

## II-v Early Completion of the Graduate School Programs

### 1. Procedures for Application for Early Completion of the Master's Program

(Decided by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly on March 23, 2005)

(Latest revision: February 8, 2023)

With regard to the period of enrollment in the Master's Program, it is provided for in Paragraph 35.1. of the RULING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AIZU GRADUATE SCHOOL that enrollment of at least one year at the Master's Program shall be sufficient if the Graduate School Faculty Assembly recognizes relevant students as "having made outstanding achievements."

"Students who have made outstanding achievements" have been defined as those who are the first author of at least one paper completed under the guidance of faculty members of the University of Aizu Graduate School. The paper must be submitted after the enrollment in the Master's Program and has been published or accepted for publication in a major scientific journal or the peer-reviewed proceedings of a major international scientific conference. Those who are to apply for early completion of the Master's Program according to the definition above must follow the procedures described in (1) or (2) below.

Furthermore, students enrolled in the Graduate Department of Information Technology and Project Management may also apply for early completion of the Master's Program according to the provisions above. In addition, those who have work experience in the IT industry may complete the Master's Program after having studied for one and a half years at the Master's Program. Those who are to apply for early completion of the Master's Program with work experience in the IT industry must follow the procedures described in (3) below.

Further, Paragraph 35.1.2 allows students recognized as having completed part of the curriculum of the Master's Program of the UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL by earning academic credits at other graduate schools prior to admission (limited to academic credits earned after being eligible for admission) based on the article 28.2 to be regarded as having been enrolled for a period of no more than one year designated by the Master's Program of the UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL in consideration of factors such as the number of credits in question and the period required to earn them. Students who wish to be certified to shorten their enrollment period in accordance with these provisions shall submit a request in accordance with the procedure described in item (4) below.

#### (1) Application based on the expectation of outstanding achievements

##### ① Period for application and documents necessary for submission

Students wishing to apply for early completion of the Master's Program must submit the form, "Application for Early Completion of the Master's Program," to the Dean of the Graduate School by the day before the start of the quarter during which the student wishes to have the application authorized.

##### ② Requirements for application

A student may apply, with consent of his/her research advisor, for early completion based on the expectation of outstanding achievements during his/her enrollment period in the Master's Program. In that case, he/she must have submitted a paper to a major scientific journal, etc. as of the time of the application.

##### ③ Acceptance of applications

Students applying for early completion of the Master's Program shall be informed of results of reviews regarding their qualifications for application, following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. These students shall be allowed to register for "Special Research Seminar" courses six-month courses offered in the first and second quarters or the third and fourth quarters, instead of the usual one-year "Research Seminar" courses.

##### ④ Judgment on completion of the Master's Program

Students applying for early completion of the Master's Program in this category must submit documents proving their "outstanding achievements" before the deadline for submission of the final draft of Master's theses. In the case where applicants' achievements have been recognized as "outstanding achievements" by way of deliberation by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly, the applicants will be allowed to complete the Master's Program in the shortened enrollment period, provided that they undergo the regular review for completion of the program and are recognized as those who have fulfilled the requirements.

##### ⑤ Acceptance/non-acceptance of academic papers under review

Applicants are required to report the acceptance or non-acceptance of their papers under review to the Dean of the Graduate School by way of their research advisors immediately after they receive review results.

Applicants in their first-year in the Master's Program who cannot submit a document verifying their "outstanding achievements" by the designated date and wish to request early completion a half year later than the original request, will be required to make another application for early completion of the Master's Program.

Applicants in their second-year in the Master's Program who cannot submit a document verifying their "outstanding achievements" by the designated date, will be required to shift their registration for "Special Research Seminars" to "Research Seminars" in the second year.

(2) Application after outstanding achievements have been made

① Period for application and documents necessary for submission

A student wishing to apply for early completion of the Master's Program must submit to the Dean of the Graduate School the predetermined form, "Application for Early Completion of the Master's Program" by the day before the start of the quarter during which the student wishes to have the application authorized.

② Requirements for application

A student may apply, with the consent of his/her research advisor, for early completion after s/he has made achievements regarded as "outstanding achievements."

③ Acceptance of applications

Students applying for early completion of the Master's Program shall be informed of the results of reviews regarding their qualifications for application, following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. These students shall be allowed to register for "Special Research Seminar" courses six-month courses offered in the first and second quarters or the third and fourth quarters, instead of the usual one-year "Research Seminar" courses.

④ Judgment on completion of the Master's Program

Applicants will be authorized to complete the Master's Program in the shortened enrollment period provided that they undergo the regular review for completion of the program and are recognized as having fulfilled the requirements.

(3) Application based on work experience in the IT industry (for students in the Graduate Department of Information Technology and Project Management only)

① Period for application and documents necessary for submission

A student planning to apply for early completion of the Master's Program must submit the predetermined form, "Application for Early Completion of the Master's Program (IT specialist)" to the Dean of the Graduate School by the day before the start of the quarter half a year before the period when the student wishes to have the application authorized (by one day before the start of the first quarter in their second year of the Master's Program).

② Requirements for application

A student who has had work experience in the IT industry may apply for early completion with the consent of his/her research advisor. Successful applicants in this category may complete the Master's Program in the enrollment of a year and a half.

③ Acceptance of applications

**(Students admitted in AY2022 or earlier)**

Students applying for early completion of the Master's Program shall be informed of the results of reviews regarding their qualifications for application, following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. These students are allowed to shorten the period of completion of the courses, "IT Specialists Educational Seminars," "IT Specialists Research Seminars/Conferences" and "IT Specialists Tea Seminars/Contests," and to concurrently register for the courses, "Software Development Arena III" and "Software Development Arena IV."

**(Students admitted in AY2023 or later)**

Students applying for early completion of the Master's Program shall be informed of the results of reviews regarding their qualifications for application, following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. These students are allowed to shorten the period of completion of the courses, "PM Research Seminar", "Conference Presentation Seminar", "Educational Seminars", "Tea Seminars" and "Contests", and to

concurrently register for the courses, "Project Development Arena III" and "Project Development Arena IV."

④ Judgment on completion of the Master's Program

Applicants will be authorized to complete the Master's Program and receive a certificate of completion of the IT Specialist Program in the shortened enrollment period provided that they undergo the regular review for completion of the program and are recognized as having fulfilled the requirements.

(4) Application based on consideration of factors such as credits acquired prior to admission

① Period for application and required documents

Students must submit the form "Application for Early Completion of the Master's Program (In Consideration of Credits Acquired Prior to Admission)" and documents (academic transcripts, etc.) that prove that the student earned credits at other graduate schools prior to admission (limited to academic credits earned after being eligible for admission) to the Dean of the Graduate School by the day before the start of the term during which the student wishes to be certified for early completion.

② Requirements for application

A student may only apply with the consent of his/her research advisor.

③ Acceptance of applications

In the event the student is allowed to shorten the enrollment period following deliberation by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly, the individual shall be notified of the acceptance of their application and of its authorization. Students enrolled in the Graduate Department of Computer and Information Systems shall be allowed to register for the six-month "Special Research Seminar" course offered in the first and second quarters or the third and fourth quarters instead of the usual one-year "Research Seminar" course.

**(Students admitted in AY2022 or earlier)**

Students enrolled in the Graduate Department of Information Technology and Project Management shall be allowed to shorten the period of completion of the courses "IT Specialists Educational Seminars," "IT Specialists Research Seminars/Conferences" and "IT Specialists Tea Seminars/Contests," and to concurrently take the courses, "Software Development Arena III" and "Software Development Arena IV.

**(Students admitted in AY2023 or later)**

Students enrolled in the Graduate Department of Information Technology and Project Management shall be allowed to shorten the period of completion of the courses, "PM Research Seminar", "Conference Presentation Seminar", "Educational Seminars", "Tea Seminars" and "Contests", and to concurrently take the courses, "Project Development Arena III" and "Project Development Arena IV.

④ Judgment on completion of the Master's Program

The applicants will be allowed to complete the Master's Program with the shortened enrollment period provided that they undergo the regular review for completion of the program and are recognized as having fulfilled the requirements. Students enrolled in the Graduate Department of Information Technology and Project Management will be authorized to receive a certificate of completion of the IT Specialist Program.

## 2. Procedures for Application for Early Completion of the Doctoral Program

(Decided by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly on June 22, 2005)

With regard to the period of enrollment in the Doctoral Program, it is provided for in the clause starting with "However," in Paragraph 35.3 of the RULING ON THE UNIVERSITY OF AIZU GRADUATE SCHOOL; 1) that enrollment of at least three years at THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL shall be sufficient, with respect to those enrolled at the Master's Program and 2) that enrollment at least one year at THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL shall be sufficient, with respect to those who have obtained a Master's degree overseas if the Graduate School Faculty Assembly recognizes relevant students as "having demonstrated outstanding achievements."

"Students having demonstrated outstanding achievements" have been defined by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly as those who are first author of at least two papers based on research achievements made during enrollment in the Doctoral Program that have been accepted for and/or were published in major scientific journals. These papers must include the main part of the students' doctoral dissertations, and in addition, the students must be the main contributor to the papers. Regarding items which are not outlined here will be provided for in the "Guidelines for the Doctoral Program."

### (1) Application based on the expectation of outstanding achievements

#### ① Period for application and documents necessary for submission

Students wishing to apply for early completion of the Doctoral Program must submit the predetermined form, "Application for Early Completion of the Doctoral Program," to the Dean of the Graduate School by early July (for those who plan to complete the program in March of the same academic year,) or by early February (for those who plan to complete the program in September of the following academic year.)

#### ② Requirements for application

With consent from his/her research advisor and faculty members scheduled to be referees for the relevant dissertation review, a student may apply for early completion based on the expectation of outstanding achievements during his/her enrollment period in the Doctoral Program.

However, applicants must have at least one paper that has been accepted and/or published by a major academic journal, and have at least one more paper that has been submitted to a major academic journal, etc. as of the time of the application.

#### ③ Acceptance of applications

Students applying for early completion of the Doctoral Program shall be informed of results of reviews regarding their qualifications for application, following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. For the successful applicants, dissertation review committees may be established based on the description in the "Guidelines for the Doctoral Program," and the preliminary review of the relevant dissertation may be conducted.

#### ④ Confirmation of outstanding achievements

Applicants who have passed the preliminary dissertation review, by way of deliberation by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee based on the report on the preliminary dissertation review by the relevant dissertation review committee, must submit documents proving that their achievements are equivalent to "outstanding achievements" to the Dean of the Graduate School, after obtaining approval from the relevant research advisor and the faculty members who are scheduled to be referees of the dissertation review.

Doctoral dissertation review (final dissertation review) may be conducted for those who have been regarded as having "outstanding achievements" by way of deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly.

#### ⑤ Completion of the Doctoral Program and conferment of a doctoral degree

Applicants who pass the doctoral dissertation review and the review result is finalized by way of deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly, must submit the final draft of the doctoral dissertation and the Application Form for the Academic Degree to the Dean of the Graduate School. Students who are to be conferred a doctoral degree shall be determined by way of deliberation on and approval of the final draft of the doctoral dissertations and the application form for the academic degree by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly.

(2) Application after outstanding achievements have been made

① Period for application and documents necessary for submission

Students planning to apply for early completion of the Doctoral Program must submit the predetermined form, "Application for Early Completion of the Doctoral Program," to the Dean of the Graduate School by early July (for those who plan to complete the program in March of the same academic year,) or by early February (for those who plan to complete the program in September in the following academic year.)

② Requirements for application

With the consent from his/her research advisor and faculty members scheduled to be referees for the Doctoral dissertation review, a student may apply for early completion after he/she has made achievements regarded as "outstanding achievements."

③ Acceptance of applications

Students applying for early completion of the Doctoral Program shall be informed of results of reviews regarding recognition of their achievements as being "outstanding achievements" following deliberation and authorization by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly. For those who are given approval for application for early completion, dissertation review committees shall be established based on the "Guidelines for the Doctoral Program," and preliminary review of the relevant dissertation may be conducted.

④ Completion of the Doctoral Program and conferment of a doctoral degree

A doctoral dissertation review (final dissertation review) may be conducted for applicants who have passed the preliminary dissertation review; the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee approves the results of the preliminary reviews based on the reports submitted by the relevant dissertation review committees.

Applicants who have passed the doctoral dissertation review and whose review result is finalized and authorized by the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly, must submit the final draft of the doctoral dissertation and the Application Form for the Academic Degree to the Dean of the Graduate School for early completion of the Doctoral Program. Based on the applications for conferment of a doctoral degree, the Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee and the Graduate School Faculty Assembly shall finalize the conferment of the degree.

(3) Other

Applicants whose applications for early completion of the Doctoral Program were not accepted must re-apply for early completion if they wish again to request early completion. For applicants re-applying for early completion who have passed the preliminary dissertation review but failed the final dissertation review before, they may be exempted from preliminary reviews by way of deliberation by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly if they re-apply with the same dissertation title as that of the previous application. If such individuals are enrolled in the Doctoral Program for three years or more for conferment of a doctoral degree without applying for early completion, they may in the same way be exempted from the preliminary dissertation review by way of deliberation by the Graduate School Faculty Assembly.