**Fu Jen Catholic University Regulations for the Master’s and Doctoral Degree Examination and Dissertation Defense**

Referred to Letter No. 1010237365 by the Ministry of Education, December 20, 2012

Article 1: These regulations are formulated in accordance with the University Act and its Enforcement Rules, the Degree Conferral Law and its Enforcement Rules, and the University Academic Policies.

Article 2: All master’s and doctoral degree defenses shall be conducted orally. Written tests may be organized when it is deemed necessary.

Article 3: A graduate student may be recognized as a candidate following completion of course requirements and the candidacy examinations regulated by his or her respective degree program. A candidate who has finished drafting his or her thesis/dissertation may request a thesis/dissertation defense.

Article 4: Regulations for Doctoral Candidacy (Qualifying) Examination will be decided separately.

Article 5: A thesis/dissertation which has previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other university may not be resubmitted.

Article 6: Graduate students enrolled in a master's degree program in fine arts or an applied science or technology may, in lieu of a master's thesis, submit a creative work or performance accompanied by a written report, or a technical report. In either case an abstract is required as well.

Article 7: A student who has obtained the approval of his or her thesis advisor should submit three copies of thesis abstract to the department/program office to request a thesis defense. Once the application has been approved by the department/program, the student shall present the format of examination (oral or written), date, time, venue, and a list of examination committee members to the Office of Academic Affairs. The appointment of committee members and all matters related to the thesis defense will be processed after the application is appraised by the Office of Academic Affairs and approved by the President of the University.

Article 8: The master’s and doctoral degree thesis defense will be conducted by an examination committee whose members are appointed by the University President in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. A doctoral examination committee shall consist of five to nine members, a master's examination committee three to five members. One third of the committee members shall be external. Part-time teaching staff who are currently under contracts of employment are deemed as internal committee members. The examinee’s thesis advisor shall serve as an ex-officio member but not the chair of the examination committee.

2. In addition to having performed research specifically related to the subject matter of the dissertation, work of art, performance, or technical report submitted by a doctoral degree candidate, each member of a doctoral examination committee shall possess one of the following qualifications:

(1) have served as a professor;

(2) be a member of Academia Sinica, or have served as a research fellow at Academia Sinica;

(3) have served as an associate professor or be an associate research fellow at Academia Sinica, and have achieved significant academic accomplishments;

(4) hold a doctoral degree and have achieved significant academic accomplishments; or

(5) have expertise in an unusual or special academic subject and have achieved significant academic or professional accomplishments.

Criteria for recognition of the qualifications listed in subparagraphs 3 to 5 of the preceding paragraph shall be determined separately by each department/program council.

3. In addition to having performed research specifically related to the subject matter of the thesis, work of art, performance, or technical report submitted by the master's degree candidate, each member of a master's examination committee shall possess one of the following qualifications:

(1) have served as a professor or associate professor;

(2) be a member of Academia Sinica, or have served as a research fellow at Academia Sinica;

(3) hold a doctoral degree and have achieved significant academic accomplishments; or

(4) have expertise in an unusual or special academic subject and have achieved significant academic or professional accomplishments.

Criteria for recognition of the qualifications listed in subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph shall be determined separately by each department/program council.

4. The student’ spouse, relative by blood within the third degree of relationship, relative by marriage or previous relationships, and relevant interest parties shall be avoided in appointing members of the aforementioned examination committee.

5. The highest degrees attained by the examination committee members shall not be from the same department/program of the same university.

Article 9: All members of an examination committee shall attend the oral defense in person. No proxy is permitted. Two thirds of the committee members shall be present for the thesis defense. Nonetheless, a minimum of three members is required in the case of a master’s degree defense, a minimum of five members in the case of a doctoral defense.

Article 10: The department/program office shall have copies of the dissertation and abstract delivered to all members of the examination committee for them to read at least 10 days before the defense.

Article 11:

1. The passing grade and full marks of the oral defense are 70 and 100, respectively. Evaluation must be conducted once according to the average of scores given by the members attending the oral defense. Nonetheless, a master candidate is deemed failed, and no average score should be calculated, when the scores given by half or more members attending the oral defense are below the passing grade. Likewise, a doctoral candidate is deemed failed and no average score calculated when the score given by a third or more members attending the oral defense are below the passing grade.

2. A candidate is deemed failed and given a grade of zero when plagiarism or cheating is discovered in the thesis/dissertation and confirmed by the examination committee. The candidate is not allowed to retake the examination and shall be expelled from the University

Article 12: If a candidate fails the degree examination and his or her time limit for degree completion has not been exceeded, he or she may apply to retake the oral defense once. If the candidate fails to pass the examination for the second time, he or she shall be ordered to withdraw from the university.

Article 13: In the event that the University confers a degree to a student who is found upon investigation to have committed plagiarism or used fraudulent means in preparing a thesis, dissertation, work of art, performance, written report, or technical report, the University shall revoke the degree and issue a public notice to announce the invalidation of the previously issued diploma. The University will also request the student to return the diploma issued and inform other universities and organizations about the case. Other legal infractions shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Article 14: The Regulations were passed at the Academic Affairs Council, and promulgated and implemented upon approval by the President. They will also be presented to the Ministry of Education for reference. The same procedure will be followed for each amendment.