

# National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Graduate School of Design Master's Program Academic Thesis Requirements Enforcement Rules

Approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2012 academic year on 9<sup>th</sup>, May, 2013

Approved by the 1<sup>st</sup> graduate school council in 2014 academic year on 13<sup>rd</sup>, August, 2014

Approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2014 academic year on 9<sup>th</sup>, June, 2015

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Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2017 academic year on 28<sup>th</sup>, November, 2017

Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2018 academic year on 21<sup>st</sup>, February, 2019

Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2020 academic year on 24<sup>th</sup>, December, 2020

- I. Credit Requirements: Graduate students must complete a total of 36 credits within the prescribed period of study, including 16 compulsory credits (including 6 for the thesis) and 20 elective credits, to fulfill the credit requirements. The elective credits may include 6 credits of courses from other departments that have been approved both by the advisor and the chairperson.
- II. Coursework: In the first year of admission, graduate students must take a minimum of 7 credits and a maximum of 18 credits per semester. After the enrolling and dropping procedure of courses each semester, students must obtain the consent and signature from their advisor to confirm their course registration and send the lists of selected courses to the Graduate School Office (Course registration for each semester must be confirmed with the advisor's approval. If an advisor has not been chosen, the chairperson's approval is required.)
- III. Fast-Track Option: Graduate students who have completed at least one semester of study with outstanding performance, with the approval of the graduate school council, may apply for direct admission to the doctoral program, based on the regulations of "National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Doctoral Degree Regulations" and "Regulations for Direct Admission to The Graduate School's Doctoral Program".
- IV. Additional Undergraduate Credits: Graduate students from non-design related departments must, at the discretion of their advisor (or assigned by the chairperson if an advisor has not been chosen), complete one year of undergraduate core design courses and two related elective courses to be eligible for graduation. However, these credits will not be included in the calculation of graduation credits. Those who have already taken relevant courses or passed relevant certification exams may apply for credit reduction of undergraduate courses before the midterm exam of the first semester of the first academic year, subject to approval by the graduate school council.
- V. Language Proficiency Requirement (Choose One):
  1. Pass the GEPT (General English Proficiency Test) at the high-intermediate level or above (equivalent scores from other language proficiency tests are acceptable) or achieve a TOEIC score of 550 or higher.

2. Pass the GEPT at the intermediate level or above (equivalent scores from other language proficiency tests are acceptable) or achieve a TOEIC score below 550 and complete 1 technical English course (2 credits) and 2 English enhancement courses (with supporting documentation). The English credits for these additional courses will not be counted as graduation credits.
3. Hold a degree from an overseas university recognized by the Ministry of Education. Participate in an overseas study program or student exchange for one semester or longer.
4. Native English speakers who do not meet the above conditions may study other languages as determined by the graduate school council.
5. Other equivalent language proficiency certifications should be recognized by the graduate school council.
6. Qualification for Oral Defense: Master's students present research papers accumulating to 2 points within the prescribed period of study, before being eligible to apply for the oral defense.
7. Research paper presentation points

In order to fulfill the graduation requirements, students are required to accumulate a total of two points from the following options, with at least one point from participating in an international conference paper presentation:

1. Receive 1.5 points for presenting a research paper in foreign language orally at an international design-related conference or 1 point for presenting at a domestic conference.
2. Receive 1 point for attendance at a design-related international workshop of at least 5 days or completion of an industry design internship of 320 hours.
3. For papers with multiple student authors (including undergraduate students), the points would be divided by the number of co-authors (Points/Number of Authors).
4. Points earned from design competition awards may contribute up to 1 point.

Application for Oral Defense: Graduate students must complete the proposal one semester prior to the final oral defense, submitting a thesis or practical innovative technical report to the Proposal Committee (which is composed of at least two faculty members, including the advisor and another faculty member) for review. The content submitted must meet a certain degree of completion (e.g., preliminary result results for an academic thesis; sketches for the practical innovative report), and should be publicly presented, to complete the qualifications for oral defense. Those who pass the qualification exam (proposal) can then apply for the final oral defense. Students who pass the oral defense and have obtained the required credits will be granted a Master's degree from the graduate

school.

- VI. Oral Defense Committee: The committee should consist of the advisor and 2-3 scholars or experts from both inside and outside the university in the field of specialization. Those who fail the examination may apply again in the following semester. Students will not be allowed to graduate if they do not complete the oral examination within the prescribed period of study.
- VII. Regulations for Oral Defense: When applying for the oral defense, a preliminary draft of the thesis must be completed and submitted to the graduate school office for verification. At least one internal and one external oral defense committee member must be suggested by the advisor. The Chairperson of Graduate School will then submit these recommendations to the President for formal appointment.

The oral examination will be carried out by the committee, and the detailed rules are as specified in the "National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Graduate Degree Examination Regulations" and "Regulations for the Master's Degree Examination of the Graduate School of Design."

The master's degree examination should be open to the public, and the oral defense time, venue, and thesis topic must be announced in advance.

After passing the thesis oral defense, students must complete thesis revisions as advised by the committee members and submit the electronic copy and the final official printed version of the thesis before the completion of graduation procedures. (In accordance with the university's requirements, two additional hard copies need to be submitted to the graduate school office for collection).

- VIII. Graduate students who have applied for degree examination but are unable to complete it within the current semester must request a withdrawal of the application before the end of the semester, as specified in the university's academic calendar. Those who do not withdraw within the deadline and are unable to complete the oral defense will be counted as failing once.
- IX. These regulations are implemented after being approved by a two-thirds majority of the graduate school council. Any modifications to these regulations will also require the same level of approval.