

National Kaohsiung University Regulations for Direct Pursuit of PhD Degree

Passed in the second academic affairs meeting of 2006-2007 academic year on Nov. 21st, 2006

Article 1. To regulate the related affairs of students' pursuit of PhD degree, NUK established these regulations in accordance with the University Act, the Ministry of Education's Guidelines Governing Direct Admissions into Doctoral Programs, and NUK Academic Regulations.

Article 2. Each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program of NUK, which offers doctoral program, is allowed to recruit graduate students of direct pursuit of PhD degree.

Article 3. Students, who are graduating students of bachelor program or graduate students having studied for more than one year, are qualified to apply for direct pursuit of PhD degree if their research potential are recommended by two associate professors or professors from their original or related department and meet one of the following conditions:

(1) Their average grades of all semesters are ranked top one third of the total number of students of their original department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program. Each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program is allowed to establish more regulations.

(2) They are evaluated as outstanding students by the program offering department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program under special conditions.

Article 4. The quota for direct admission to each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program should not exceed 40 percent of the total quota for that current academic year's doctoral admission quota approved by the Ministry of Education. However, if the approved quota for a department is less than five (5) students, the maximum quota for direct admission to that doctoral program is two (2) students.

The quota described above must include the total admission quota approved

by the Ministry of Education for that academic year.

Each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program is allowed to recruit students to make up the deficit quota for direct admission in winter vacation. These students will start their direct pursuit of PhD degree from the second semester.

Article 5. Students who apply for the direct pursuit of PhD degree should prepare the following documents, which should be submitted to the department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program, passed in the related meeting, and then approved by the president.

- (1) The application form of studying for PhD degree.
- (2) The transcript of all semesters and the certificate of class ranking for all semesters of bachelor degree, or the transcript of the first year and the certificate of class ranking for the first year of master degree.
- (3) Two recommendation letters from associate professors.
- (4) The documents regulated by each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program.

Article 6. The scheduled dates for the direct pursuit of PhD degree are as followed:

- (1) The first semester: (applying to be admitted in the second semester of the same academic year)

Students should submit their applications before Dec. 31. Each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program should deliver the applications to the Division of Academic Affairs before Jan. 31 and transferred to the president for approval.

- (2) The second semester: (applying to be admitted in the first semester of the next academic year)

Students should submit their applications before Jul. 31. Each department, graduate school, college, or specialized degree program should deliver the applications to the Division of Academic Affairs before Aug. 31 and transferred to the president for approval.

Article 7. Those graduating students of bachelor degree, who have been approved of their direct pursuit of PhD degree, need to receive their bachelor degree within

the academic year of their application and then start for the direct pursuit of PhD degree in the next academic year. Application for deferred admission is not allowed. If they fail to graduate within the academic year of their application, their qualification for direct pursuit of PhD degree will be cancelled.

If the graduating students graduate one semester earlier because of their excellent performance, they are allowed to start for the direct pursuit of PhD degree in the next semester.

Article 8. Those graduate students who apply for the direct pursuit of PhD degree should not apply for the degree exam of their master programs.

Article 9. Those who are approved for their direct pursuit of PhD degree are considered the freshmen of the doctoral program since the semester they enrolled. The related affairs to their registration and enrollment are in accordance with the admitted freshmen of doctor programs.

Article 10. If students who are admitted through the direct admission to the doctoral program stop studying for PhD degree for certain reason or fail to pass the Doctoral Candidate Qualification Test, they may apply to transfer to their original or related master program to continue their study upon the consent of the doctoral program, the review by a relevant committee of the master program and that review being approved by the president. The term of the study and the suspension record during this period are not taken into account by the present master program.

For students of bachelor degree, their term of study in the doctor degree will be considered a year of study in the master program if it is over one year, and they can transfer to classes of the second year of master program. If the term of study is less than one year, their term of study will be calculated by semesters, and they can transfer to classes of the first year of master program.

For students of master program, they can continue their study in their original master program.

Once the students transfer (back) to study in the master program, they are not allowed to re-apply for the direct pursuit of PhD degree.

Article 11. Students who are admitted through direct admission to the doctoral program, upon completing required years of study, passing the Doctoral Candidate Qualification Test, yet not passing the Qualifying Examinations for a doctoral degree, and - upon evaluation by the Doctoral Qualifying Examination Committee - having their doctoral degree dissertation qualify as a master's thesis, will be conferred a master's degree.

Article 12. The regulations are passed in the Academic Affairs Meeting, and then announced to carry into execution. When there is a need to make amendments, the procedure is the same as the aforementioned.