

NATIONAL SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

Institute of Education

Chapter Four. Regulations of Direct Pursuits to Doctoral Programs

Amended and approved by the 109th Academic Affairs Meeting on October 5, 2006.

Authorized by the President on October 23, 2006.

Amended and approved by the Academic Affairs Meeting on December 13, 2010.

- I. The present regulations are established according to Article 23, Paragraph 4 of “Regulations of Direct Pursuit to Doctoral Programs” proposed by the Ministry of Education.
- II. Current students graduating in the year and current graduate students who have completed one year or more of master’s study and manifest outstanding performances may apply for direct pursuits to doctoral programs.
 - A. Graduating undergraduates
 1. Students who on average rank in the top 10% of their class and show research potentials;
 2. Students who are assessed to be viable candidates with outstanding performances for direct pursuits to doctoral programs in the departments colleges, and academic degree programs, and show research potentials
 - B. Master’s students (including in-service master’s students)
 1. Students who on average rank in the top 33% in their graduate programs (including in-service graduate programs) and show research potentials;
 2. Students who are assessed to be viable candidates with outstanding performances for direct pursuits to doctoral programs in the departments, colleges, and academic degree programs, and show research potential
- III. The number of students allowed for direct pursuits to doctoral programs in various departments, colleges, and academic degree programs shall be no more than 40% of the places for the academic year for the department, college, and academic degree program determined by the Ministry of Education for general doctoral student admissions. Numbers of places are rounded up to the nearest whole numbers. However, when the number of places is less than five, only two students shall be allowed for direct pursuits to doctoral programs. The aforementioned places shall be included in the overall admission number determined by the Ministry of Education.
- IV. Direct pursuit application for graduating undergraduates is open in October each year. Graduates (including in-service graduates) may apply for direct pursuits every winter and summer vacation. Specific application dates may be viewed on the university calendar.
- V. Applicants must each submit the following documents to the department, college, and/or academic degree program they wish to pursue within the set application period:
 - A. Application form
 - B. All undergraduate transcripts or graduate (including in-service graduate) transcripts
 - C. Letters of recommendation from two professors in the original department or from relevant departments, colleges, and/or academic degree programs
 - D. Other documents designated by the department, college, and/or academic degree program.

The aforementioned documents must be reviewed in department affairs, college affairs, and academic degree program meetings, and submitted along with meeting minutes to the Academic Affairs Office for approval by the president. Students may directly enter doctoral programs.

- VI. Once applicants are approved for direct pursuits, they are deemed first-year doctoral students in the school year of approval, and are subject to terms of study and regulations established in the departments, colleges, and/or academic degree programs.
- VII. Graduating undergraduates that are accepted for direct pursuits must attain their undergraduate degrees within the current school year and begin their doctoral programs the following year. Eligibility may not be retained. Students with outstanding performances that graduate a semester in advance must begin their doctoral course the following semester after receiving their undergraduate degrees.
- VIII. Students with direct pursuits that are unable to complete their doctoral programs or fail their doctoral candidature qualifications exam shall be reviewed by the respective departments, colleges, and/or academic degree programs. Once approved by the president, the students shall be transferred (back) to his/her master's program (including in-service master's programs). Once a student has been transferred (back) to his/her master's program, he/she is prohibited from reapplying for pursuit to doctoral programs without completing master's program requirements. A student that has been transferred (back) to a master's program (including in-service graduate programs) and successfully completes the program, submits the thesis, and pass the qualification exams set by the Master's Degree Examination Committee may receive a master's degree. The student's time in the postgraduate program shall not be included in the maximum years of study.
- IX. Students with direct pursuits who pass their postgraduate candidature qualification exams but fail their postgraduate degree exams may receive master's degrees in their courses of study if their dissertations are deemed master's-standard by the Doctoral Degree Examination Committee.
- X. Master's students (including in-service students) who have applied for direct pursuits to doctoral programs are prohibited from attending master's degree exams. If students are simultaneously approved for graduate degree exams and for direct pursuits to doctoral programs, their direct pursuit eligibility shall be forfeited.
- XI. The present regulations shall be implemented following approvals of academic affairs meetings as well as the authorization of the president. The same procedure shall be carried out when amendments are to be made.