

Guidelines for the PhD Students of NDHU Institute of Biotechnology

Approved and modified by the department/institute meeting (Oct 21, 2008)

I. PhD Program Admission

1. Each applicant has to hold a MS degree from universities (in Taiwan or abroad) approved by the Ministry of Education, and with the permission of the institute director.
2. NDHU MS program students can apply for the PhD program directly after studying at least one year in the program and fulfill the requirements set by the “NDHU Guidelines for MS Students to Consecutively Pursue Further PhD Studies”.
3. The Admission Entrance Examinations will be held in May or December. The evaluation relies on (A) The application documents (40%) that include the transcripts of BS and MS, MS thesis or manuscript, study plan, journal publication list and two recommendation letters. (B) Oral examination or interview (60%) which involves basic knowledge in science and in MS thesis.

II. PhD Course Requirement

1. The time frame to accomplish the PhD program has to follow the regulation of the Ministry of Education.
2. To fulfill the PhD program partly, 40 credit hours are required which includes 28 credits of required courses and 12 credits of optional courses (Up to 6 credits of PhD courses offered by other universities or other departments can be substituted).
3. The passing grade for the PhD courses is B⁻ (70 in the scale of 100).

III. PhD Qualifying Examination

The PhD qualify examination will be held each year. The PhD students have to pass the PhD qualifying examination within three years of studies. The qualifying examination constitutes two parts: the written test and the oral defense. The written test covers the materials of bioscience and biotechnology, as well as the methodologies. The oral defense should be the PhD student's research proposal and related up-dated knowledge. The advisory committee will orient both the examinations.

PhD student who fulfills the PhD qualifying examination has the PhD candidate status. Those who fail any one of the qualifying examinations (either the written or the oral exam) during the 3rd year, may retake the failed examination(s), and only once, during the following year. Any failure in the examination(s) again, one should resign from the Institute without any objection.

IV. Organization and Function of The PhD Committees

1. Advisory Committee

The committee (consisting of five faculties, among them, one third should be from other institutions) is organized by the dissertation advisor and the institute director,. The committee will advise the PhD student's course work, the qualifying examinations, and content and progress of research

2. Dissertation Defense Committee

The committee includes five to seven faculties (one third of them should be from other institutions), is organized by the dissertation advisor and the institute. The member of the committee can also serve in the advisory committee.

V. The PhD candidate has to fulfill the following two requirements in order to apply for the PhD dissertation defense.

(1) Language Capability Examination: Each PhD candidate has to earn the certificate of either of either the National English Examination (mid-high class, offered by the Taiwan government), or the TOEFL examination (score 525 on paper-based test or score 200 on computer-based test or score 70 on internet-based test), or other equivalent English Language Examination (the details can be worked out by the advisory committee). Native English-speaking students can waive this examination.

(2) Research Achievement: The PhD candidate has to publish a SCI paper as first author with impact factors higher than 50% in one's research fields, and a second SCI paper, first author as well, that is submitted regardless of the impact factor. The details can be worked out by the advisory committee.

VI. The Policy Concerning Academic Ethic Integrity

Under any circumstance if any one found against academic ethic integrity

involving scientific misconducts such as improper data duplication, data falsification, data manipulation, or manuscript plagiarism in the PhD dissertation work and confirmed by the advisory committee or the PhD dissertation defense committee, the PhD degree will be revoked.

VII. The guideline as well as its modifications has to be validated by the institute's faculty meeting.