



Announcement Thesis Examination

Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Programs in Epidemiology (International Programs)
Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University

The Thesis Examination (TE) is the final and most important examination in the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Programs in Epidemiology (International Programs). The purpose of the Examination is to assess whether the master or doctoral degree candidate has completed research work that is of adequate quality and originality to be worthy of conferral of the degree. This assessment is based on both the student's written thesis manuscript, as well as the presentation of the thesis and the ability to answer and *defend* the rationale, method, results, and points of discussion of the research work. The Examination is open to the public.

Expectations: The defending student is expected to present the background and rationale of their research, the existing state of knowledge according to the literature and systematic identification of knowledge gaps, formulation of the research questions and the clear and coherent study objectives, the methodology of the study that was conducted to answer the research questions according to the study objectives, the findings of the study and discuss their limitations within the focus area of the study as well as present deeper thoughts on how the thesis research contributes to the overall discipline of epidemiology. The student is also expected to show proficiency in the ability to communicate and present their research to a wide variety of audience and to answer questions from the audience and the committee, and to acknowledge the limit of their own knowledge in the process. Expectations are set according to the student's level of study. The passing mark for PhD students is higher than that of MSc students.

1) Qualification

Students are qualified to defend when they have met all other requirements for their respective degrees, including the acceptance of the manuscripts based on their thesis research in peer-reviewed journals. The details of these requirements are as listed in the Graduate Student Handbook.

2) Procedure

2.1 The student's main thesis advisor assesses the student's written thesis and approves the student's request to defend, and share the request with the student's thesis committee members.

- 2.2 The thesis committee reaches a unanimous decision for the student to proceed with the thesis defense examination, and agrees on the external expert who will preside over the examination as well as the proposed dates of the defense.
- 2.3 The Epidemiology Unit requests an external expert to preside over the thesis defense examination and, upon acceptance of the external expert, determines the defense date and communicates the information to the student and thesis committee members. The Curriculum Chair is also informed of the examination. The thesis committee members, the Curriculum Chair, and the invited external expert then form the **thesis defense examination committee**.
- 2.4 The student prepares and submits hard copies of the **thesis manuscript** as per the requirement of the Program. The Epidemiology Unit forwards thesis manuscript to all thesis defense examination committee members and the external expert at least 1 month before the examination date.
- 2.5 The student prepares the presentation of their thesis.
- 2.6 The Epidemiology Unit makes a public announcement of the defense examination, to be attended by the thesis defense examination committee and fellow students.
- 2.7 The student presents their thesis findings at the defense examination
- 2.8 The thesis defense examination committee deliberates on the student's performance and grades the student accordingly

3) Examination committee

The **thesis defense examination committee** will include the members of the student's thesis committee, the Curriculum Chair, as well as one (1) external expert. The external expert will be the head of the committee.

4) Evaluation principle

After the student's thesis defense, the examination committee will discuss the student's research work and defense performance. Using the assessment rubric, the committee members will reach a consensus to either "**Pass**" or "**Fail**". The details of each result are as follows:

"Pass" - the student attains the grade of "*Excellent*", "*Good*", or "*Pass*" according to the rubric. The student is deemed to have produced thesis research work and defended the thesis to a satisfying level in accordance with the standards of the Program.

"Fail" - the student receives the grade of "*Fail*" according to the rubric. The student's written thesis or defense, or both, did not meet the requirements of the Program. The committee will give recommendation to the student on how to remedy the situation. The timeline to remedy the situation will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Announced on 31 May 2020

Virasakdi C

(Professor Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong)
Curriculum Chair, International Programs for Graduate Study in Epidemiology