



TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS

“Center for Postgraduate Studies”

Regulations on Education and Research for PhD Programs

Compiled by the Center for Postgraduate Studies

2012

Introduction: This document has been prepared based on the Postgraduate Educational and Research Protocol approved by the ministry of Health and Medical Education and briefly explains about the regulations, and guides students through educational and research periods. The purpose of providing this document is to inform our students regarding what is expected of them during their program and also provides them with step-by-step guidance on how to choose a proposal, carry out thesis research, defend it and finally graduate.

In order to qualify for a degree, a PhD student must satisfy the general requirements of the Postgraduate Studies School and the Departmental requirements demanded by the related department.

The maximum time limit for completion of the PhD degree at TUMS-IC is 4.5 years from matriculation.

This period is divided into two phases:

1- educational phase

2- research phase

Educational Phase: This phase takes 3-5 semesters in which the students complete their educational courses. Also at this phase, the students have to choose a topic for the proposed thesis which they have to defend at the end of the program.

Research Phase: This phase starts *after* completion of the educational phase and approval of the *proposal* and.

Note: before the research phase, the students have to take the **Comprehensive Exam** and pass it in order to enter the research phase.

According to the Top Programming Committee, the number of credits in a PhD program is as follows:

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thesis Courses: | | |
| -----→ | Min <u>16</u> Credits | Max <u>30</u> Credits |
| Total Educational and Research Courses: | | |
| -----→ | Min <u>42</u> Credits | Max <u>50</u> Credits |

The process from choosing the proposal topic to the thesis defense is as follows:

I- TO CHOOSE A SUPERVISOR

The students must choose a supervisor by the end of the first semester. As long as the students have not chosen a supervisor, the head of the department will be acting as supervisor.

- *A research supervisor:*

- must have at least a PhD or Clinical Doctorate or PhD by Research degree, **and**
- must be at the Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor level, **and**

- must have at least 3 years of teaching or research experience in postgraduate level, **and**
- must have been supervisor for at least 2 master's theses, OR advisor for 4 PhD theses.

Maximum number of theses that can be supervised simultaneously by a supervisor:

- Two PhD theses **OR**
- One PhD and three Master's theses

Note: In exceptional circumstances, the School Postgraduate Studies Council can change these limits.

II - TO CHOOSE ADVISORS:

Based on supervisor's suggestion and approval by the ***School Postgraduate Studies Council***, 1-3 advisors will be chosen from among the faculty members, or well known, outstanding researchers and professors.

- An ***advisor***:

- must have at least a PhD or Clinical Doctorate or PhD by research degree, **and**

- must be at the Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor level, **and**
- must have at least 3 years of teaching or research experience in postgraduate level, **and**
- must have at least a PhD degree if not a faculty member

III – TO CHOOSE A THESIS SUBJECT:

The process for choosing the thesis subject is as follows:

- 1- The students must choose a subject for their thesis **with the supervisor's help** sometime after the second semester and before the forth semester, and then must announce the subject to the related department.

***Note:** Any delay in this matter will cause prolongation of the study period, and may lead to expulsion from the program.*

Important Advice:

- Before preparing the proposal, students should check with the **Research Deputy Office** to make sure that the subject has not been covered already; and also to ascertain that the supervisory candidate has not reached the maximum number of theses that can supervise.
- Students must choose and announce their thesis subject before the deadline or they will be expelled from the program

- 2- The students must complete the ***proposal form*** in accordance with the supervisor's and advisor's instructions, and then to submit it to the ***Research Council of the related department*** for review.
- 3- Then the proposal has to be approved by the ***Research Deputy Office*** and following that an approval letter will be sent to the Postgraduate Studies Office.

IV- PROPOSAL APPROVAL

- The proposal must be submitted either to ***the Research Council of the Department*** or ***the Postgraduate Council*** and get approved by the council.
- Afterward, the proposal must go to ***the Department Head*** for possible correction and final approval.

The students must take the **Comprehensive Exam** and pass it before entering to the **Research Phase**.

- To develop and write the proposal with the supervisor's help
- To submit the proposal to the Department Council and get approval
- To submit the proposal to the Research Deputy Office to get the **School Research Council** or **Research Centers/institutes** approval in order to obtain research funding for the thesis.
- To submit a copy of the approved proposal and the approval letter (from ***School Postgraduate Council***) to the Postgraduate Office for the proposal registration.

- To submit a summary of the thesis research according to the thesis registration form format to the **Research Deputy Office**.

V- TO PERFORM THESIS

- The students have to perform their thesis according to the schedule specified in the proposal and within the time limit.
- The students have to submit a written **Thesis Progress Report** to the thesis supervisor at least every 6 months.

After review and approval by the supervisor, the report will be submitted to the **School Postgraduate Council**.

Afterward, a special meeting whose members are assigned by the council will assess the report with the presence of the supervisor.

VI- DEFENSE PROCESS:

- 1- After completion and writing of the thesis by the students and completion announcement by the research supervisor, at least one of the jury members has to approve the thesis as defensible.
- 2- Then, the related department will suggest a time for the thesis defense.
- 3- Eventually the suggested time for the defense has to be affirmed by the School Postgraduate Studies Council.

- 4- The student has to obtain the ***Invitation Forms for the jury members*** from the Postgraduate Studies School.
 - The supervisor has to assess *scientific quality, validity and reliability* of the thesis and approve it in advance. Then, the supervisor will notify the ***Department Council*** or ***School Postgraduate Studies Council*** of his assessment.
 - The students have to present their thesis in a ***preliminary defense*** to the panelists as well as other students.
- 5- After obtaining approval from the related department and involved professors and confirmation that the thesis has been written according to the **Thesis Writing Guidelines**, the **Research Deputy of the school** will authorize the defense.
- 6- Before the defense, the student must obtain one ***journal article publication and one acceptance*** (with his/her name as first or second author of the articles).
 - The student must submit a summary of the above articles ***with the university's name printed on them.***
- 7- Selecting Jury Members

Jury (Thesis Committee) Members:

- Supervisor(s),
- Advisor(s),
- Four academic members from *the related department/or Research Institutes being* at least at the Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor level, **and having minimum 3** years of teaching or research experience in postgraduate level,

**Note : These 4 members are suggested by the
department and will have to be
approved by the School Postgraduate Council.**

- A Representative from the *Center for Postgraduate Studies*.

- 8- The student has to submit the *unbound copy of the thesis* along with the *Thesis Evaluation Forms* to the jury members at least one week prior to the defense.
- 9- The student has to hold the defense session in front of the jury.

VII- THESIS EVALUATION AND MARKING GUIDELINES:

- 1- The jury members will confidentially put the marks on the ***Thesis Evaluation Forms*** and submit them to the ***Research Deputy Office***.
 - *If the jury decides that the thesis needs **corrections/modifications**, the marks will be released to the student only when the necessary corrections /modifications have been done).*
- 2- The Research Deputy will announce the marks to the ***Educational Deputy*** and ***Postgraduate Studies School***.

Note1: If the jury finds the thesis unacceptable, it will cancel the oral examination and require the student to correct/complete the thesis. After the thesis **correction/ completion**, the student has to defend it at a time which the jury decides.

Note 2: By adding the thesis ***correction*** time, the total PhD completion period must not exceed the allowable time.

Marking Method:

| Mark | Rank |
|--------------|----------------|
| 19 - 20 | Excellent |
| 18 - 18.99 | Very good |
| 16.5 - 17.99 | Good |
| 15 - 16.49 | Satisfactory |
| Less than 15 | Unsatisfactory |

- ❖ The thesis mark will be noted on the student's transcript; however, it ***will not be calculated*** into the student's GPA.
- ❖ The thesis mark is **calculated as** the average of marks given by at least 5 of the jury members.

VIII- POST-DEFENSE PROCEDURES:

- 1- The students must submit *two HARD-BOUND copies of the thesis* along with their *Electronic Copies* (in Word & PDF) to the library (**Must mention TUMS-IC as the first affiliation on the Thesis**).
- 2- The students must submit *one HARD-BOUND copy of the thesis* along with the resulting article (**Must mention TUMS-IC as the first affiliation on the article**) to the Center for Postgraduate Studies.

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