - (4) The passing grade and full marks for the degree examination are 70 and 100, respectively. Evaluation must only be conducted once and according to the average of scores given by the members present. Nonetheless, the doctoral candidate is deemed failed, and no average score should be calculated, when the scores given by one third or more members present are below the passing grade.
 - (5) The examinations will be flunk, if the Degree Examination Committee finds out and confirms there is plagiarism in dissertation or any cheating behavior.
11. A student who is admitted directly to the doctoral program fails the doctoral degree examination, but meets the standards of master degree can be conferred the master degree upon approval of the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee.
12. Our institute doctoral students fail to pass the degree examinations or fail to complete all required courses within the prescribed period of study should be expelled.
13. The dissertation (and its abstract) must be written preliminary in Chinese and comply with the “NCTU Thesis and Dissertation Formats”. The student is required to post an electronic version of the abstract and dissertation on the university website within one month from passing the degree examination. (See “NCTU Library Abstract, Thesis and Dissertation Electronization Specification” for details.) The student must also submit three copies of his / her dissertation (one submitted to our institution for collection, another displayed in the library, and the other submitted to the Dean of Academic Affairs for collection by other units as specified by the MOE).

14. Matters not provided herein must be subject to related laws and regulations.
15. These regulations are approved by Institute Affairs Council, sequentially reviewed by Institute and College Curriculum Committees, and implemented after verifying by Academic Affairs Council. The same procedure will be repeated for each revision.