National Taiwan Normal University
Graduate Institute of Environmental Education

Doctoral Qualifying Examination Regulations

Amended and approved on November 7, 2020, at the second Institute Affairs Meeting of the first semester of Academic Year 109 (2020–2021).

I. **Applicability**

(1) These Regulations apply to doctoral students who had yet to apply for the qualifying examination in the first semester of Academic Year 109 (2020–2021).

(2) Doctoral students admitted in Academic Year 108 (2019–2020) or earlier may follow either the qualifying examination regulations applicable to their year of admission or these amended Regulations.

Note. Completion of the qualifying examination under these Regulations requires completing and passing the presentation of either a position paper or a review paper.

II. **Examination format.** Doctoral students shall pass an oral presentation of either a position paper or a review paper before the Qualifying Examination Committee.

III. **Composition of the Qualifying Examination Committee.** The committee shall consist of five members. The student's advisor shall select and appoint the members and report the committee's composition at an Institute Affairs Meeting. The members shall elect one of their number to serve as convener.

IV. **Position and review papers**

(I) **Position paper**

1. **Definition.** A position paper must address an important issue in environmental education research on which views differ, for example on theoretical or methodological grounds. The paper must explain the issue and its significance, use the literature to describe the different positions, state the position the author adopts, and discuss its strengths and limitations. The paper may contain up to 20,000 characters, including the main text, references, figures, tables, and appendices.

2. **Recommended assessment criteria**

(1) **Substance of the issue (25%).** Clearly explain the issue and its significance.

(2) **Exposition of positions (30%).** Clearly present the different positions, explain them in sufficient depth, and provide appropriate critical commentary.

(3) **Selection of literature (15%).** Draw on appropriate sources to support the different positions, including both contemporary and classic works.

(4) **Presentation of arguments (30%).** Present a convincing argument for the chosen position and explain its strengths and limitations.

3. **Assessment results**

(1) Committee members shall provide comments on each of the following criteria: substance of the issue, exposition of positions, selection of literature, and presentation of arguments. Each member shall then select one of four outcomes: Pass, Conditional Pass, Fail, or Fail due to a suspected breach of academic ethics.

(2) The convener shall compile the assessment results and assign scores as follows.

A. Pass: 88 points.

B. Conditional Pass: 78 points.

a. Revise the position paper in accordance with the committee's recommendations and resubmit it for written review. To pass, the revised paper must be approved by at least half of the committee members.

b. Other.

C. Fail: 68 points.

D. Fail due to a suspected breach of academic ethics.

(II) **Review paper**

1. **Definition.** A review paper critically examines and synthesizes the literature on an important issue in environmental education research. It should review the literature on a specific issue broadly and systematically, and explain how the literature conceptualizes and interprets the issue and what insights emerge from synthesizing those studies. The review may be an overview, a theoretical review, a methodological review, or a historical review. The paper may contain up to 20,000 characters, including the main text, references, figures, tables, and appendices.
2. **Recommended assessment criteria**
   (1) **Quality of the selected literature (15%).** Review the relevant literature as broadly as possible, including both contemporary and classic works.
   (2) **Quality of the analytical methods (25%).** Systematically analyze and critically assess the theories, research methods, and conclusions in the literature.
   (3) **Significance of the issue (30%).** Use the findings of the review to explain research trends and how they apply to contemporary educational problems or issues.
   (4) **Scholarly contribution (30%).** The findings of the review should help researchers improve the quality of their research and deepen their understanding of the issue.
3. **Assessment results**
   (1) Committee members shall provide comments on each of the following criteria: substance of the issue, exposition of positions, selection of literature, and presentation of arguments. Each member shall then select one of four outcomes: Pass, Conditional Pass, Fail, or Fail due to a suspected breach of academic ethics.
   (2) The convener shall compile the assessment results and assign scores as follows.
      A. Pass: 88 points.
      B. Conditional Pass: 78 points.
         a. Revise the review paper in accordance with the committee's recommendations and resubmit it for written review. To pass, the revised paper must be approved by at least half of the committee members.
         b. Other.
      C. Fail: 68 points.
      D. Fail due to a suspected breach of academic ethics.

(III) **Application deadlines.** Doctoral students shall apply for the oral qualifying examination while enrolled and outside any period of leave. The application must include the application form for the position paper or review paper and the full text of the paper. Students shall submit the application by late November for the first semester or by late May for the second semester. They shall complete the oral examination within two months after approval at an Institute Affairs Meeting. Failure to complete the examination by that deadline counts as a failed attempt, except in circumstances beyond the student's control.

When applying, students shall also submit an electronic copy of the full paper so that its Turnitin originality report can be reviewed at the same time.

Similarity limit. The Turnitin originality report must show a similarity score of 15% or less after excluding the student's own published works, references, and direct quotations.

(IV) **Number of presentations.** Doctoral students shall complete their first oral presentation of a position paper or review paper by the end of their fourth semester of enrollment. Failure to apply by the end of the fourth semester counts as one failed presentation. Students who fail the first presentation shall complete their second oral presentation by the end of their fifth semester of enrollment. Students may make no more than two presentations and may choose their topic for either attempt.

(V) **Failure to pass.** Students who fail both attempts shall be dismissed from the program.

V. **Completion deadline.** Doctoral students shall complete the qualifying examination by the end of their fifth semester of enrollment. Students who fail to complete the examination by this deadline shall be dismissed from the program.