

(Translation)

-Official Emblem-  
**Chiang Mai University Announcement  
on Graduate Education Standards  
B.E. 2568 (2025)**

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It is considered necessary to issue a formal notification regarding graduate education standards to guarantee that Chiang Mai University's academic programs comply with the standards and quality mandated by the Ministerial Regulations on Higher Education Standards, B.E. 2565 (2022).

This notice is released under the authority of Sections 11.1 and 25 of the Chiang Mai University Regulations on Graduate Studies, B.E. 2568 (2025), as detailed below:

**Section 1:** This announcement shall be referred to as the "Chiang Mai University Announcement on Graduate Education Standards, B.E. 2568 (2025)."

**Section 2:** This announcement shall become effective on the day subsequent to their official introduction.

It shall pertain to all graduate programs, whether newly instituted, or amended, in accordance with the Announcement of the Commission on Higher Education Standards on Graduate Program Standards, B.E. 2565 (2022), commencing from the academic year B.E. 2568 (2025). Graduate programs that are neither newly instituted nor amended in accordance with the aforementioned announcement shall remain subject to the prior announcements.

**Section 3:** In relation to this announcement,

"**University**" denotes Chiang Mai University.

"**University Council**" denotes the Council of Chiang Mai University.

"**Division**" denotes a faculty, college, or academic division called by other names that provide graduate education under Chiang Mai University.

"**Higher Education Institution**" denotes any other higher education institution accredited by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation or the University on a case-by-case basis.

"**Curriculum**" denotes a graduate program provided by the University.

"**Instructor**" denotes an individual employed by the University in the academic ranks of Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, or any equivalent position as designated by the University Council, or a faculty member from an external organization

involved in a joint academic collaboration, tasked with advancing the University's higher education mission and possessing expertise in higher education qualification standards.

**"Full-time Researcher"** denotes a university academic staff member whose principal duties involve conducting academic research, holding substantial knowledge, competence, or considerable experience in a certain field of study within the program, and engaging in full-time employment.

**"External Organization"** denotes a domestic or international higher education institution accredited by the pertinent national education authority, a government agency at the departmental level or its equivalent, a state enterprise, a public organization, or a private company listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

For private companies not listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the University Council shall exercise discretion in assessing their potential and preparedness for collaboration in graduate production, while ensuring adherence to higher education standards.

**"Joint Academic Collaboration"** denotes a formal accord between the University and an external entity for the creation and administration of an academic program, contingent upon the approval of the University Council and the pertinent external organization.

**"Program Instructor"** denotes a full-time instructor whose qualifications align with or pertain to the program's discipline, as sanctioned by the University Council, tasked with teaching and conducting research within the program. A program instructor may concurrently affiliate with multiple programs.

**"Qualification Related to the Program's Discipline"** denotes a qualification mandated by the established criteria of the academic discipline. In the absence of such standards or specific qualification requirements, it pertains to a qualification pertinent to the academic or professional dimensions of the program, or an alternative qualification accompanied by verifiable, directly applicable experience that enriches the program's educational objectives as outlined in its curriculum. The University Council retains the authority to ascertain relevant qualifications.

**"Academic Program Administrator"** denotes a program instructor tasked with the administration, curriculum development, and quality assurance of the program, encompassing planning, monitoring, evaluation, and ongoing enhancement. The academic program administrator must maintain affiliation with the program during its academic operation.

Program Instructor is prohibited from concurrently serving as the academic program administrator for multiple programs, with the exception of multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary programs, where they may oversee one additional program. In these instances, the total number of the academic program administrators in concurrent roles shall not surpass two individuals.

Identical academic program administrator may be selected for master's degree and doctoral degree programs within the same discipline.

In instances of joint academic collaboration with external organization, a minimum of two program instructors from the designated program must act as academic program administrators.

Should a discipline encounter significant challenges in appointing the requisite number of academic program administrators, it must provide justification and details regarding the qualifications of the proposed academic program administrators for the University's approval prior to seeking endorsement from the Commission on Higher Education Standards on an individual basis.

**"Adjunct Faculty Member"** denotes an instructor who is not a full-time instructor.

**"External Expert"** denotes a somebody external to the University who holds the requisite academic credentials and scholarly accomplishments pertinent to each level.

In the absence of such qualifications and academic accomplishments, the individual must possess acknowledged expertise and considerable experience pertinent to the thesis or independent study topic, contingent upon the University Council's permission.

**"Multi-Disciplinary"** denotes a program that amalgamates knowledge from many disciplines, with each course capable of operating autonomously.

**"Inter-Disciplinary"** denotes a program that cohesively amalgamates various disciplines to create a novel field of study or academic specialization.

**"Dual Degree"** denotes a program framework enabling students to obtain two degrees from the University or in partnership with another higher education institution.

**"Foreign Language"** denotes any language apart from Thai.

**"Study Duration"** denotes the comprehensive timeframe of study commencing from the initial semester of enrollment, which includes coursework, research, academic publication, thesis or independent study completion, and fulfillment of all program criteria and graduation requirements, ultimately leading to the nomination for a degree, graduate diploma, or higher graduate diploma. This duration excludes semesters during which students are granted academic leave.

#### **Section 4: Philosophical Foundations and Objectives of the Curriculum**

The curriculum's philosophy and objectives are designed to conform to the National Higher Education Development Plan, the University's Education Development Plan, and the academic and professional standards pertinent to the subject. It must fulfill a minimum of four essential learning outcome standards:

4.1 Knowledge denotes the aggregation of learning, study, and experience acquired through the curriculum. It must be both essential and adequate for practical application, professional progression, livelihood, social coexistence, and sustainable growth in the digital age.

4.2 Skills denotes the competencies attained through education and practical experience, resulting in proficiency, dexterity, and mastery. These skills ought to facilitate

professional and academic advancement, personal growth, and societal development in the digital age.

All curricula must align with the 21st-Century Learning Skills framework and the World Economic Forum's Top 10 Skills.

4.3 Ethics denotes to human behaviors and acts that embody moral integrity, ethical principles, and professional rules of conduct, serving the interests of both society and the individual in public and private contexts.

Every curriculum must delineate ethics pertinent to its discipline and academic tier, alongside specific professional ethics prescribed by professional bodies, academic institutions, or occupational ethical standards.

4.4 Personal attributes denote personality traits, values, and characteristics that embody the identity of the discipline, profession, and university. These attributes are developed through academic learning and experiential training within the curriculum, ensuring alignment with higher education qualification standards.

Each curriculum must delineate overarching personal attributes that correspond with the identity of both the curriculum and the University. Professional programs should additionally articulate professional attributes in accordance with industry standards, incorporating general attributes as essential characteristics to align with the curriculum's objectives.

## **Section 5: Educational System**

5.1 Chiang Mai University utilizes the subsequent educational systems:

### **5.1.1 Semester System**

The semester system is a system that divides education in 1 academic year into 2 regular semesters with a duration of not less than 15 weeks per semester and may have a summer semester which is an unenforceable semester of about 6 weeks with the same number of study hours for each course as the regular semester.

In case any subject area consists of courses that need to be offered in the summer for field training, cooperative education or projects, administration and management of courses during this period are not considered part of the summer term; however, they are treated as if they are an integral component of the regular academic term.

### **5.1.2 Year-Round System**

This system comprises a minimum of 36 weeks. The total instructional time, contact hours, and number of credits must adhere to the established criteria of the semester system and the period of commencement, duration of study, and conclusion of the academic year shall follow the University regulation.

### **5.1.3 Modular System**

This system breaks down educational content based on learning modules. The total instructional time, contact hours, and number of credits must adhere to the established criteria of the semester system.

5.2 The University implements a credit-based system. The number of credits indicates the extent of learning necessary for each course. Credit distribution shall conform to the criteria of the semester system, as outlined below:

5.2.1 Courses that involve lecture or problem-solving sessions for no less than 15 hours per regular academic shall carry a value of 1 credit.

5.2.2 Courses that involve laboratory or practical work for no less than 30 hours per regular academic shall carry a value of 1 credit.

5.2.3 Courses that involve internship or fieldwork for no less than 45 hours per regular academic shall carry a value of 1 credit.

5.2.4 Projects or assigned learning activities that require no less than 45 hours per regular academic shall carry a value of 1 credit.

5.2.5 Thesis or independent study involving no less than 45 hours of study carry a value of 1 credit.

5.2.6 For other learning activities not included in the aforementioned categories, but contributing to learning outcomes in a regular semester, shall carry a value of 1 credit in accordance with the University Council stipulation.

5.3 The University may establish prerequisites or registration requirements for specific courses to facilitate successful learning.

## **Section 6: Curriculum Structure, Aggregate Credit Obligations, Program Categories, and Duration of Study**

### **6.1 Curriculum Structure and Aggregate Credit Obligations**

#### **6.1.1 Graduate Diploma Programs**

This program is intended for individuals with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, emphasizing the development of academicians and professionals with specific field expertise in order that they are able to exercise their proficiency effectively. The programs must conform to the National Higher Education Development Plan, higher education philosophy, university philosophy, academic and professional standards. A minimum of 24 credits is necessary for graduation.

#### **6.1.2 Master's Degree Programs**

This program is intended for individuals with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, emphasizing the development of academicians and professionals who have advanced knowledge and academic or professional competencies through research. Students are expected to autonomously seek new knowledge, innovatively contribute to academic advancement, and synthesize pertinent fields. The programs must conform to the National Higher Education Development Plan, higher education philosophy, university philosophy, international academic and professional standards. Ethical and academic integrity is an essential prerequisite. A minimum of 36 credits is necessary for graduation.

The master's degree programs are categorized into 3 plans:

Plan 1: Academic Plan. This plan emphasizes research, necessitating a thesis with a minimum of 36 credits.

Plan 2: Academic Plan. This plan emphasizes research and coursework, necessitating a thesis with a minimum of 12 credits.

Plan 3: Professional-oriented Plan. This plan emphasizes coursework and applied independent study, necessitating independent study of 3 to 6 credits.

#### 6.1.3 Higher Graduate Diploma Programs

A Higher Graduate Diploma program is intended for individuals who possess a Graduate Diploma, a six-year Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, or an equivalent qualification, emphasizing the development of academicians and professionals with specific field expertise in order that they are able to exercise their proficiency effectively. The programs must conform to the National Higher Education Development Plan, higher education philosophy, university philosophy, and academic and professional standards. A minimum of 24 credits is necessary for graduation.

#### 6.1.4 Doctoral Degree Programs

This program is intended for individuals who possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent with exemplary academic achievement, a master's degree, or a comparable qualification, emphasizing the development of academicians and professionals who have advanced knowledge and academic or professional competencies through research. Students are expected to autonomously seek new knowledge, innovatively contribute to academic advancement, and synthesize pertinent fields. The programs must conform to the National Higher Education Development Plan, higher education philosophy, university philosophy, international academic and professional standards. Ethical and academic integrity is an essential prerequisite.

Doctoral degree programs are categorized into two plans.

Plan 1: A research-oriented plan necessitating a thesis that produces original information. Supplementary coursework or academic endeavors may be mandated, but not eligible for credit, and students must fulfill the specified learning outcomes.

Plan 1.1: A dissertation comprising a minimum of 48 credits is mandated for holders of a master's degree or its equivalent.

Plan 1.2: A dissertation comprising a minimum of 72 credits is mandated for those possessing a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, demonstrating exceptional academic achievement.

Plan 2: A research-intensive program necessitating a high-caliber dissertation that contributes to academic or professional knowledge, accompanied by the following curriculum.

Plan 2.1: Master's degree holders or their equivalent must complete a dissertation worth a minimum of 36 credits and at least 12 credits of graduate-level courses.

Plan 2.2: Bachelor's degree holders or their equivalent must complete a dissertation worth a minimum of 48 credits and at least 24 credits of graduate-level courses.

6.2 Program Categories are classified into three types.

6.2.1 Regular Program denotes a curriculum where Thai serves as the principal medium of instruction. Certain courses may utilize a foreign language as the medium of instruction when deemed suitable or essential.

6.2.2 International Program denotes a curriculum where courses are organized with a foreign language as the medium of instruction.

6.2.3 Bilingual Program denotes a curriculum in which English or another foreign language serves as the primary medium of instruction in conjunction with Thai.

6.3 Duration of Study

The duration of study adheres to the academic plan of each program.

6.3.1 Graduate Diploma and Higher Graduate Diploma Programs shall typically be completed within one academic year or its equivalent, or in accordance with the curriculum's defined study plan. The entire study period must not surpass twice the duration stated in the program. This excludes semesters formally sanctioned for a leave of absence.

6.3.2 Master's Degree Programs are generally finished within two academic years or their equivalent. The maximum duration shall not surpass five academic years, excluding sanctioned leaves of absence.

6.3.3 Doctoral Degree Programs

(1) For individuals with a bachelor's degree commencing a doctoral program, the typical duration is five academic years or its equivalent, as outlined in the study plan, not to exceed eight academic years, excluding sanctioned leaves of absence.

(2) For holders of a master's degree entering a doctoral program, the normal duration is three academic years or its equivalent, as specified in the study plan, not to exceed six academic years, excluding sanctioned leaves of absence.

6.4 In unavoidable situations when students cannot complete their studies within the designated timeframe, they may submit a request with grounds for an extension of the study term. Such demands must adhere to the University's formal proclamations.

6.5 Doctoral candidates who cannot fulfill their doctoral degree requirements within the designated timeframe may petition to graduate with a master's degree in the same or a similar discipline, contingent upon the graduation criteria provided in the pertinent curriculum.

6.6 Change of Academic Level

All changes in academic standing must adhere to university regulations.

6.7 Specialized Program Frameworks

Specialized programs, including dual-degree programs, inter-institutional collaborations, or other unique structures, shall be formulated as projects, sanctioned by the University Council, and executed in compliance with university regulations.

## **Section 7: Designation of Diplomas and Degrees Titles**

7.1 Graduate Diploma: The formal designation shall be "Graduate Diploma," abbreviated as "Grad. Dip." followed by the academic discipline.

7.2 Master's Degree: The designation and abbreviation of the degree shall adhere to the criteria established by Chiang Mai University Regulation pertaining to degrees and abbreviations for each academic discipline.

7.3 Higher Graduate Diploma: The formal designation shall be "Higher Graduate Diploma," abbreviated as "Higher Grad Dip." followed by the academic discipline.

7.4 Doctoral Degree: The designation and abbreviation of the degree shall adhere to the criteria established by Chiang Mai University Regulation pertaining to degrees and abbreviations for each academic discipline.

## **Section 8: Qualifications, Requirements, and Number of Instructors**

### **8.1 Graduate Diploma Programs**

#### **8.1.1 Program Instructors**

(1) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### **8.1.2 Academic Program Administrators (At least three members)**

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### **8.1.3 General Academic Advisors**

(1) Must be instructors.

(2) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent qualification in a pertinent discipline.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.



(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of general academic advisors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

#### 8.1.4 Course Instructors

(1) Must be instructors or adjunct faculty members.

(2) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent qualification in the pertinent discipline or a related field.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of course instructors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

In case of course instructors who are adjunct faculty members lacking the requisite academic qualifications, the instructors must possess recognized expertise and significant experience pertinent to the course. Such appointments require approval from the University Council. If adjunct faculty members are essential for a course, at least one instructor must oversee the teaching and student development during the course.

### 8.2 Master's Degree Programs

#### 8.2.1 Program Instructors

(1) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### 8.2.2 Academic Program Administrators (At least three members)

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

8.2.3 Thesis or Independent Study Advisors are classified into two categories:

8.2.3.1 Primary Thesis or Independent Study Advisors must be program instructors.

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

8.2.3.2 Co-Advisors for Theses or Independent Studies (If applicable)

8.2.3.2.1 Regarding Program Instructors:

Must meet the same academic qualifications and publication requirements as primary thesis or independent study advisors.

8.2.3.2.2 Regarding External Experts:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have published a minimum of five scholarly articles in reputable, indexed publications pertinent to the thesis or independent study subject.

8.2.3.2.3 Regarding External Experts who lack the academic qualifications and publication criteria specified in Section 8.2.3.2.2

(1) Must possess extensive knowledge, expertise, recognition, and experience that are directly related or relevant to the subject of the thesis or independent study.

(2) Must be approved by the University Council.

8.2.4 Committee for Thesis or Independent Study Examination

The Thesis or Independent Study Examination Committee shall be composed of program instructors and external experts. Furthermore, instructors or full-time researchers may also serve as examiners. The committee must consist of at least three members. The Chairperson of the Examination Committee shall not be the primary or co-advisor of the thesis or independent study. The qualifications and academic credentials of the examination committee members shall be as follows:

8.2.4.1 Regarding Program Instructors, Instructor, or Full-time Researchers:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### 8.2.4.2 Regarding External Experts:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have a minimum of five scholarly publications in journals indexed reputable databases that are directly related or relevant to the subject of the thesis or independent study.

8.2.4.3 Regarding External Experts who lack the academic qualifications and publication criteria specified in Section 8.2.4.2:

(1) Must possess extensive knowledge, expertise, recognition, and experience that are directly related or relevant to the subject of the thesis or independent study.

(2) Must be approved by the University Council.

#### 8.2.5 General Academic Advisors:

(1) Must be instructors.

(2) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent qualification in a pertinent discipline.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of general academic advisors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

#### 8.2.6 Course Instructors:

(1) Must be instructors or adjunct faculty members.

(2) Must hold a minimum of a master's degree or an equivalent qualification in the pertinent discipline or a related field.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of course instructors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

In case of course instructors who are adjunct faculty members lacking the requisite academic qualifications, the instructors must possess recognized expertise and significant experience pertinent to the course. Such appointments require approval from the

University Council. If adjunct faculty members are essential for a course, at least one instructor must oversee the teaching and student development during the course.

### 8.3 Higher Graduate Diploma Programs

#### 8.3.1 Program Instructors

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### 8.3.2 Academic Program Administrator (Minimum of Three Members)

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published a minimum of three academic works in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements. At least one publication must be a research study, and all must meet the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one academic work within two years, or two academic works within four years, or three academic works within five years after graduation.

#### 8.3.3 General Academic Advisors

(1) Must be instructors.

(2) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent in the pertinent or a related discipline.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of general academic advisors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

#### 8.3.4 Course Instructors

(1) Must be instructors or adjunct faculty members.

(2) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent in the pertinent, a related discipline, or the subject area of the course being instructed.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of course instructors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

In case of course instructors who are adjunct faculty members lacking the requisite academic qualifications, the instructors must possess recognized expertise and significant experience pertinent to the course. Such appointments require approval from the University Council. If adjunct faculty members are essential for a course, at least one instructor must oversee the teaching and student development during the course.

#### 8.4 Doctoral Degree Programs

##### 8.4.1 Program Instructors

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published research papers, with a minimum of three papers in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one research paper within two years, two research papers within four years, or three research papers within five years after graduation.

##### 8.4.2 Academic Program Administrators (At least three members)

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published research papers, with a minimum of three papers in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one research paper within two years, two research papers within four years, or three research papers within five years after graduation.

##### 8.4.3 Thesis Advisors are classified into two categories:

###### 8.4.3.1 Primary Thesis Advisors must be program instructors.

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published research papers, with a minimum of three papers in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one research paper within two years, two research papers within four years, or three research papers within five years after graduation.

8.4.3.2 The co-thesis advisor must be either a program instructor or an external expert, with a minimum of two individuals occupying this position.

8.4.3.2.1 Regarding Program Instructors:

Must meet the same academic qualifications and publication requirements as primary thesis advisors.

8.4.3.2.2 Regarding External Experts:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have published a minimum of ten scholarly articles in reputable, indexed publications pertinent to the thesis or independent study subject.

8.4.3.2.3 Regarding External Experts who lack the academic qualifications and publication criteria specified in Section 8.4.3.2.2

(1) Must possess extensive knowledge, expertise, recognition, and significant experience that are directly related or relevant to the subject of the thesis.

(2) Must be approved by the University Council.

#### 8.4.4 Thesis Examination Committee

The thesis examination committee must comprise program instructor and may incorporate instructors or full-time researchers. A minimum of two external experts is required, resulting in a total of at least five committee members. The committee chair must be an external expert. All committee members must fulfill the specified qualifications as follow.

8.4.4.1 Regarding Program Instructors, Instructor, or Full-time Researchers:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree with the academic rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent.

(2) Must have published research papers, with a minimum of three papers in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(3) Newly appointed faculty members possessing a doctoral degree are required to publish a minimum of one research paper within two years, two research papers within four years, or three research papers within five years after graduation.

8.4.4.2 Regarding External Experts:

(1) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential.

(2) Must have published a minimum of ten scholarly articles in reputable, indexed publications pertinent to the thesis or independent study subject.

8.4.4.3 Regarding External Experts who lack the academic qualifications and publication criteria specified in Section 8.4.4.2:

(1) Must possess extensive knowledge, expertise, recognition, and significant experience that are directly related or relevant to the subject of the thesis.

(2) Must be approved by the University Council.

#### 8.4.5 General Academic Advisors and Examiners for Qualifying Examinations

(1) Must be instructors.

(2) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent in the pertinent or a related discipline.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of general academic advisors or qualifying examination examiners despite not having published academic work after graduation.

#### 8.4.6 Course Instructors

(1) Must be instructors or adjunct faculty members.

(2) Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent credential, or at minimum a master's degree or an equivalent qualification with the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent in the pertinent, a related discipline, or the subject area of the course being instructed.

(3) Must have teaching experience.

(4) Must have published a minimum of one academic work in the last five years, excluding those produced as part of degree requirements, in accordance with the criteria for academic appointment.

(5) Newly appointed faculty members holding a doctoral degree may assume the role of course instructors despite not having published academic work after graduation.

In case of course instructors who are adjunct faculty members lacking the requisite academic qualifications, the instructors must possess recognized expertise and significant experience pertinent to the course. Such appointments require approval from the University Council. If adjunct faculty members are essential for a course, at least one instructor must oversee the teaching and student development during the course.

## **Section 9: Duties and Obligations**

9.1 Course Instructors are accountable for imparting knowledge, facilitating teaching and learning activities, measuring student performance, and evaluating learning outcomes. They may be instructors or adjunct faculty members.

9.2 General Academic Advisors, Thesis/Independent Study Advisors and Advisory Committees

### 9.2.1 General Academic Advisors

A general academic advisor must be appointed for students pursuing a graduate diploma, master's degree, or higher graduate diploma to offer guidance on academic planning in alignment with the curriculum and regulations, as well as to provide essential consultation on other matters.

A general academic advisor must be selected for doctorate candidates, either as a thesis advisory committee or as specified by the relevant academic unit.

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the appropriate academic unit shall make the appointment of general academic advisors.

### 9.2.2 Primary Thesis/Independent Study Advisors and Advisory Committees

#### 9.2.2.1 Students Pursuing a Master's Degree

Master's students are required to have a principal thesis or independent study advisor who is accountable for directing and supervising their research endeavors.

The advising structure may consist of a committee including a minimum of two members, with one appointed as the principal thesis or independent study advisor.

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the corresponding academic institution shall nominate thesis or independent study advisors and advisory committees.

#### 9.2.2.2 Students Pursuing Doctoral Degrees

Doctoral candidates must have a thesis advisory committee tasked with delivering academic counsel, structuring their educational pathway, and supervising their dissertation endeavors. The committee must consist of a minimum of three members, including one designated as the primary thesis advisor.

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the corresponding academic institution shall appoint the thesis advisory committee.

### 9.3 Academic Program Administrators

Academic Program Administrators are required to fulfill roles as thesis advisors, thesis examiners, and/or course instructors within their designated programs.



## 9.4 Responsibilities of Thesis and Independent Study Advisors

### 9.4.1 Thesis Advisors

Program instructor acting as a primary thesis advisor must comply with the subsequent workload restrictions.

(1) Program instructor possessing a doctoral degree or its equivalent, together with academic publications that satisfy the requisite standards, may supervise a maximum of five students per semester, excluding those on an authorized leave of absence.

(2) Program instructor possessing a doctoral degree or its equivalent, who are at least at the rank of Assistant Professor, or those with a master's degree or its equivalent at the rank of Associate Professor or its equivalent and who meet the requisite academic publication criteria, may supervise a maximum of ten students per semester, excluding those on an approved leave of absence.

(3) Program instructor possessing a doctoral degree or its equivalent, who hold the rank of Professor or its equivalent, may supervise additional students beyond the designated limit with the University Council's approval. Nonetheless, the total number of students must not surpass fifteen per semester, excluding those on an approved leave of absence.

Approval from the Commission on Higher Education Standards required on a case-by-case basis if supervision exceeds fifteen students.

9.4.2 Each Program instructor may act as an independent study advisor for a maximum of fifteen master's students every semester, except those on an approved leave of absence.

### 9.4.3 Integrated Workload Considerations

When a faculty member functions as both the primary thesis advisor and the primary independent study advisor, the supervision ratio will be established such that one thesis student equates to three independent study students. Nonetheless, the aggregate number of students supervised in any semester must not surpass fifteen. Students on a leave of absence for that semester will not be included in this total.

## **Section 10: Curriculum Quality Assurance**

All programs are required to have a curriculum quality assurance system that complies with the requirements established by the University Council.

## **Section 11: Curriculum Development**

All programs must guarantee that their curricula are current by performing evaluations and submitting annual reports on curriculum implementation. The results of these evaluations must inform periodic curriculum enhancements, at least in alignment with the established curriculum cycle or every five years.

**Section 12:** Interpretation and Exceptions

In instances where challenges occur in executing this announcement, where adherence is impractical, or where modifications are required, the President of the university shall possess the ability to make a conclusive decision.

Issued on                      ,                      , B.E. 2568

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