Department of Life Sciences Graduation Requirements for Doctoral Students Enrolled after 2025

<table>
<tr><th>Items</th><th>Notes</th></tr>
<tr><td>I. Period of study:
1. Minimum years of enrollment: 2 years
2. Maximum years of enrollment: 7 years (excluding 2 years of suspension)</td><td>In-service students may apply for a one-year extension of study.</td></tr>
<tr><td>II. Minimum total credits required to graduate (excluding credits earned from physical education and national defense education courses)
General students: 30 credits
Master’s direct-entry doctoral students: 42 credits
Bachelor’s direct-entry doctoral students: 42 credits
Including the following two categories:
1. Courses (required and elective courses):
General students: Minimum credits from required courses, 4; and minimum credits from elective courses, 11.
Master’s direct-entry doctoral students: Minimum credits from required courses, 5; and minimum credits from elective courses, 23.
Bachelor's direct-entry doctoral students: Minimum credits from required courses, 5; and minimum credits from elective courses, 23.
2. Dissertation writing: 12 credits.</td><td>Graduate students must have an academic and conduct grade of 70 to pass.
Students who fail their conduct will be dismissed.
Academic performance accounts for 50% of the graduation score.
Master’s direct-entry doctoral students may have up to 12 of the credits they earned from their master’s program courses counted toward their graduation credits.
Bachelor’s direct-entry doctoral students may transfer up to half of the required graduation credits for doctoral programs (excluding credits earned from their graduation dissertation).
*Required + elective + dissertation = Minimum total credits required for graduation</td></tr>
<tr><td>III. Transfer credits: maximum 7 or unlimited credits</td><td>Students’ credit transfer applications must comply with the University’s Regulation for Credits Exemption and be submitted before the course add/drop deadlines in the semesters that the students are admitted.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IV. Inclusion of relevant undergraduate courses in graduate credits.</td><td>The University’s Regulations on Course Registration : The number of required course credits that graduate students shall earn per semester is determined by their advisors or department/graduate institute/degree program heads. If necessary, students may take relevant undergraduate courses with the approval of their course instructors. For credits from these courses to count toward graduation credits, approval from the advisors and relevant department/graduate institute/degree program meetings is required, with a maximum of 6 credits allowed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>V. Recognition of credits from other departments/graduate institutes: Maximum ___ credits</td><td>Inter-university course credits may also be included.</td></tr>
<tr><td>VI. Required courses and credits: 19 or 17 or 16 credits

<table><tr><th>Core Course Title</th><th>Credits</th></tr><tr><td>1. Seminar (III)</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>2. Seminar (IV)</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3. Laboratory Safety and Health (Students who have already completed this course may be exempted.)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>4. Dissertation</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>5. Special Topics in Biotechnology (Required for the Biomedical Technology program)</td><td>2</td></tr></table></td><td>Students who fail the required courses shall retake them.
Students who do not complete all the required courses may not graduate.</td></tr>
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VII. Foundation courses assigned by the department/graduate institute (not counted toward graduation credits): 1. Biodiversity Program: Newly admitted graduate students who have not completed at least two courses in the following fields—taxonomy, statistics, or ecology—during their undergraduate or graduate studies must take and pass the relevant courses before graduation. 2. Physiology program: Newly admitted graduate students who have not completed at least two courses in the following fields—physiology, biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, or molecular biology—during their undergraduate or graduate studies must take and pass the relevant courses before graduation. 3. Biomedical Technology program: Newly admitted graduate students who have not completed at least two courses in the following fields—biochemistry, microbiology, or molecular biology—during their undergraduate or graduate studies must take and pass the relevant courses before graduation.	Prerequisite credits will not be counted as graduation credits. Students are not eligible to attend the thesis defense until they complete the prerequisite courses.
VIII. Doctoral student evaluation: Doctoral students shall, with the approval of their department/graduate institute chairs, find their advisors before the end of the first academic year.	
IX. Doctoral degree candidate qualification examination: Graduate students who have completed the minimum period of study, fulfilled all required courses and credits, and pass the qualifying examination according to the rules of their respective program. The oral defense can only be conducted at least six months after passing the qualifying examination.	Students who fail their qualification examinations may not apply for dissertation defense. Those who fail the qualification examinations twice will be dismissed.
X. Doctoral degree examination (dissertation defense): 1. Graduate students must obtain proof showing that they have completed academic ethics education courses prior to applying for their dissertation defense. Relevant qualifications are determined by the respective departments/graduate institutes/degree programs. 2. Students who have passed their doctoral degree candidate qualification examinations and who have completed a draft of their dissertations shall, after registering and enrolling for the semester, apply for the dissertation defense; they shall apply for the defense at least 20 days before the scheduled defense date. A passing score for the defense is 70.	Dissertation defense score accounts for 50% of the graduation score. Graduate students may complete self-directed learning through the Center for Taiwan Academic Research Ethics Education website and shall pass the final test to obtain certification. Departments/graduate institutes/degree programs may require students to take additional professional academic research ethics training courses in accordance with their own regulations. Students who failed their dissertation defense but have not yet reached the maximum study period may register for the following academic year or semester to retake the examination once. For retakes, a passing score of 70 or above will be recorded as 70. Those who fail their dissertation defense twice will be dismissed.

XI. **Dissertation Publication Requirements:** Ph.D. candidates must meet one of the following standards for dissertation publication: 1. Publish at least two papers under the affiliation of the Department of Life Sciences as the single first author in SCI journals, with at least one paper ranked top 50% in its field.* 2. Publish two papers under the affiliation of the Department of Life Sciences, with at least one as the single first author in an SCI journal ranked top 50% in its field.* Additionally, candidates must pass the English proficiency certification before applying for the Ph.D. defense.* 3. Publish one paper under the affiliation of the Department of Life Sciences as the single first author in an SCI journal ranked top 50% in its field.* Obtain a granted invention patent with content different from the published paper (the advisor must be one of the inventors),* and pass the English proficiency certification before applying for the Ph.D. defense.*	Note 1. The JCR ranking data used must be the most recent available at the time of submission. Note 2. The English proficiency certification must comply with "Measures for the Assessment of the English Proficiency Graduation Standards of National Chung Hsing University Students." Note 3. The patent ownership must be attributed to "National Chung Hsing University," with the candidate listed among the top two contributors. Note 4. The qualifying paper (ranked top 50% in its field) must be an original research article.

2024/5/6

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