

Doctoral Degree Requirements of the Department of Communication Engineering, National Central University

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I. These requirements were formulated based on the National Central University Study Regulations and the National Central University Rules Governing the Master's and Doctoral Degree Qualifying Exam and Thesis Defense.

II. Time Limitation

- A. Doctoral students are required to complete the program within 2–7 years. Doctoral students enrolled as part-time students are allowed to apply for a one-year extension.
- B. Students applying for direct entry to the doctoral program (direct entry students) must comply with the doctoral degree requirements stated herein after entering the program.

III. Course Requirements

- A. Before graduation, doctoral students must complete a minimum of 18 graduate course credits, and direct entry students must complete a minimum of 34 course credits (at least 18 of which should be doctoral course credits). Thesis credits are not included in the aforementioned course credits.
- B. Before graduation, doctoral students are required to enroll the course 「Seminar」 each semester. Starting from the fifth semester, students who have obtained their advisors' approval and submitted course exemption application forms accordingly are exempted from this regulation. Students who are unable to comply with this regulation because of other reasons must obtain the approval of the Curriculum Committee for exemption.
- C. Graduate credit transfers or exemptions are accepted according to the Graduate Credit Transfer or Exemption Guidelines of the Department.

IV. Dissertation Advisory Requirements

- A. Prior to the completion of the first year in the program, doctoral students are required to select a dissertation advisor from the full-time faculty members of the Department, submit paper application forms to the Department, and obtain the approval from the Curriculum Committee. Starting from the second academic year, the students must resubmit paper application forms to the Department by the end of every September to

reconfirm the advisors' willingness to advise them.

- B. If because of particular reasons, a doctoral student needs to select an advisor from the full-time faculty members of other departments, the student is required to submit paper applications in advance for the review and approval of the Curriculum Committee. Additionally, the student is required to select a co-advisor from the full-time faculty members of the Department.
- C. Doctoral students must not arbitrarily change dissertation advisors during dissertation research. If circumstances necessitate such change, the students must obtain the approval from the original advisors, submit paper applications to the Department, and gain the approval of the Curriculum Committee before changing advisors. Afterwards, the students must resubmit a dissertation proposal to the Curriculum Committee for review.

V. Advancement to Candidacy

Doctoral students are advanced to doctoral candidacy after completing the following requirements:

- A. Pass doctoral qualification assessments conducted according to the Doctoral Qualification Assessment Criteria of the Department. Students who fail to pass the qualification assessments within the limited time should withdraw from the program.
- B. Complete course requirements and obtain approvals for exempted courses.

VI. Doctoral Examination Procedure and Requirements

- A. Pass the graduation qualification reviews conducted by the Curriculum Committee of the Department.
 - 1. After obtaining the approval of the advisor, doctoral candidates must send the required documents to the Curriculum Committee for a review. The review process must be completed by the Committee within 2 months after the application date.
 - 2. In addition to the quality and quantity of a candidate's publications, the Committee must review whether the courses taken and credits earned by the candidate meet the requirements. The Committee may ask the candidate to take additional courses when necessary.
 - 3. Before the dissertation examination and during the enrollment in the program, a doctoral student must have at least two papers related to the dissertation topic published or accepted by academic journals, and at least one of the papers must be accepted and published by SCI journals. Both papers must be published with the full title of the University. The Department only recognizes the research contributions of a doctoral student during the enrollment in the program if the student is the first author of the published or accepted papers or the second author when the advisor is the first author.
- B. Pass a pre-oral defense examination.
 - 1. The advisor convenes a pre-oral defense committee consisting of three assistant/associate/full professors of the University, at least one of whom should be a faculty member of the Department, to review the completion and consistency of

the submitted dissertation.

2. At least a two-third approval of the pre-oral defense committee is required for the doctoral candidate to pass the pre-oral defense, after which the candidate is allowed to apply for a final dissertation examination. The dissertation draft and publications of the candidate must be exhibited publicly in the Department Office.
3. Pre-oral defense committee members must be the ex officio members of the following final oral defense committee. If circumstances prevent an ex officio committee member from fulfilling this duty, the committee formation change must be approved by that ex officio member and reported for the approval of the Department Head.
4. Doctoral candidates who fail the pre-oral defense must wait for 3 months before reapplying for a pre-oral defense. The pre-oral defense committee must be of the same formation of the previous pre-oral defense committee. If circumstances prevent an original committee member from continuing the membership, the committee formation change must be approved by that original member and reported for the approval of the Department Head

C. Pass a final oral defense examination.

1. The examination is conducted in the form of an oral defense.
2. The advisor convenes a final oral defense committee consisting of seven to nine members, at least three of whom should be external to the University. All of the committee members should meet relevant requirements formulated by the University and the Ministry of Education.
3. Other requirements regarding degree examinations are referred to in Rules for Master's and Doctoral Degree Examinations.

VII. Other unspecified circumstances must be settled according to the relevant regulations announced by the Ministry of Education or the University.

VIII. The aforementioned requirements were approved at a Departmental Affairs

Committee meeting, and will become effective after being approved for reference at an Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Revisions to the requirements must undergo the same procedure.