

Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees in Life Science and Medicine

Article 1. The requirements for Awarding Postgraduate Degrees in Life Science and Medicine were formulated by the Department Degree Management Committee according to the General Provisions of USTC for Postgraduate Programs, Implementing Rules of USTC for Awarding Master's and Doctorate Degrees, and Guidance of USTC on Recognizing Innovative Achievements of Postgraduates for Degree Application.

Article 2. Educational plans for Postgraduates in Life Science and Medicine

2.1 Course Requirements

Refer to the requirements of the relevant education programs. A postgraduate shall submit to the teaching secretary the course form (with selected courses) that has been signed and approved by the supervisor within the first three weeks of each semester. Otherwise, the course selection is invalid and the course credits will not be documented.

2.2 Doctoral qualifying exam or Master's research proposal

The qualifying exam and the defense of Master's research proposal are conducted in the fourth semester of Master's degree programs.

2.3 Doctoral research proposal

The defense of the doctoral research proposal is conducted in the third or fourth semester of doctoral programs or in the second semester, at the earliest, of the combined Master's degree and doctoral programs. A doctoral candidate who fails in defending the research proposal may apply for a defense of the research proposal

again in the following semester. If the defense of the research proposal was not successful twice, the candidate in the combined Master's degree and doctoral program would be disqualified and treated as a candidate pursuing a Master's degree, with reference to the Requirements for Academic Master's Degree or Professional Master's Degree. If the doctoral candidate is in the ordinary doctoral program and failed to pass the defense of the research proposal twice, the candidate's degree application would be rejected.

2.4 Annual progress report and mid-term exam

A candidate pursuing a Master's degree will be enrolled in the doctoral program in the fifth semester of study if the candidate passes the doctoral qualifying exam in the fourth semester of study. Doctoral candidates should submit their annual progress reports at the end of the sixth and eighth semesters of study, respectively. Should a doctoral candidate has difficulties in completing his/her doctoral study, the candidate would be transferred to the Master's degree program, with reference to the Requirements for Academic Master's Degree or Professional Master's Degree.

2.5 Academic Seminar

Before applying for a degree defense exam, the doctoral candidate is required to attend at least 10 academic seminars and all annual postgraduate meetings organized by the division and to complete at least one poster presentation and one oral presentation.

2.6 International conference

A doctoral candidate is required to attend at least one international academic conference and to provide the related records of participation.

2.7 Technical writing:

A postgraduate student is required to write at least one research article or report (the student should serve as a main author) and to provide the relevant supporting materials.

Article 3. Requirements for Program Duration and Graduation of Postgraduates in Life Science and Medicine

3.1 The programs for Master's study are two-three years in general, not more than four years in a special case. The doctoral programs for the combined Master and doctoral degrees are five to six years in general, not more than seven years in a special case. The ordinary doctoral programs are three to four years in general, not more than five years in a special case.

3.2 Should doctoral candidates need extend their study beyond the maximum period (specified above), they should file an application for extension in advance for approval by their supervisors, and the Department Degree Management Committee will then discuss on a case by case basis. Note that the maximum study period shall not be more than the maximum period of each degree program specified by USTC.

3.3 A postgraduate student who has completed the dissertation defense should withdraw from the program and leave the University if the student's application for extension of study beyond the maximum study period is not approved.

3.4 A postgraduate student should complete registration at the beginning of every semester according to the relevant regulations of USTC. In the case of extension study, the student should also receive confirmation of study progress every semester. A student who fails to follow the instructions above to complete the required procedures is deemed to have withdrawn from the degree program.

3.5 Postgraduate students would be granted a certificate of graduation if they have obtained the required course credits, have satisfied the requirements specified in Article 2 above, have completed the research work and dissertation, and have passed the dissertation defense within the specified study period.

Article 4. Requirements for Academic Achievements of Postgraduates in Life Science and Medicine

Thesis or dissertation is the main academic achievement for degree application and the main basis for evaluation. The academic achievements presented in a doctoral dissertation should be innovative and at a high academic level in the discipline. The academic achievements presented in a Master's thesis should be innovative and at a fair academic level in the discipline. Relevant innovative achievements could be in the form of academic journal papers, patents, research reports, research awards, or others that could represent an important reference for thesis or dissertation evaluation.

4.1 A doctoral candidate can apply for a doctorate only when the candidate meets one of the following requirements:

- 1) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation are innovative and at a high academic level, and the candidate has published a first-author research article (accepted article also counted) related to the dissertation in a journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee (Note that USTC should be listed as the first affiliation).

- 2) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation are significantly innovative and at a high academic level, and the candidate has published a first-author research article (in the case of co-first authors, only the first 2 co-first authors are counted; accepted article also counted) related to the dissertation in a high-level journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee (Note that USTC should be listed as the first affiliation).

3) The candidate has won a state-level sci-tech achievement award (among the first five listed names) or a provincial or -level sci-tech achievement award (among the first three listed names) that is presented in the dissertation, with USTC as the first contributor, and the achievements have been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and have been deemed to meet the requirements of awarding a doctorate.

4) The candidate has obtained an invention patent related to the dissertation. In the patent, USTC should be the first patentee and the candidate and the supervisor should be the first and one of inventors, respectively (If the supervisor is the first inventor, the candidate should be the second inventor). In addition, the patent has made practical contributions to solving key technical problems in production practice and been transformed or industrialized and applied (the amount received by USTC is not less than RMB 500,000 yuan). The achievements have been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and have been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a doctorate.

5) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation have an important value, contributing to advancing key technologies and to solving key problems. The special case has been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and has been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a doctorate.

4.2 Candidates can apply for a Master's degree only when they have met one of the followings:

1) The academic achievements presented in the thesis are advanced and at a good academic level. The candidate has published a first author research article (accepted article also counted) related to the thesis in a journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee (USTC should be listed as the first affiliation). In addition, the case has been evaluated by Department Degree Management Committee and has been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree.

2. The academic achievements presented in the thesis are innovative and at a high academic level. The candidate has published a co-first author research article (accepted article also counted) related to the thesis in a journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee (USTC should be listed as the first affiliation). In addition, the case has been evaluated by Department Degree Management Committee and has been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree.

3. The candidate has won a state-level sci-tech achievement award or a provincial or ministerial-level sci-tech achievement award (among the first five listed names), which has been presented in the thesis (USTC should be the first contributor), and the academic achievements have been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and has been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree.

4. The candidate has one invention patent related to the thesis, with the application officially disclosed. In the patent, USTC should be the first patentee and the candidate should be the first inventor (If the candidate is the second inventor, the supervisor should be one of the inventors). In addition, the achievements have been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and have been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree;

5. The academic achievements presented in the thesis have a good value, contributing to advancing key technologies and to solving key problems, and have been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and have been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree.

6. In a special case, the thesis has been evaluated by the Department Degree Management Committee and has been deemed to meet the requirements for awarding a Master's degree.

Article 5. Supplementary Explanation on Postgraduate Academic Achievements

5.1 An academic paper used in degree application must be authored by the candidate and the candidate should be the first author or one of the co-first authors. In the paper, USTC should be listed as the first affiliation and the supervisor should be the corresponding author. In the case where the candidate is a co-first author, the supervisor should provide a written statement to specify the contribution of the candidate.

5.2 Should the supervisor be a full-time employee of the Division of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC, the Division of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC should be listed as the first affiliation and the supervisor should also be the corresponding author. If the candidate is in a joint program of USTC and another institution, the Division of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC should also be listed as the first affiliation.

5.3 The order of the authors in an accepted article should be consistent with the one in the published version. Otherwise, the awarded degree may be revoked.

5.4 In general, the candidate can use an article on which his/her name is listed as the first two co-first authors for degree application.

5.5 If the list of recognized journals is revised by the Department Degree Management Committee, the previous list would remain valid for one year after the revision.

5.6 A postgraduate enrolled before the implementing date hereof and applying for a degree before June 2023 may be assessed in accordance with the Requirements for Study and Education Process of Postgraduates in Life Science (2019) or Requirements for Academic Achievements of International Postgraduates in Life

Science (2017) formulated by the former School of Life Sciences, provided that the requirement that the supervisor in the candidate's research article is the corresponding author is met.

5.7 Special cases will be discussed by the Department Degree Management Committee.

Article 6. All unspecified matters are governed by the relevant files issued by USTC.

Article 7. The Standard is implemented from July 10, 2020.