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○ Kobe University Degree Regulations

(Established on April 1, 2004)

Revised on	December 28, 2004	December 20, 2005
	March 20, 2007	March 18, 2008
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	September 29, 2015	March 22, 2016
	March 21, 2017	March 30, 2018
	March 30, 2021	March 29, 2022
	March 28, 2023	June 25, 2024

(Intent)

Article 1 Degrees to be conferred by Kobe University (hereinafter referred to as “University”) shall be governed by these Regulations, in addition to what is provided for in the Kobe University General Rules for Students (established on April 1, 2004; hereinafter referred to as “General Rules for Students”), pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Degree Regulations (Order of Ministry of Education No. 9 of 1953).

(Degree)

Article 2 The types of degrees to be conferred by the University shall be bachelor’s, master’s, doctor’s, and professional degrees.

(Requirements for Conferment of Bachelor’s Degree)

Article 3 A bachelor’s degree shall be conferred on a graduate of the University.

(Requirements for Conferment of Master’s Degree)

Article 4 A master’s degree shall be conferred on a person who falls under any of the following items:

- (1) A person who has completed a master’s program at a graduate school of the University (hereinafter referred to as “Graduate School”);
- (2) A person who has completed a first-stage doctoral program at a Graduate School.

(Requirements for Conferment of Doctor’s Degree)

Article 5 A doctor’s degree shall be conferred on a person who has completed a doctoral program at a Graduate School.

2 A doctor’s degree shall also be conferred on a person who meets the following requirements:

- (1) Being verified by a Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent or superior to a person who falls under the preceding paragraph (this verification is hereinafter referred to as “Verification of Academic Ability”);
- (2) Passing the review of a doctoral thesis and an examination conducted by a Graduate School.

(Requirements for Conferment of Professional Degree)

Article 6 A professional degree shall be conferred on a person who falls under any of the following items:

- (1) A person who has completed a course of study at the professional degree program, which is a Graduate School (excluding the following course);
- (2) A person who has completed a course of study at a law school that is a Graduate School.

(Procedures for Submission of Theses, etc. by Graduate School Students)

Article 7 A Graduate School student's degree thesis or research achievements on a specific subject provided for in Article 67 of the General Rules for Students (hereinafter referred to as "Research Achievements") shall be submitted to the dean of his or her Graduate School.

- 2 A doctoral thesis must be submitted together with an application for degree thesis review, a thesis inventory, and a resume.
- 3 The number of degree theses to be submitted shall be one; provided, however, that this shall not preclude the submission of additional theses as a reference.
- 4 If necessary for review, the number of theses to be submitted may be increased, or the submission of translations of the relevant thesis, models, samples, or other materials may be requested.
- 5 In addition to what is provided for in this Article, matters concerning the submission of degree theses and Research Achievements shall be separately determined by each Graduate School.

(Review of Graduate School Students' Theses, etc.)

Article 8 Upon the submission of a doctoral thesis under the preceding Article, the dean of the relevant Graduate School shall select two or more review committee members from among the professors of said Graduate School at a Faculty Council meeting to have them review the doctoral thesis.

- 2 Upon the submission of a master's thesis or Research Achievements under the preceding Article, the dean of the relevant Graduate School shall select two or more review committee members from among the professors and associate professors of said Graduate School at a Faculty Council meeting to have them review the master's thesis or Research Achievements; provided, however, that at least one of the review committee members must be a professor.
- 3 If the Faculty Council deems it necessary for review, faculty members, other than professors, of the relevant Graduate School or faculty members, etc. of another Graduate School or research institute, etc. may be added to the review committee members referred to in paragraph 1 for the review of a doctoral thesis; or faculty members, other than professors and associate professors, of the relevant Graduate School or faculty members, etc. of another Graduate School or research institute, etc. may be added to the review committee members referred to in the preceding paragraph for the review of a master's thesis or Research Achievements.
- 4 If the Faculty Council deems it necessary for review, it may also entrust research to persons other than professors of the relevant Graduate School (or, if it deems it necessary for the review of a master's thesis or Research Achievements, persons other than professors and associate professors of the relevant Graduate School).

(Final Examinations for Graduate School Students)

Article 9 The review committee members and any persons to whom research is entrusted pursuant to paragraph 4 of the preceding Article shall conduct the final examination mainly on the relevant degree thesis or Research Achievements and related subjects in writing or orally.

- 2 Notification of the date of the final examination shall be provided publicly in each case.

(Procedures for Submission of Degree Theses by Persons Who Have Not Completed a Doctoral Program)

Article 10 A degree thesis of a degree applicant under Article 5, paragraph 2 shall be submitted to the president through the dean of the Graduate School relevant to the application, together with a thesis review fee of 57,000 yen, as well as a degree application form, a thesis inventory, and a resume.

2 Article 7, paragraphs 3 and 4 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the submission of a thesis under this Article.

(Review of Theses of and Examinations for Persons Who Have Not Completed a Doctoral Program)

Article 11 Upon the submission of a degree thesis under paragraph 1 of the preceding Article, the president shall refer the review of the thesis to the dean of the relevant Graduate School, and the dean shall conduct said review in accordance with Article 8 and an examination in accordance with Article 9.

2 The review of a degree thesis referred to in the preceding paragraph shall end within one year from the date of receipt of the thesis; provided, however, that if there is any special reason, the dean of the relevant Graduate School may extend the review time limit after deliberation by the Faculty Council.

(Verification of Academic Ability of Persons Who Have Not Completed a Doctoral Program)

Article 12 When the review of a thesis is referred by the president to the dean of the relevant Graduate School pursuant to paragraph 1 of the preceding Article, the dean shall have the Faculty Council perform the Verification of Academic Ability of the degree applicant.

2 The Verification of Academic Ability shall be performed on the basis of the results of a written or oral examination; provided, however, that if it is possible to perform the Verification of Academic Ability on the basis of academic background, achievements, etc. of the degree applicant, the examination may be omitted.

3 When it is necessary for the Verification of Academic Ability, the degree applicant may be requested to submit his or her books, theses, and others.

4 Article 15, paragraph 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis in the case of a resolution made by the Faculty Council on the Verification of Academic Ability.

(Procedures for Submission of Degree Theses by, Review of Theses of and Examinations for, and Verification of Academic Ability of Persons Who Have Withdrawn)

Article 13 The preceding three Articles shall apply when a person who has been enrolled in a doctoral program at a Graduate School for the prescribed period, has acquired the prescribed credits, has received necessary guidance on the preparation of a doctoral thesis, etc., and then has withdrawn from the Graduate School intends to be awarded a degree without readmission.

2 If a person who falls under the preceding paragraph submits a degree thesis for review within five years after his or her withdrawal, the person shall be deemed to have academic ability equivalent or superior to a person who falls under Article 5, paragraph 1.

(Non-Return of Theses and Review Fees)

Article 14 Master's or doctoral theses submitted and review fees paid shall not be returned for any reason.

2 Matters concerning the return of Research Achievements submitted shall be separately determined by each Graduate School.

(Deliberation on Conferment of Master's and Doctor's Degrees)

Article 15 The dean of a Graduate School shall have the Faculty Council deliberate on whether or not to confer a degree on a person who is enrolled in the Graduate School on the basis of the report of his or her thesis review and final examination results, or on a person whose academic ability has been verified pursuant to Article 12 or a person who falls under Article 13, paragraph 2 on the basis of the report of his or her thesis review and examination results.

2 The Faculty Council shall conduct the deliberation referred to in the preceding paragraph at a meeting where two-thirds or more of all Faculty Council members are present, and a resolution to confer a degree shall be adopted by two-thirds or more of the votes of the members present at the meeting by means of secret ballot.

(Application for Conferment of Degree)

Article 16 The dean of a Graduate School shall make an application to the president concerning a person on whom a master's or doctor's degree, or a professional degree, should be conferred after deliberation by the Faculty Council.

2 The application referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be accompanied by documents stating the following matters:

- (1) Degree to be conferred (with the name of the major field);
- (2) Scheduled date of conferment of the degree;
- (3) In the case of a doctor, whether the conferment is pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 1 or 2;
- (4) In the case of a doctor, the gist of the thesis review and final examination or examination results;
- (5) In the case of a doctor, matters concerning the institution responsible for the thesis review and final examination or examination;
- (6) In the case of a doctor under Article 5, paragraph 2, matters concerning the results of and the institution responsible for the Verification of Academic Ability.

3 The dean of a Graduate School shall make an application to the president concerning any person on whom a master's or doctor's degree, or a professional degree, should not be conferred after deliberation by the Faculty Council.

(Conferment of Degree)

Article 17 The president shall confer a bachelor's degree on the person specified in Article 3 by issuing a diploma to said person.

2 The president shall decide whether to confer a master's or doctor's degree, or a professional degree, on the basis of the application provided for in the preceding Article, and confer said degree on the relevant person by issuing a diploma if the conferment is decided, or notify the relevant person of non-conferment of said degree if the non-conferment is decided.

3 When a doctor's degree is conferred pursuant to the preceding paragraph, it shall be registered in the degree register and reported to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(Publication of Gist of Review)

Article 18 Upon the conferment of a doctor's degree, the University shall publish the gist of the contents of the thesis relevant to said conferment and the gist of the review results of the thesis via the Internet within three months from said conferment.

(Publication of Degree Theses)

Article 19 A person who has been awarded a doctor's degree must publish the full text of the thesis relevant to the conferment of said doctor's degree within one year from the date of said conferment; provided, however, that this shall not apply if the thesis has already been published at the time of said conferment.

2 Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, a person who has been awarded a doctor's degree may publish, in lieu of the full text of the thesis relevant to the conferment of said doctor's degree, a summary of its contents if an unavoidable reason is found after deliberation by the relevant Faculty Council. In this case, the University shall provide the full text of the thesis for inspection upon request.

3 For publication under the preceding two paragraphs, a person who has been awarded a doctor's degree shall use the Kobe University Repository, in principle.

(Names of Major Fields, etc.)

Article 20 When a bachelor's degree is conferred, the name of the relevant major field set forth in Appended Table 1 shall be appended.

2 When a master's or doctor's degree is conferred, the name of the relevant major field set forth in Appended Table 2 shall be appended.

3 The names of professional degrees shall be set forth in Appended Table 3.

4 When a doctor's degree is conferred on a person who has received joint research guidance pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2 of the General Rules for Students, a supplementary note to the effect that the degree is conferred through joint guidance for preparing a doctor's thesis shall be appended.

(Names of Degrees)

Article 21 When a person who has been awarded a degree from the University uses the name of the degree, the letters "Kobe University" shall be appended.

(Revocation of Master's and Doctor's Degrees and Professional Degree)

Article 22 If it is found that a person who has been awarded a master's or doctor's degree or a professional degree has earned said degree by fraudulent means, the president shall revoke the degree, have the relevant diploma returned, and announce the revocation after deliberation by the relevant Faculty Council and the Academic Council.

2 If a person who has been awarded a master's or doctor's degree or a professional degree commits an act that dishonors the degree, the degree may be revoked in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3 Article 15, paragraph 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis when a Faculty Council makes a resolution under the preceding two paragraphs.

(Form)

Article 23 The forms of diplomas, degree registers, and others shall be as shown in Appended Forms.

(Auxiliary Provision)

Article 24 Necessary matters concerning the enforcement of these Regulations shall be determined by each faculty and Graduate School.

- 1 These Regulations shall come into effect on April 1, 2004.
- 2 The name of the major field appended to the degree conferred on a person who has graduated from a course at the Faculty of Maritime Sciences or a person who has completed a major in the Graduate School of Natural Sciences specified in paragraph 4 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Kobe University General Rules for Students (established on April 1, 2004) shall be Mercantile Marine Studies or Engineering, notwithstanding Appended Tables.

Supplementary Provisions between the original and the latest are omitted.

Supplementary Provisions (June 25, 2024)

These Regulations shall come into effect on July 1, 2024.

Appended Table 1 (Re: Art. 20, para. 1)

Names of major fields appended to bachelor's degrees

Name of Faculty, etc.	Name of Major Field
Faculty of Letters	Arts
Faculty of Global Human Sciences	Arts and Sciences or Education
Faculty of Law	Law
Faculty of Economics	Economics
School of Business Administration	Business Administration or Commercial Science
Faculty of Science	Science
Department of Medicine in School of Medicine	Medicine
Department of Health Sciences in School of Medicine	Science in Nursing, Health and Hygiene Science, or Health Sciences
Faculty of Engineering	Engineering
Faculty of Agriculture	Agriculture
Faculty of Ocean Science and Technology	Ocean Science and Technology or Mercantile Marine Studies

Appended Table 2 (Re. Art. 20, para. 2)

Names of major fields appended to master's or doctor's degrees

Name of Graduate School	Name of Major Field	
	Master	Doctor
Graduate School of Humanities	Arts	Arts or Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies	Arts and Sciences	Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of Human Development and Environment	Arts and Sciences, Education, or Science	Arts and Sciences, Education, or Science
Graduate School of Law	Law or Political Science	Law or Political Science
Graduate School of Economics	Economics	Economics
Graduate School of Business	Business Administration or	Business Administration or

Administration	Commercial Science	Commercial Science
Graduate School of Science	Science	Science or Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of Medicine	Biomedical Sciences or Medical Engineering	Medicine or Medical Engineering
Graduate School of Health Sciences	Health Sciences	Health Sciences
Graduate School of Engineering	Engineering	Engineering or Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of System Informatics	System Informatics or Engineering	System Informatics, Engineering, Arts and Sciences, or Computational Science
Graduate School of Agricultural Science	Agriculture	Agriculture or Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of Maritime Sciences	Maritime Sciences	Maritime Sciences, Engineering, or Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies	International Studies, Economics, Law, or Political Science	Arts and Sciences, Law, Political Science, or Economics
Graduate School of Science, Technology and Innovation	Science, Technology and Innovation	Science, Technology and Innovation

Appended Table 3 (Re: Art. 20, para. 3)

Names of professional degrees

Name of Graduate School	Name of Degree
Graduate School of Law	Juris Doctor (Professional)
Graduate School of Business Administration	Master of Business Administration (Professional)

Appended Forms 1 to 16 are omitted.