Fu Jen Catholic University Department of Law Study Rules

Enacted and passed at the Joint Meeting of the College and Departmental Affairs on Mar. 14, 2012; approved at the Academic Affairs Meeting on Apr. 26, 2012. Amended and passed at consecutive joint and academic affairs meetings through May 1, 2025.

The Department of Law, School of Law, Fu Jen Catholic University (hereinafter referred to as "the Department"), in order to regulate matters concerning students' studies, has enacted these Rules in accordance with Article 40 of the Academic Regulations of Fu Jen Catholic University. The study rules for the Department's Division of Continuing Education shall be prescribed separately.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1

Chapter II Undergraduate Program

Article 2 (Total Credits Required for Graduation)
The minimum total credits required for graduation for students in this program, excluding the university-required homeroom teacher guidance time, shall include the credits specified in the following items, totaling at least 128 credits:

1. 32 credits of Whole Person Education Courses: including 10 credits of core courses, 12 credits of basic competence courses, and 10 credits of general education enrichment courses.
2. 61 credits of professional required courses of the Department.
3. 8 credits of professional required-elective courses of the Department.
4. 2 credits of required case study courses of the Department.
5. 25 credits of elective courses, which shall include at least 10 credits of professional elective courses of the Department.
6. The graduation credits must include at least one 2-credit English-taught course.

If the provisions of the preceding paragraph are amended after a student in this program has enrolled, the amended provisions shall not apply unless otherwise specified.

Article 3 (Information Technology Learning Competency Test)
Undergraduate students enrolled starting from the 2018 academic year must pass the information technology learning competency test, and implementation methods and standards shall follow university regulations.

Article 4 (Learning Passport Graduation Qualification)
Students in this program must meet the learning certification standards stipulated in the Implementation Measures for Student Learning Passports of the School prior to graduation in order to qualify for graduation.

Article 5 (Subjects and Conditions Restricting Advanced Course Registration)
The subjects and conditions restricting advanced course registration for students in this program are as follows:

1. Must have taken "General Principles of Civil Law" before taking "General Principles of the Law of Obligations (I)"; must have taken "General Principles of the Law of Obligations (I)" before taking "General Principles of the Law of Obligations (II)"; and must have taken "General Principles of the Law of Obligations (I) and (II)" before taking "Specific Types of Contracts under the Law of Obligations".
2. Must have taken "General Principles of Criminal Law (I)" before taking "General Principles of Criminal Law (II)"; must have taken "General Principles of Criminal Law (I) and (II)" before taking "Specific Crimes under Criminal Law (I)"; and must have taken "Specific Crimes under Criminal Law (I)" before taking "Specific Crimes under Criminal Law (II)".
3. Must have taken "Constitutional Law (I)" before taking "Constitutional Law (II)".
4. Must have taken "Administrative Law (I)" before taking "Administrative Law (II)".
5. Must have taken "Law of Property (I)" before taking "Law of Property (II)".
6. Must have taken "Civil Procedure Law (I)" before taking "Civil Procedure Law (II)".
7. Must have taken "Criminal Procedure Law (I)" before taking "Criminal Procedure Law (II)".

Chapter III Master's Program

Article 6 (Duration of Study)
The duration of study for graduate students in this program shall be two to four years.
Suspension of studies shall be limited to four semesters; for those enrolled in or prior to the 2009 academic year, suspension shall be handled according to university regulations.
For students admitted via the Five-Year Bachelor-Master Program, the duration of study shall be one to four years.

Article 7 (Credits Required)
Graduate students, excluding the 0-credit thesis (6 credits for those enrolled prior to 2006), must complete at least 16 credits of specialized elective courses in their group, with a minimum total of 26 graduation credits (36 credits prior to 2006).
Non-law background students admitted to the Fundamental Law Group must complete at least 20 makeup undergraduate credits [including 14 required: Constitutional Law (4), Administrative Law (4), General Principles of Criminal Law (6), plus 6 elective] with scores ≥ 70, not counted toward graduation total.
Must include 2 credits of foreign-language professional law courses (for students enrolled from 2009 onward).
Must take 4 credits of undergraduate second foreign language courses (scored ≥ 70, not counted toward graduation) unless exempt via prior credits or certified exams: (1) Japanese: JLPT Level 4 or J.TEST Grade E+; (2) German: Goethe A1+; (3) French: TCF 150+.

Article 8
Re-enrolling master's students may transfer up to two-thirds of the minimum total graduation credits for courses previously passed at the school (limited to once; at least half of the graduation credits must be earned from this program; class advancement shall not be accelerated).
Master's courses taken during undergraduate studies in the School with a grade ≥ 70 not counted toward undergraduate graduation may be transferred up to two-thirds of the master's minimum total graduation credits (limited to once, no accelerated advancement). Non-degree course credits apply mutatis mutandis.

Article 9 (Scope of Thesis Research)
The thesis topic shall be within the relevant fields of the student's respective group.

Article 10 (Qualifications of Advisors)
Advisors must be professors, associate professors, or assistant professors teaching at the University for over two years, or (former) Academicians/research fellows/associate/assistant research fellows of Academia Sinica, limited to those offering courses in the School's graduate institutes.

Article 11 (Appointment of Advisors)
Must be appointed no later than registration for the first semester of the second year. Changes require written reasons, consent from the original advisor, new advisor, and Department Chair.

Article 12 (Provisions on Foreign Language Examinations)
Must pass the foreign language exam or meet proficiency standards before applying for the oral defense. Unsuccessful candidates may alternatively take 4 credits of foreign-language courses or Jurisprudence Masterpieces Selection (I)(II) (scored ≥ 70). Applications must be submitted within three weeks of semester start; exams are held near midterms.

Article 13 (Subjects and Methods of Foreign Language Examinations)
Written exam in English, German, Japanese, or French (passing grade 70; unlimited re-takes). Proficiency standards: (1) English: TOEFL iBT 88, GEPT High-Intermediate, TOEIC 750, IELTS 6; (2) Japanese: JLPT Level 3 or J.TEST Grade D+; (3) German: Goethe A2+; (4) French: TCF 250+. Valid if obtained within 3 years prior to admission.

Article 14 (Foreign Language Examination Committee)
The Department Chair shall appoint qualified assistant professors or above to form the examination committee. Advisors shall not serve as committee members for their own students.

Article 15 (Application for Degree Examination)
Upon completing credits, passing the language exam, attaching transcripts, and getting advisor consent, students may apply. The thesis draft must be uploaded to the library originality system with a similarity report ≤ 30% and approved by the advisor.

Article 16 (Method of Degree Examination)
Conducted via oral examination.

Article 17 (Degree Examination Committee)
Composed of 2 to 5 experts recommended by the advisor and appointed by the President. Must include at least one full-time School faculty member and at least one-third external members. The advisor is an ex officio member but cannot be convener.

Article 18 (Qualifications of Degree Examination Committee Members)
Must be (1) professors, associate/assistant professors; (2) Academia Sinica Academicians/research fellows; (3) doctoral degree holders with academic achievements; or (4) specialists in rare/special disciplines with distinction.

Article 19 (Delivery of Thesis)
Must be delivered to committee members at least 14 days prior to the examination date.

Article 20 (Attendance and Grading)
Requires attendance of at least 3 members. Passing grade is an overall average of 70 (max 100). Plagiarism or ghostwriting results in a zero grade, dismissal, and no re-exam eligibility.

Article 21 (Duration of Degree Examination)
Each examination session lasts 2 hours in principle.

Article 22 (Re-examination)
Failed students may apply for one re-examination before study duration expires; failure results in dismissal.

Article 23 (Revision of Thesis)
Revisions must incorporate committee feedback and advisor consultation. Conditional passes require approval from original or authorized committee members before leaving procedures.

Article 24 (Conferral of Degree)
Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree conferred upon passing and submitting official thesis copies.

Article 25 (Revocation of Degree)
Revoked by the University if plagiarism or ghostwriting is proven; degree certificates recalled.

Article 26 (Submission of Thesis)
Submit thesis copies and clear library/department loans before leaving procedures.

Chapter IV Master's Program in On-the-Job Training

Article 27 (Duration of Study)
Duration: 2 to 6 years. Suspension limited to 4 semesters. Five-year bachelor-master program students: 1 to 4 years.

Article 28 (Credits Required)
Minimum graduation credits: 26 (36 for 2006 and prior). Credit transfer rules align with regular master's program. Non-law background students must complete 36 additional undergraduate credits (18 for ≤2009, 46 for 2011–2014) including Civil Law, Criminal Law, and Constitutional Law.

Article 29 (Research Field and Thesis Scope)
Based on law courses taken during studies.

Article 30 (Qualifications of Advisors)
Same qualifications as regular master's program advisors.

Article 31 (Appointment of Advisors)
Must be appointed by the first semester of year 2 registration. Changes follow standard approval procedures.

Article 32 (Application for Degree Examination)
Requires completed credits, transcripts, advisor consent, and plagiarism check ≤ 30%.

Article 33 (Method of Degree Examination)
Conducted via oral examination.

Article 34 (Degree Examination Committee)
2 to 5 members appointed by the President, including internal/external quotas matching regular master's program standards.

Article 35 to 43
Qualifications, delivery, attendance, grading, re-exam, revision, conferral, revocation, and submission procedures mirror regular master's program articles (Articles 18 through 26).

Chapter V Doctoral Program

Article 44 (Duration of Study)
Duration: 2 to 7 years. Suspension limited to 6 semesters.

Article 45 (Research Fields and Changes Thereof)
Four fields: Fundamental Law, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Public Law. Chosen during entrance exam; changes require major reasons and Department Chair approval, plus makeup credits for the new field.

Article 46 (Credits Required)
Minimum graduation credits: 30 (including 12 dissertation credits and ≥ 10 program/field credits). Direct BS-to-PhD students: 42 credits. Excess course requirements can be supplemented via master's courses with Chair approval.

Article 47 (Semester Report)
Course grades determined via semester reports (≥ 10,000 words including notes). Must be submitted within 1 month of semester end; overdue submissions risk failing grades.

Article 48 (Submission to Fu Jen Law Review)
Must submit at least one academic paper to "Fu Jen Law Review" prior to graduation.

Article 49 (Qualifications of Advisors)
Requires professorial rank with master's teaching experience, Academia Sinica research fellows, or associate professors with 3+ years experience and 3+ peer-reviewed papers.

Article 50 (Appointment of Advisors)
Must be appointed by year 2 semester 1 registration. Must take at least one related course from the advisor.

Article 51 (Doctoral Degree Candidate Qualification Assessment)
Requires completing 2/3 of credits and attending 2+ doctoral thesis presentations, plus choosing one of two tracks: (1) Publishing 1 qualifying work (≥ 10,000 words in a peer-reviewed journal) and passing a written exam (discipline-specific or foreign language); or (2) Publishing 3 qualifying works (≥ 10,000 words), with at least one indexed in TSSCI, THCI, SSCI, SCI, EI, or AHCI.

Article 52 (Written Exam & Foreign Language Standards)
Written exam passing grade 70. Foreign language alternative standards: TOEFL iBT 90, GEPT Advanced, TOEIC 800, IELTS 6.5; German B1; Japanese Level 2; French TCF 300+.

Article 53 (Application for Preliminary Thesis Review)
Requires completing credits, candidate status, transcript, and plagiarism report ≤ 30%.

Article 54 (Method of Preliminary Thesis Review)
Draft must be ≥ 100,000 words. Reviewed by 2 external/internal experts (passing grade 70). Consecutive failures require a 1-year waiting period.

Article 55 (Thesis Presentation Conference)
Held on campus (min 2 hours) chaired by Department Chair or proxy. Attendance by advisor and 2 reviewers required. Revisions and response forms must be completed.

Article 56 (Application for Degree Examination)
May apply 1 month after presentation conference with response form and plagiarism report ≤ 30%.

Article 57 & 58 (Method & Committee)
Oral examination evaluated by a committee of 5 to 9 members appointed by the President from at least 9 recommended experts.

Article 59 (Qualifications of Committee Members)
Professors teaching related subjects, Academia Sinica research fellows, or distinguished associate professors/government leaders.

Article 60 (Delivery of Thesis)
Delivered at least 14 days prior to exam date.

Article 61 (Attendance and Grading)
At least 5 members must attend. Passing grade is 70 (max 100). Plagiarism results in zero grade, dismissal, and no re-exam.

Article 62 (Duration of Degree Examination)
Each session lasts 3 hours in principle.

Article 63 (Re-examination)
One re-examination allowed before study duration expires; failure results in dismissal.

Article 64 (Revision of Thesis)
Revisions must incorporate committee feedback and advisor discussion.

Article 65 (Conferral of Degree)
Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree conferred upon passing examination and thesis submission.

Article 66 (Revocation of Degree)
Revoked if plagiarism or ghostwriting is proven.

Article 67 (Submission of Thesis)
Submit thesis and clear library/department loans before leaving procedures.

Chapter VI Supplementary Provisions

Article 68
Uncovered matters shall follow university regulations.

Article 69
Passed by joint college/department and academic affairs meetings, and enacted accordingly.

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