NATIONAL SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Regulations of Degree Qualification Examinations for Doctoral Students

(Applicable to Students Enrolled after Academic Year 2014)

I.   This set of regulations is issued based on the Ministry of the Education Degree Conferral Law and its enforcement rules, and "Academic Regulations" of National Sun Yat-sen University (Hereafter referred as NSYSU) and " NSYSU Implementation Bylaws for Ph.D. and Master Degree Examination."

II. Degree study periods：

A. Degree-studying Duration: two to seven years in accordance with regulations of the Ministry of Education (excluding periods of retainments of student status and suspensions).

B. Credit and course requirements:

(1) Prior to graduation application, students must complete at least 22 credits, and 19 out of 22 credits shall be courses from Department of Computer Science and Engineering (Hereafter referred as the Department). Approval of the Department is required if students wish to take courses from other related departments. Students admitted via Direct Admission to Doctoral Program from Master's Program are required to take 40 credits prior to graduation application, and 30 out of 40 credits shall be courses from the Department. Students admitted via Direct Admission to Doctoral Program from Master's Program may apply for credit waived from two-third and with maximum of 12 credits taken from 1st year of master's study.

(2) Students admitted via Direct Admission to Doctoral Program from Master's Program shall complete all required courses for master's degree (except for seminars) prior to graduation application.

(3) Students shall take "Seminar" and a three-credit course each semester within first two years after enrollment.

(4) Students shall have their advisor's approval for course selection each semester. If doctoral program students do not have an advisor, they shall have their mentor or program director's approval for course selection.

(5) Students shall meet any of English Proficiency requirements listed as follows prior to graduation application. Students may provide an English Proficiency Test score report or certificate with an issued date within two years prior to their enrollment.

    a. A TOEIC score of 750 or above;

    b. Passing listening and reading tests of GEPT high-intermediate level or above;

    c. A TOEFL ITP score of 527 or above;

    d. A TOEFL iBT score of 71 or above;

    e. An IELTS band score of 5.5 or above.

(6) For students who fail to meet the standards described in II-B-(5) after having two attempts in tests/exams, English or relevant courses assigned by the department course committee shall be completed and passed with grades being in top 50% of the English classes. English courses credits used for graduating English requirements may not be accounted for graduating credits.

(7) In order to enhance professional knowledge, research capability or English proficiency of students, the Department may assign students with relevant support courses.

(8) Students may only apply for degree qualification examinations after meeting English standard criteria specified in the departmental regulations for doctoral students.

C. Selection of Advisors：

(1) In principle, students may choose full-time faculty of the Department with position of assistant professors or above to be dissertation advisor.

(2) In cases of specific circumstances that students choose faculty members from other departments to be supervisors, each student shall still choose one department faculty member with a position of assistant professor or above to be a co-supervisor. Should a student require a co-supervisor from another department, the student shall apply to the department after the agreement of his/her supervisor. A co-supervisor shall be disqualified in the case of a supervising period between the start of the supervision and the graduation of the student is less than one year.

(3) A student shall confirm their dissertation advisor within one year after enrolment. The Department will assign and coordinate a dissertation advisor for students who are not able to confirm their advisors in time.

(4) A student may request an advisor variation by submitting application form with an approval of their original advisor and shall provide a written report to the Department.

III. Doctoral Qualifying Examination:

Definitions of semesters: the first semester starts on August 1 of each year and ends on January 31 of the year after, whereas the second semester starts on February 1 of each year and ends on July 31 of the same year.

A. Qualification examinations：

(1) The qualification examinations will be written ones. Each examination result will be determined as "Pass" or "Fail" by the Department's General Meeting Committee.

(2) The qualifying examination will be held within one month after the end of each semester. Students shall submit their application three weeks prior to the announced dates. Except for special occasions and receiving approval by the Department, students who missed the examination will receive a "Fail" for the subject.

(3) The first-time applicants shall choose four out of six subjects listed as follows to be their exam subjects. Subjects may not be changed once the application is submitted. Applicants shall pass at least three subjects and each subject can be taken twice at most.

The subjects for qualifying examination are Computer Architectures (Graduate Level), Computer Networks (Undergraduate Level), Operating Systems (Undergraduate Level), Design and Analysis of Algorithms (Graduate Level), Electric and Digital Electronics (Undergraduate Level), and Probability (Undergraduate Level).

Students must pass doctoral qualification examination by taking written one with at least one passed subject. Students may take courses in replacement of taking written examination for failed subjects and choose to take written examination while taking courses at the same time (Should there be any adjustment for subjects, the Department will announce it on the website). Subjects applied to be waived are limited to be taken for only one time and the score of these subjects shall be a pass and ranked top 50% of the whole class.

(4) Students shall pass qualification examinations (including application procedure completion for subject's waiver) within one and half years after enrollment (excluding periods of retainments of student status and suspensions) and for those who failed to fulfil the regulation listed above will be advised to consider a voluntary withdrawal.

(5) Master students may apply for doctoral degree examinations with agreements from their advisors. Results of qualification examinations (including "Pass" courses and numbers of attempts of "Fail" courses) will stay effective if the master's degree students graduate and enter or directly enter doctoral courses of the department in the same year. In cases of master's students not entering doctoral courses of the department two years after master's degree graduations, results of qualification examinations will be invalid.

B. Dissertation Proposal Reviews：

(1) The dissertation advisory and review committee of the department consists of the following members: An advisor, two members or more with positions of assistant processors or above recommended by the advisor, and one member recommended

by the Department. Committee from the Department shall take up half or more of the committee members.

    (2) Students shall pass oral defence of the doctoral dissertation within one year (excluding periods of suspensions) after passing qualification examinations. A pass for an oral examination may only be determined with agreements from all advisory and review committee. Students failing to pass first oral examination and re-apply for another one will be exempt from the regulation of having to pass oral examination within one year after passing qualification examinations described at the beginning of this subparagraph. Re-applications of thesis proposal oral examination shall still be completed within one and a half years after passing the qualification examinations. Only one re-application is allowed for each student. Students who fail for the second time will be advised to consider a voluntary withdrawal. Doctoral degree examinations may be applied six months after receiving approvals of dissertation proposal review.

IV. Relevant regulations of dissertation publications：

    A. Publications of dissertation may only be applied when students meet the minimal requirements of one of the following two criteria:

        (1) For students who have studied doctoral degree program for four years at the time of degree exam applications:

        At least one SCIE representative journal article, and at least one article included in IEEE/IET Electronic Library or ACM Digital Library or a Grade- B international conference article (or an implementing system relevant to graduating dissertation).

        (2) For students who have studies doctoral degree program for less than four years at the time of degree exam applications:

        Apart from meeting the criteria described previously, at least one of the publications must be a Grade-A SCIE long journal article or a Grade-A international conference article, or an implementing system relevant to graduating thesis awarded with top three places in national or international competitions. (Grades of journal articles and conference articles will be announced on the department websites).

    Of the journal articles mentioned above, a doctoral student must be the lead author (other than the advisor) of at least one SCIE article. The representative publication may not be that of other students (including graduated or graduating).

    B. Articles recognized by the Department and accounted for degree criteria described previously in this set of regulations are those published during study periods of master's degree or doctoral degree of the Department and in the full title of the Department (or the full title of the Department follows by other units of services) with advisors listed as authors.

    C. Students are required to attend at least one international conference and orally deliver an article (please attach proofs) prior to applying for doctoral degree examinations.

V. Doctoral degree examinations:

    A. A student who has completed a dissertation signed and approved by the advisor to recognize that the originality and the completion of dissertation have met the standards of doctoral articles may apply for the doctoral degree examinations. A student who

intends to apply for doctoral degree examinations is required to submit written applications and be approved by the Department's Academic Committee at least a month prior to the exam date. If necessary, the Department Academic Committee may hold a meeting to discuss on the matter (including years of study, credits earned, doctoral qualification examinations, English proficiencies, whether dissertation proposals are approved within time limits, whether relevant dissertation publication requirements are met, and other reviewed items specified in regulations of the university). Students who receive approvals from Academic Committee may proceed to the doctoral degree examinations.

B.   A student who has reached the completion of study period but failed to meet English requirements at the time of degree examination application may submit a declaration for review of other graduating criteria. All graduating criteria shall still be met prior to applying for degree examinations.

C.   Doctoral degree examinations are proceeded in accordance with the university's "Enforcement Rules of Postgraduate Student Degree Examinations."

VI. Graduation: Students who meet all criteria described in this set of regulations may apply for graduations.

VII. This set of regulations shall be implemented following approvals of department general meetings and college general meetings, as well as the authorization of the president. The same procedure shall be carried out when amendments are to be made.