

The Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies

Regulations for Studies Leading to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

1. Introduction

These regulations deal with the process, nature and goals of studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

2. Definitions

2.1 "Candidate": A student who has been accepted for doctoral studies in one of the University's faculties but has not yet passed the Candidacy Examination.

2.2 "Research Student": A student who has been accepted for doctoral studies and has passed the Candidacy Examination.

2.3 "The Research Students' Committee": The academic authority responsible for all academic matters pertaining to the acquisition of the Ph.D. degree.
(Henceforth: The Committee)

2.4 "Curriculum": A program of studies for the Ph.D. degree which includes:

a. Supplemental studies

Coursework required of each student, such as prerequisites, practice in research methodology, languages, courses in the student's field and in related fields, and seminars.

b. Conducting research and the writing of a dissertation.

2.5 "Internal Student": A student supported by a University scholarship.

2.6 "External Student": A student not supported by a scholarship from the University.

2.7 "Trial Period": A period of up to 12 months, beginning on the date of admission into the program, until the approval of the research project by The Committee.

2.8 "Candidacy Period": The duration of studies within the Trial Period, until the student passes the Candidacy Examination.

2.9 "Course Requirements Program": The specific courses required of the student and approved by The Committee.

2.10 "Supervisor": A member of the academic staff of the University, at the rank of 'senior lecturer' or higher, who has been delegated by the academic

Effective
March 2015

Effective
March 2015

Effective
November 2007

Effective
June 2013

department and approved by The Committee to oversee the student's research. The Dean of the Kreitman School may, in special cases, approve supervision by a faculty member at the rank of 'lecturer' recommended by the departmental Graduate Studies Committee.

2.10.1. In addition to the responsible supervisor, other advisors or supervisors may offer additional guidance.

2.11 "Examiner": A member of the academic staff of the University, appointed by The Committee, holds the rank of at least 'senior lecturer' or has the equivalent rank at another institution.

Effective
June 2013

2.12 "Board of Examiners": Composed of the Supervisor(s), 3-4 additional Examiners and at least one external Examiner, all appointed by The Committee. The members of this Board also serve as the Examiners of the Research Proposal when assessing the student's candidacy. The Supervisor is responsible for convening this Board.

Effective
June 2013

2.13 "Guidance Committee": A committee composed of two internal academic staff members, whose role it is to follow the student's progress and to report to the Committee. In so far as is possible, the members of this Guidance Committee should be selected from among that student's candidacy Examiners. For certain departments or units, the Dean of the Kreitman School may approve some deviation from the regulations stated in this paragraph.

2.14 "Judge": A member of the University's academic staff, at the rank of senior lecturer and above, or a member of another academic institution at an equivalent rank, as determined by The Committee.

Effective
March 2009

2.15 "Judges' Panel": The Supervisor and 2-4 additional judges, at least one of whom is from another academic institution, all approved by The Committee, who will judge the Ph.D. thesis. Insofar as is possible, the Judges' Panel should be identical to the student's Board of Examiners.

Effective
November 2007

2.16 "Research Proposal": The research plan which a Candidate must submit to The Committee after its approval by his/her Supervisor and the departmental Graduate Studies Committee (the topic of which will also be brought to the attention of the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee). The Research Proposal must include: a formulation of the problems which the student intends to resolve; the approaches and methods for their resolution; and a survey of the relevant literature.

2.17. "Candidacy Examination": The examination that the student must pass after submitting a Research Proposal. Its goal is to examine the Candidate's approach to the subject, mastery of the background to the research project, and knowledge of the professional literature on the topic. It serves to evaluate the Candidate's qualifications and suitability for doctoral research.

2.18 "Research work": Original work, either theoretical or experimental, which represents a contribution to the advancement of science. The research will be

summarized in a dissertation written in accordance with the accepted structure and terminology found in the professional literature.

Effective
October 2002

2.19 "Supplementary Candidate": A student who has been accepted into a doctoral studies program provisionally, on condition that he/she successfully completes certain predetermined supplementary studies.

3. Organizational Structure of the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies

Changes in sections 3-3.2.2.5 effective as of February, 1996

Heading the Kreitman School are the Dean and The Research Students Committee.

Effective
March 2014

3.1 Dean of the Kreitman School

Twelve months before the serving Dean completes his/her term, a Search Committee consisting of seven members will be convened by the Rector: It will be comprised of the Rector as its chair, two academic faculty members appointed by the Rector in consultation with the President, and four senior academic staff at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor from different faculties who are appointed by the Senate in a secret ballot.

The outgoing Dean may not serve as a member of the Search Committee. Members of the Search Committee may not submit themselves or be put forth by others as candidates for the Dean's position.

The Search Committee will present to the Senate the names of up to three candidates. Each candidate must be a member of the University's academic faculty at the rank of Full Professor. The candidate(s) must have the support of the majority of the members of the Search Committee, including that of the Committee Chairperson.

The Dean of the School will be elected by a majority vote of the Senate from among the candidates submitted by the Search Committee. Elections will be through a secret written ballot. The Dean's term of office is three (3) years. A Dean may be elected for only one additional consecutive term. .

The election of the new Dean will take place during the final six months of the outgoing Dean's term in office, and no later than three months before the his term is concluded.

The incoming Dean's term in office will begin on the 1st of August in the same year he/she was elected Dean.

When just one candidate is put forth by the Search Committee, the election will be determined by a regular majority. If that candidate does not receive a majority of the ballots, the Search Committee must propose additional candidate(s) and hold new elections.

When the Search Committee puts forth two or three candidates, the candidate receiving the highest number of ballots will be selected, on the condition that he/she received at least 50% of the overall votes. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be held, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be selected. If a

new Dean is not selected at the conclusion of three election rounds, the Rector will decide between the two candidates.

3.1.1 Duties of the Dean of the School

3.1.1.1 The Dean will assume all responsibility for the School and act in concert with the Rector. The Dean will ensure the proper functioning of the School in terms of instruction, research and administration. The Dean will represent the School before the Senate and additional authorities, both within and outside the University.

3.2 The Research Studies Committee

3.2.1 Members of the Research Studies Committee:

3.2.1.1 The Dean of the School will act as Chairperson of the Research Studies Committee.

3.2.1.2 The Heads of each higher order academic unit's (faculty or institute) Graduate Studies Committee (as defined in paragraph 1.3.2 of the General Academic Regulations), acting in that capacity

3.2.1.3 One Senate representative from each higher order academic unit, but from a discipline other than that of the Head of the Graduate Studies Committee, appointed by his/her faculty and approved by the Senate.

3.2.1.4 The Administrative Director of the School will serve as the Coordinator for this Research Studies Committee.

3.2.2 Duties of the Research Studies Committee

3.2.2.1 To foster the development of advanced research studies.

3.2.2.2 To organize interdisciplinary workshops and courses.

3.2.2.3 To organize and coordinate lecture series, symposia and workshops given by outstanding scholars in their fields and to allocate funds for this purpose.

3.2.2.4 To award enhanced research grants to outstanding students.

3.2.2.5 To coordinate and organize post-doctoral activities at the University in consultation with the Rector.

3.2.2.6 To accept research students who were endorsed by the academic unit in which the research will take place, with the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee of that faculty.

3.2.2.7 To approve Supervisors and Thesis Proposals.

3.2.2.8 To approve the Candidate's curriculum.

3.2.2.9 To appoint Examiners and Judges.

Effective
November 2005

Effective
November 2005

3.2.2.10 To follow the student's progress by consulting with the relevant departmental Graduate Studies committees.

3.2.2.11 To discuss the Examiners' and Judges' reports.

3.2.2.12 To approve those Ph.D. theses that fulfill the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. This approval will be given on behalf of the University Senate.

3.2.2.13 To recommend to the University Senate the granting of degrees.

3.2.2.14 To suspend students who do not meet the requirements.

3.2.2.15 To routinely update the regulations for graduate study with the Senate's approval.

3.2.2.16 To approve the granting of scholarships and fellowships to graduate students.

3.2.2.17 To discuss appeals submitted to this Committee by Supervisors or students, in keeping with the regulations.

3.2.2.18 To take all possible steps to ensure a normal course of studies.

3.3 The Secretariat for Research Students

The Secretariat for Research Students is responsible for handling all the academic administrative matters throughout the studies leading to a doctoral degree; for the coordination and communications between departmental and faculty Graduate Studies committees, Examiners, Judges, Supervisors and the students; as well as for implementing decisions made by the Committee.

4. Admission to Doctoral Studies

A Candidate can only be accepted for research studies upon the recommendation of the department in which the research will be carried out and with the approval of the faculty's Graduate Studies Committee.

4.1. In addition to the above, the Candidate must meet all of the following requirements:

Effective
October 2002

4.1.1 The Candidate must have a Master's degree from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev or an equivalent degree from another academic institution; and must have completed the coursework and Master's thesis with distinction.

4.1.2 The Candidate must have sufficient training to carry out research in the chosen field, as determined by The Committee.

Effective
October 2002

4.1.3 The Committee may accept a Candidate who does not yet meet all the requirements in section 4.1.1, with the provisional status of "supplemental student" for a period not to exceed one year, during which the student will complete the necessary requirements by doing supplementary courses at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

4.1.4 A Candidate deemed worthy of doing doctoral studies may be accepted as a non-scholarship receiving student. The student will submit to The Committee the form designating his/her Thesis Supervisor, approved by the Supervisor and the Departmental Graduate Committee, no later than three months after being accepted. The Candidate must submit a Research Proposal no later than the end of the first month of his/her fifth semester of studies. The Research Proposal will serve as the basis of the Candidacy Examination (see section 5.3.1).

The length of studies for a student who does not receive a scholarship shall be six years from the date of acceptance.

4.2 The Committee will review the Candidate's documentation, invite him/her for an interview and even require he/she take an examination, if this is deemed necessary.

4.3 All doctoral students are accepted for a 12-month trial period.

5. Requirements for Receiving a Ph.D. Degree

Attaining a Ph.D. degree entails the fulfillment of the following requirements:

- a. The appointment of a Supervisor and determination of a research topic (see section 5.1);
- b. Supplemental studies (see section 5.2);
- c. Submission of the Thesis Proposal and the successful completion of the Candidacy Examination (see section 5.3);
- d. Conducting the research and presenting it at a seminar (see section 5.4);
- e. The Ph.D. Thesis (see section 5.5).

5.1 The appointment of the Supervisor and the determination of a research topic

5.1.1 During the 12-month trial period, the student must submit the research topic to The Committee, after it has been approved by both the Supervisor and the head of the relevant academic unit.

5.1.2 The Committee will discuss the research topic and appoint a Board of Examiners.

5.2 Supplemental studies

5.2.1 Every student will be required to take supplementary courses (6-10 academic credits) towards the Ph.D. degree, as determined by the Supervisor. A student in a regular course of studies must complete the course requirements by the end of the third year of studies.

5.2.2 The required curriculum is determined by the Supervisor, who takes into consideration both the student's prior studies and the research topic. This program must be approved by The Committee, upon the recommendation of the Candidate's departmental Graduate Studies Committee. The Examiners may also make recommendations to The Committee, which is empowered to stipulate further requirements.

5.2.3 The student is required to abide by all the regulations regarding the requirements for the Ph.D. degree, such as: submission dates, changes in examination dates, etc.

5.2.3.1 In order to prepare the research student for the duties he/she will be expected to perform in the fields of research and teaching after graduation, the requirements of the curriculum may include formal training in university teaching, should The Committee deems it necessary for a particular doctoral student. The curriculum for doctoral students will include at least eight hours per week of applied academic training in teaching, research methodology, and student guidance, as determined by head of the academic unit.

5.2.4 The Committee may require the Candidate to study the Hebrew language and to take a Hebrew language examination during his/her course of studies, if it is found that the Candidate's knowledge of Hebrew is inadequate. The Committee shall set the date for the Hebrew language examination.

5.2.5 The student must complete all the curricular requirements before commencing to write the dissertation.

5.3 Submitting the Research Proposal and the Candidacy Examination

5.3.1 As a part of the registration process, a Doctoral Candidate must submit the form designating his/her Thesis Supervisor to The Committee. The student must also submit to The Committee his/her research topic within three months of acceptance to the doctoral studies program. The student must present the Research Proposal to The Committee no later than 12 months from the date of acceptance into the doctoral program (in as many printed copies as requested, along with a digital copy). All three submissions must be approved and signed by both the Supervisor(s) and the Chair of the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Research Proposals should include: a formulation of the problem(s) to be dealt with by the student; approaches and methodology for the solution of those problem(s); and a survey of the literature.

In irregular cases, such as prolonged I.D.F. Reserve duty or childbirth, the deadline for the submission of the Research Proposal may be extended by up to half a year. In highly irregular cases, this extension may be up to a year, bearing in mind all the students' general rights, as ratified in 2012 (e.g., adjustments made for fertility treatments, high-risk pregnancy, childbirth, child adoption or acquiring guardianship status and Reserve duty).

5.3.2 The Research Proposal, forming the basis of the Candidacy Examination, shall be sent by the Secretariat to the Examiners for their perusal prior to the examination date.

5.3.3 The purpose of the Candidacy Examination, which takes place approximately one month after the submission of the Research Proposal, is to scrutinize the student's approach to the subject, and his/her mastery of the background research and the professional literature, as well as to determine the Candidate's ability and suitability to conduct doctoral research. The duration, conditions, and format of the Candidacy Examination (all or partially oral) are determined by the Examiners.

Effective
June 2013

5.3.4 At the conclusion of the Examination, the Examiners shall forward their recommendations to The Committee for approval. These recommendations include an evaluation of the Candidate's abilities, the quality of the research project and the feasibility of conducting this research either at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, or another university or scientific institution in Israel or abroad, within a reasonable time period.

5.3.5 Final approval for the Research Proposal is granted by The Committee. The Committee or the Examiners may ask for modifications or changes in the Research Proposal and may require that the student complete supplementary studies relating to the field in question, also setting a date for their completion.

5.3.6 A student who does not submit a Research Proposal, as defined above, is considered to have failed the Candidacy Examination.

5.3.7 A student who fails the Candidacy Examination may retake it one to two semesters later, as determined by The Committee or as per the recommendation of the Examiners. In such a case, the student must resubmit his/her Research Proposal to his/her Supervisor approximately one month before the date of the examination. Regardless of the above, The Committee may suspend a student's studies after only one failure, as per the Examiners' recommendations. If a student fails the Candidacy Examination a second time, or does not take it, his/her studies are suspended.

5.3.8 In the case of a difference of opinions among the Examiners regarding the results of the Candidacy Examination, the final decision rests with The Committee.

5.3.9 A student may change his/her research topic, limit or expand it, with the Supervisor's agreement and the approvals of the departmental Graduate Studies Committee and The Committee. In cases, where the topic is changed, The Committee shall decide if, or to what extent, to give credit for the period of study prior to the change in research topic.

5.3.10 A student who changes his/her research topic after the Candidacy Examination must retake the Examination on the new topic, unless The Committee, following the recommendations of the Supervisor and the departmental Graduate Studies Committee, determines that the two subjects are close enough.

5.4 Conducting the research

5.4.1 The research must be original -- theoretical or experimental. The research will be deemed valuable if it makes an original contribution to the development of knowledge and understanding in its field.

5.4.2 The Supervisor should assist the student in planning and conducting the research, should follow its progress and should guide the student in composing the dissertation after the results have been formulated.

5.4.3. A Supervisor who no longer wishes to continue to guide a student, should submit a request, stating the reasons for this decision, to The Committee via the departmental Committee. If, for this or any other reason, the Supervisor is unable to

continue to act in his capacity, The Committee shall help the student to find another appropriate Supervisor.

5.4.4 If, after the appointment of a Supervisor, it becomes evident that the nature of research requires an additional supervisor, The Committee should appoint an secondary Supervisor in consultation with the primary Supervisor.

5.4.5 A student who wishes to change his/her Supervisor(s) must submit a request stating the reasons to The Committee.

Effective
June 2013

5.4.6 The doctoral student must submit a Progress Report, approved by his/her Supervisor, to the Guidance Committee and to the Head of his/her Departmental Committee once a year, beginning one year after his/her acceptance as a doctoral research student. After each Progress Report is submitted, the student shall meet with the Guidance Committee, which will assess his/her research progress and produce a written evaluation, which is submitted to the departmental Committee. Then, the student's Progress Report and the Guidance Committee's written evaluation, as approved by the Chairperson of the departmental Committee, along with the Supervisor's statement, are sent to The Committee for approval no later than one month after receipt of the Report.

Effective
June 2013

5.4.6.1 After receiving the student's final Progress Report (see paragraph 5.5.1), the Guidance Committee will recommend to The Committee as to whether the student may conclude and present his/her research thesis for judgment.

5.4.7 Any delay in submitting the final Progress Report must be approved by The Committee. Without such approval, The Committee may take steps to suspend the student's studies.

Effective
June 2013

5.4.8 At an advanced stage of the research, and no later than one month before submitting his/her thesis, the student must give at least one seminar lecture on his/her research topic. The date, time and place of this lecture are publicized in keeping with University practice.

5.4.9 A Supervisor who feels that his/her student's studies are not succeeding and that no progress is being made may recommend to The Committee that these studies be suspended. The Committee will decide whether to accept this recommendation or to transfer the student to a different Supervisor.

5.4.10 The Chairperson of the departmental Graduate Studies Committee may, in conjunction with the Supervisor and with the approval of The Committee, appoint a research consultant or consultants. Such an appointment may be made at any time during the research period. Research consultants may advise a student regarding his/her research and related fields. The following may be appointed as consultants: faculty members at research or higher education institutions whose rank is at least equivalent to that of a university lecturer; or professional and specialist scientists, even if they are not employed by an academic institution.

5.5 The Ph.D. Thesis (Dissertation)

5.5.1 In the final Progress Report submitted to The Committee (section 5.4.6), before starting to write the dissertation, the student should summarize what his/her research has achieved.

5.5.2 The dissertation must include the following sections:

- a. A clear statement of purpose;
- b. A description of prior research on the subject;
- c. A description of the present research and its results;
- d. The relationship of the present research to prior research in the field;
- e. A discussion of the present research and conclusions;
- f. A bibliography.

5.5.3 In lieu of a dissertation, a collection of articles written by the student and which present the student's research results, may be submitted (see section 10).

5.5.4 The dissertation may be written in Hebrew or English. A Hebrew thesis must be accompanied by an English abstract. The abstract should comprise up to 5% of the total thesis. An English thesis must be accompanied by a Hebrew abstract as well as confirmation that it has been professionally edited or, in irregular cases approved by the Dean of the School, edited by the Supervisor. In highly irregular cases, a student may request permission to submit a dissertation written in another language (neither Hebrew nor English); such a request must be well-explained, substantiated scientifically, and submitted with the Supervisor's recommendation immediately after the student is accepted into doctoral studies. The University Research Studies Committee may approve such a request as long as appropriate Judges can be found and the Supervisor has a sufficient mastery of that language. In those cases in which The Committee approves the writing of the Ph.D. thesis in a foreign language, it must include both Hebrew and English abstracts, each up to 5% of the total thesis. The language of the Progress Reports should be coordinated with the Guidance Committee.

5.5.5 With the conclusion of the actual research process, the research findings should be summarized in a scientific essay, written in accordance with the accepted format and terminology of the professional literature and in a style appropriate for publication. The thesis is to be prepared in keeping with the regulations for editing and binding and submitted to the Secretariat. Then, The Committee will appoint the Judges.

5.5.6 The student may submit his/her thesis at any time during his/her studies.

5.5.7 The Secretariat will send one copy of the dissertation to each Judge and request a written judgement, independent of the judgements of the other Judges.

5.5.8 The Committee shall decide whether or not to accept the dissertation, based on the Judges' reports. In cases of a difference of opinions among the Judges, The Committee may decide either to add additional Judges to the Panel or to appoint an entirely new Panel. Similarly, The Committee may decide, based on the Judges' reports, whether to accept the dissertation pending certain corrections or it may demand that the thesis be re-submitted.

If minor corrections are required, the students must complete them within two months, pending the Supervisor's approval.

Effective
December 2004

Effective
June 2013

Effective
March 2015

If substantial corrections or a revision of the thesis are required, the Graduate Studies Committee shall determine, in consultation with the Supervisor, the period of time in which they must be completed.

6. Duration of Studies and Regulations

Effective
June 2013

6.1 The duration of the doctoral studies and research may not exceed a period of four years from the date of acceptance to the program (hereafter: “study period”). If a student has not completed the work within that time period, he/she may apply to The Committee with a detailed request for an extension of the study period, approved by the Supervisor and the Chairperson of the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Taking all the students' general rights as of 2012 into account (e.g., adjustments made for fertility treatments, high-risk pregnancy, childbirth, child adoption, acquiring guardianship status or prolonged I.D.F. Reserve duty), The Committee will give serious consideration to requests for extensions.

6.2 A student who has not yet submitted his/her thesis must re-register with the Secretariat before the start of each semester.

6.3 A student who is unable to continue his/her studies must submit to the Secretariat a written request detailing the reasons, along with an attached recommendation by the Supervisor, no later than one month after the beginning of the semester. The Committee may authorize a leave of absence of one or two semesters. A student who does not resume studies after his/her official leave is over will be considered to have left the program.

6.4 The Committee is empowered reject the re-registration of a student who took a leave of absence without permission.

7. The Bestowal of the Ph.D. Degree

7.1 The Ph. D. degree is granted by the University Senate upon the recommendation of The Committee.

7.2 Ph.D. diplomas are handed out at an annual graduation ceremony.

8. Combined Track Doctoral Studies

Effective
November 2007

8.1 In order to be accepted to the Combined Track program, a Master’s student must be in the final stages of research and must demonstrate outstanding ability. In addition, the Master's thesis must be suited to expansion into a doctoral dissertation, in regard to its content, originality and innovativeness. In order to transfer to a Combined Track, the student must submit his/her request by July (of the second year of his/her Masters studies). This request must include the recommendations of the Supervisor and the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Transfer to the Combined Track is possible from two years after the start of the Master’s studies. In unusual cases, it will be possible to transfer to the Combined Track after three years at the very most.

Effective
October 2002

8.2 The student must complete the entire Master’s program (i.e., all of the mandatory course credits) with the grade-point average necessary for admission to a doctoral program.

Effective
November 2007

8.3 Upon acceptance into the Combined Track, the student is subject to all the rules and regulations incumbent on all doctoral students. Combined Track

The student should submit a report on the results of his/her Master's research (in Master's thesis format) and a Doctoral research proposal by October (at the end of the second year of his/her Master's studies). Such a student will be then examined on the basis of his/her Master's research and his/her doctoral research proposal in the prescribed manner. The student who successfully passes this Candidacy Examination is accepted to the Combined Track and receives a Master's degree. If the student does not pass this Candidacy Examination, he/she is subject to all the rules and regulations of the Master's program.

8.4 All research performed by the student before entering the doctoral program may be included in the Thesis submitted for the doctorate.

8.5 Each faculty may submit to The Committee detailed requests for additional requirements for their Combined Track students.

9.The Direct Track to the Doctorate

9.1 Definitions

Effective
November 2007

9.1.1 "The Direct Track": This track is meant solely for outstanding students (the top 10% in their graduating class) who have completed their Bachelor's degrees. It allows them to enroll directly into the doctoral studies program without registering for a Master's degree.

9.1.2 "Additional Professional Studies": The extent of formal studies is determined in conjunction with paragraph 9.3.1.

9.1.3 "Candidate": A student who has been accepted into the Direct Track, but has not yet taken the Candidacy Examination.

9.1.4 All the rules and regulations applicable to doctoral students also apply to students in the Direct Track, unless otherwise specified.

9.2 Conditions for admission into the Direct Track to the Ph.D. degree

9.2.1 A Candidate may be accepted into the Direct Track with the recommendation of the academic unit in which he/she will study and conduct research, upon the approval of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee. In addition, the Candidate must meet the following prerequisites:

Effective
October 2002

9.2.1.1 Have a Bachelor's degree from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev or an equivalent degree from another recognized academic institution, as well as high accomplishments in his/her studies. The Committee may also accept a student on the basis of other information indicating that this Candidate completed his/her studies in the top 10% of the students in the field

9.2.1.2 Have sufficient training to undertake studies and research at the Doctoral level in the chosen field, as determined by the Committee.

9.2.2 A Candidate may be admitted into the Direct Track at the beginning of any academic semester.

9.2.3 Application procedures for admission to the Direct Track are the same as those for the standard doctoral program.

9.3 Requirements for receiving a Ph.D. degree via the Direct Track

Receiving a Ph.D. degree via the Direct Track requires the fulfillment of all the conditions stated in section 5 and the completion of additional courses in the field beyond those listed in paragraph 5.2.

9.3.1 This additional coursework (another 6-10 course credits) shall be equivalent to that required for a Master's degree in the academic unit in which the Candidate is studying.

9.3.2 The curriculum is determined, in consultation with the Supervisor, by the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. This program of study is brought to The Committee for its approval.

9.3.3 After the Candidacy Examination, The Committee may alter the curriculum in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and after consulting with the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. If the Examiners find that the Candidate's background in the field is insufficient, the curriculum may exceed the number of course credits mentioned above (9.3.1).

9.3.4 A Candidate in the Direct Track must complete all of the course requirements within four years from the date of admission into the doctoral studies program.

Effective
March 2015

9.3.5 The Candidate must submit a Research Proposal by his/her third semester of study. The research abstract should include research results, presented in a Master's Thesis format. This Proposal is sent to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee for the consideration of additional scientists. This committee may approve or reject the Research Proposal abstract. If this Proposal abstract is rejected, the student must submit a revised Proposal within 6 months. If the student is ready at this stage to submit a full Research Proposal that may serve as the basis for his/her Candidacy Examination, the student will be exempted from the requirement to submit a Research Proposal abstract.

Effective
November 2007

9.3.6 A student in the Direct Track who has completed the Master's coursework requirements, submitted a Research Proposal and successfully passed the Candidacy Examination is entitled to receive a Master's degree. The degree is granted to the student by the faculty in which he/she completed the coursework no later than two years after acceptance into the Direct Track. For students in interdisciplinary studies, The Committee shall determine which relevant faculty or department will grant the degree.

9.4 Timetable and regulations

9.4.1 The duration of studies in the Direct Track may not exceed five years from the date of admission. If the student has not completed the research within that time, he/she may submit to The Committee a detailed request for an extension for the purpose of completing the research. Generally, extensions are not given for more than one year.

Effective
March 2015

9.4.2 The student must submit an application for the appointment of a Supervisor and determining the research topic no later than the end of the first month of the second semester of his/her studies. The student must submit the Research Proposal (section 5.3) no later than the end of his/her fourth semester of studies.

9.4.3 The student must complete at least three-quarters of the professional courses set for him/her during the first three years of study and must achieve a grade-point average of at least 85 in these courses. If the student does not meet these requirements, his/her studies in the Direct Track are suspended.

9.4.4 A student whose studies have been suspended or has decided to leave the Direct Track may request that the courses he/she has completed in the Direct Track be recognized for a Master's degree by the department in which he/she has studied and its departmental Graduate Studies Committee. The student may then attain a Master's degree by completing the remaining requirements for that degree.

10. Submission of a Doctoral Thesis Composed of Journal Articles

10.1 General information

A Doctoral Thesis may be submitted, which is composed of journal articles that present the results of the research conducted by the student. It is important to emphasize that, especially in such cases where articles are submitted in lieu of the standard dissertation, the student's research must be independent, original and must present a unique contribution to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in the field, if it is to be accepted as a Ph.D. thesis.

10.1.1 At least three articles, which have been accepted for publication by prestigious, refereed journals in the field, must be submitted. The articles must be written by the student. The student must be the primary author of the articles or it must be explicitly stated in the article that the scientific contribution of all the contributors (students) are of equal importance. This having been said, it must be noted that the same article may not be submitted in two Ph.D. theses.

10.1.2 Only articles related to the approved Research Proposal will be accepted for consideration as part of the doctoral thesis.

10.2 How to Submit the Request

The request to submit journal articles as a doctoral thesis must include letters from the Candidate and the Supervisor, as well as copies of the articles:

10.2.1 The student's letter must provide the following details:

- a. A list of the articles, including where they were published or where they have been accepted for publication. (The student must provide evidence of the acceptance of the articles awaiting publication from the publisher of the journal).
- b. A detailed description of the order of the articles in the research process: how they create a continuous and logical structure and address the research topic.

Effective
December 2004

c. A detailed description of additional chapters dealing with those results that are not included in the articles, but may be included in the research thesis.

10.2.2 The Supervisor's letter must address the articles and the student's part in each of them, according to the following guidelines:

- a. What was the student's contribution to the article? What was the student's contribution in comparison to that of the other authors?
- b. The quality of the journal(s) in which the articles appeared or will appear.
- c. A statement that, despite the fact that the dissertation is not being presented in the traditional format, the basic rule that the research must be independent and original and that it constitutes a unique contribution to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in the field, has been respected.

10.2.3 The Supervisor must also confirm in a separate statement that the co-authors of the articles have given permission for these articles to be included in this Doctoral thesis. If such permission is missing, The Committee will decide whether or not an article may be included in the collection of articles in lieu of a thesis.

10.3 The decision of The Committee

The Committee weighs the student's and the Supervisor's requests and renders a decision.

10.4 The submission process

How to submit the Ph.D. Thesis:

With the conclusion of the studies and the research, the student will submit the collection of articles to The Committee in the following format:

10.4.1 An introduction that addresses the following topics:

- a. An up-to-date review of the general research field;
- b. An overview of the articles and how they fit into the general research field;
- c. A description of the order of appearance of the articles; the connection between them; how they create a logical and continuous structure;
- d. The research methodology and the experimental system, with descriptions of research methods not mentioned in the articles or, where necessary, a detailed description of the methods which are only briefly discussed in the articles. Special emphasis should be placed on methods developed during the course of the research. When the research is experimental work, an in-depth review of the experimental system should be provided.

10.4.2 The articles

This chapter should include the articles and the material in the process of publication, organized according to the progression of the research process.

10.4.3 Discussion and summary:

- a. An expanded discussion of the research results and their significance.
- b. The principle results presented in the articles.
- c. Special attention should be paid to innovations and unique contributions to the field.

10.4.4 A bibliography used in the introduction and summary, as well as other sources not referenced in the articles.

10.5 Language of the thesis

The language of a doctoral thesis composed of articles should be Hebrew or English. All other languages must receive special permission from The Committee.

10.6 Judging the Ph.D. Thesis

The judging process for a doctoral thesis composed of articles is the same as for a standard thesis. However, because the work is being submitted in a special format, a letter to that effect must be attached to the Judges' copies. Additionally, a detailed letter from the Supervisor, explaining both the articles and the student's contribution to them, should be attached to the thesis sent to the Judges.