

Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees in Clinical Medicine

(2020)

1. The *Standard for Awarding Academic Postgraduate Degrees in Clinical Medicine* was formulated after discussion and decision 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*.

2. Requirements for Study and Education Process of Academic Postgraduates in Clinical Medicine

2.1 Requirements for courses: Refer to the requirements of the relevant education programs. A postgraduate shall submit the form of selected courses signed and approved by the Supervisor to the teaching secretary within the first three weeks of each semester; otherwise, the course selection is invalid and the course credits are not be recorded.

2.2 Master's research proposal: The research proposal shall be conducted in the fourth semester of master's education.

2.3 Doctoral research proposal: The research proposal shall be conducted in the third or fourth semester of doctoral education, or in the second semester at the earliest for combined master's and doctoral programs. A doctoral candidate who fails in the research proposal may apply for repeating the research proposal in the next semester. A combined master's and doctoral candidate who fails in the research proposal twice will be treated as a master candidate with reference to the requirements for academic masters, and an ordinary doctoral candidate who fails in the research proposal twice shall be rejected from the doctoral program.

2.4 Annual progress report and mid-term examination: A master candidate who has passed the defense for transferring to the doctoral program in the fourth semester shall

be transferred to the doctoral program in the fifth semester, and have an annual progress report at the ends of the sixth and eighth semesters, respectively. A doctoral candidate who obviously has difficulties in completing his/her studies shall be transferred to the master's program with reference to the requirements for academic masters.

2.5 Academic lecture: In the doctoral program duration, a doctoral candidate shall attend at least 10 academic lectures, and also annual academic conference organized by the department, and complete at least one qualified poster presentation and one conference lecture.

2.6 International conference: A doctoral candidate shall attend at least one international academic conference and provide the related records of participation.

2.7 Sci-tech writing: A postgraduate shall have written at least one formal sci-tech paper or report as the main author, and provide the relevant supporting materials.

3. Requirements for Program Duration and Graduation of Academic Postgraduates in Clinical Medicine

3.1 A master candidate shall have a program duration of 3 years, 4 years the longest. A combined master and doctoral candidate shall have a program duration of 5-6 years, 7 years the longest. An ordinary doctoral candidate shall have a program duration of 3-4 years, 5 years the longest.

3.2 If a doctoral candidate really needs to extend his/her program duration beyond the longest limit for research work, he/she shall submit an application for extension in advance for approval by the Supervisor and then decision by the Department Degree Management Committee. The study duration of a candidate shall not exceed the longest program duration specified by USTC.

3.3 A postgraduate who has completed the thesis or dissertation defense or not been approved for extension beyond the longest program duration shall go through the formalities for withdrawing from the program.

3.4 A postgraduate shall go through the semester registration procedures on time according to the relevant regulations of USTC in the program duration. A postgraduate shall go through the procedures for education progress confirmation every semester in the case of extension of the program duration. A postgraduate who fails to go through the relevant procedures is deemed to have withdrawn from the program on his/her own, and his/her academic status will be terminated according to the procedures.

3.5 A postgraduate will be awarded a certificate of graduation, if having obtained the required credits and satisfied the requirements stipulated in Clause 2 herein, completed the research work and dissertation and passed the dissertation defense within the stipulated program duration.

4. Requirements for Academic Achievements of Academic Postgraduates in Clinical Medicine

Thesis or dissertation is the main academic achievement of a candidate for degree application and the main basis to evaluate the application. The academic achievements presented in a doctoral dissertation shall be innovative and at a high academic level in the discipline; and those presented in a master's thesis shall be advanced and at a good academic level in the discipline. A postgraduate can present his/her relevant innovative achievements in the form of academic journal papers, invention patents, research reports, scientific research awards or others as an important reference for thesis or dissertation evaluation.

4.1 A doctoral candidate is entitled to application for a doctorate degree only if having obtained one of the following related academic achievements:

(1) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation are innovative and at a high academic level, and the candidate, as the first author, shall have an academic paper related to the dissertation published or accepted to publish in a journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee, with USTC as the first institution;

(2) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation are significantly innovative and at a high academic level, and the candidate, as the co-first author (only the first 2 co-first authors), has an academic paper related to the dissertation published or accepted to publish in a high-level journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee, with USTC as the first institution;

(3) The candidate has won a state-level sci-tech achievement award (among the first five winners) or a provincial or ministerial-level sci-tech achievement award (among the first three winners) for the academic achievements presented in the dissertation, with USTC as the first contributor, and the achievements have been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a doctorate degree;

(4) The candidate has obtained one invention patent, which is related to the dissertation, with USTC as the first patentee and the candidate as the first inventor and the Supervisor as one of the inventors or the Supervisor as the first inventor and the candidate as the second inventor, and the patent has made practical contributions to solving key technical problems in medical 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 determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a doctorate degree;

(5) The academic achievements presented in the dissertation have made important progress or contributions in advancing key core technologies and solving major key problems, and been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a doctorate degree.

4.2 A master candidate is entitled to application for a master's degree only if having obtained one of the following related academic achievements:

(1) The academic achievements presented in the thesis are advanced and at a good academic level, and the candidate, as the first author, has an academic paper which is related to the thesis and has been published or accepted to publish in a journal

recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee, with USTC as the first institution, and also determined by the Department Degree Management Committee 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, and the candidate, as the co-first author, has an academic paper which is related to the thesis and has been published or accepted to publish in a journal recognized by the Department Degree Management Committee, with USTC as the first institution, and also determined by the Department Degree Management Committee 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 winners) for the academic achievements presented in the dissertation, with USTC as the first contributor, and the achievements have been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee 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, with USTC as the first patentee and the candidate as the first inventor and the Supervisor as one of the inventors or the Supervisor as the first inventor and the candidate as the second inventor, and the achievements have been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a master's degree;

(5) The academic achievements presented in the thesis have made progress or contributions in advancing key core technologies and solving major key problems, and been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a master's degree;

(6) The thesis has been determined by the Department Degree Management Committee to meet the requirements for awarding a master's degree.

5. Supplementary Explanation on Academic Achievements of Postgraduates

5.1 An academic paper used for degree application must have the postgraduate as the first author or co-first author, USTC as the first institution and the Supervisor as the corresponding author. The Supervisor must state in writing the tasks and contribution of the co-first authors for the academic paper with the postgraduate as the first author.

5.2 If the Supervisor is a regular employee of School of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC, the academic paper must have School of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC as the first and also the corresponding institution. The academic paper published by a postgraduate under the joint program of USTC and another institution must have School of Life Sciences and Medicine of USTC as the first institution.

5.3 If an academic paper accepted to publish is used for degree application, its author order and institution must be unchanged before the paper is officially published; otherwise, serious action will be taken or the degree will be revoked.

5.4 In general, only the first two co-first authors may use the same academic paper for degree application at most.

5.5 If the list of recognized journals is revised by the Department Degree Management Committee, the previous list shall maintain 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 shall be the corresponding author is met.

5.7 Special cases shall be discussed and decided by the Department Degree Management Committee.

6. Any and all unspecified matters shall be governed by the relevant files issued by USTC.

7. The Standard shall be implemented from January 1, 2021.

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