

## Degree Review Criteria for Graduate School of Horticulture (GSH) Master's Programs

Pertaining to a topic relating to environmental horticulture, a master's thesis must embody academic merit in terms of for example universality, strength of its arguments and ethical considerations, and must be composed logically in a manner expected for an academic paper.

A student who applies for a review of his/her thesis must in addition have fulfilled the following criteria by the completion of the review:

- 1 )The student can expect to earn the requisite number of GSH coursework credits needed to complete his/her master's program;
- 2 )The student must have absorbed the ability to independently develop an understanding of the background to and the significance of the research topic, and to conduct a systematic analysis that moves towards a resolution of the issues, as stipulated in the GSH's policy on the conferment of degrees.

In addition to the holding of an open meeting for the presentation of the thesis, the Department Meeting and the GSH Faculty Council will each need to judge if the thesis is worthy of a master's degree.

## Degree Review Criteria for Graduate School of Horticulture (GSH) Doctoral Programs (For a degree earned by completing a doctoral program)

Pertaining to a topic relating to environmental horticulture, a doctoral dissertation must embody academic merit in terms of a high level of for example originality, novelty, universality, the strength of its arguments and ethical considerations, and possess a high degree of completeness for having been composed logically in a manner expected for an academic paper.

A student who applies for a review of his/her dissertation must in addition have fulfilled the following criteria by the completion of the review:

- 1 )The student can expect to earn the requisite number of GSH coursework credits needed to complete his/her doctoral program; and
- 2 )The student can produce objective literature (in the form of publications), as stipulated in the GSH's policy on the conferment of degrees, that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct research activity independently as well as his/her learning that forms the basis for that ability.

The objective literature (publications) in 2) must fulfill the following requirements:

- ① A publication included in the dissertation has appeared, or has received definite approval to appear, as a general rule in at least two peer-reviewed academic journals;
- ② The student must be the primary author of the publication appearing in one of those two journals. Although this requirement does not apply to the publication(s) appearing in the other journal(s), the student will be required to have made a very considerable contribution to the paper(s) in question;
- ③ These publications must be published as a general rule while the student is enrolled in his/her doctoral program.

This number of publications is an essential requirement for a dissertation review. For that reason, for the purpose of a dissertation review an overall evaluation will be made of all relevant factors including the nature and content of the publications and the details of their authorship, and their connection to the dissertation. In addition the dissertation itself will be required to demonstrate a high level of completeness, as well as academic merit. In addition to the holding of an open meeting for the presentation of the dissertation, the Degree Review Committee, Department Meeting, and the GSH Faculty Council will each need to judge if the dissertation is worthy of the degree of doctor of philosophy.

## Doctoral Degree Review Criteria for Graduate School of Horticulture (GSH) (For a degree earned by Doctoral Dissertation)

Pertaining to a topic relating to environmental horticulture, a doctoral dissertation must embody academic merit in terms of a high level of for example originality, novelty, universality, the strength of its arguments and ethical considerations, and possess a high degree of completeness for having been composed logically in a manner expected for an academic paper.

An applicant who applies for a review of his/her dissertation must in addition have fulfilled the following criteria by the completion of the review:

1 ) The applicant can produce objective literature (in the form of publications), as stipulated in the GSH's policy on the conferment of degrees, that demonstrates the applicant's ability to conduct research activity independently as well as his/her learning that forms the basis for that ability.

The objective literature (publications) must fulfill the following requirements:

- ① A publication included in the dissertation has appeared, or has received definite approval to appear, as a first author in at least 3 peer-reviewed academic journals.
- ② In addition, the publication has appeared, or has received definite approval to appear in at least 2 peer-reviewed academic journals. Or the rule can be replaced by equivalent achievement if it is accepted in consideration of each course's specialization.

This number of publications is an essential requirement for a dissertation review. For that reason, for the purpose of a dissertation review an overall evaluation will be made of all relevant factors including the nature and content of the publications and the details of their authorship, and their connection to the dissertation. In addition the dissertation itself will be required to demonstrate a high level of completeness, as well as academic merit. In addition to the holding of an open meeting for the presentation of the dissertation, the Degree Review Committee, Department Meeting, and the GSH Faculty Council will each need to judge if the dissertation is worthy of the degree of doctor of philosophy.