



THU Regulations Governing Violations of Academic Ethics in Degree Theses / Dissertations

Approved by Academic Affairs Council on Nov. 17, 2015
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- Article 1. To prevent violation of academic ethics in theses/dissertations and maintain academic quality, the Regulations herein are stipulated by Tsinghua University (hereinafter referred to as THU) in accordance with the provisions of Article 7-2 in the Degree Conferral Act.
- Article 2. Degree theses / dissertations herein refer to master's / doctoral degrees conferred by THU pursuant to the Degree Conferral Act.
- Article 3. Violations of academic ethics hereunder refer to any of the following:
- 3-1. Committing plagiarism, forgery or other fraudulent means in thesis / dissertation, literary creation, performance or technical report
 - 3-2. Ghostwriting
 - 3-3. Reprinting a published work without notation
 - 3-4. Massive quoting of one's own work without giving notes
 - 3-5. Translating a published work without notation
 - 3-6. Other serious violations of academic ethics
- Article 4. Informers of breaches of academic ethics should specify real names and ways of contact as well as the targets being reported on with proofs of detailed offenses to the departments concerned; their identities shall be kept secret. If a reported breach comes anonymously but with sufficient evidences, the case still stands and will be sent to the department concerned for investigation.
- Article 5. To investigate, review and identify whether a student's dissertation / thesis contains plagiarism or other fraudulent means, an investigation team shall be formed by relevant Departments, and the College shall constitute an Investigation Committee for Academic Ethics Violations (hereinafter referred to as the "Investigation Committee").
- Article 6. To maintain objectivity, anyone who is or was the thesis/dissertation advisor, committee member, blood relative within the third degree or relative by marriage, academic partner or interested party associated with the accused shall avoid serving as a committee member.
- Article 7. When a dissertation or thesis is suspected of plagiarism or other fraudulent means, the investigation procedure is as follows:
- 7-1. Within 20 days upon the acceptance of a filed complaint, the Chair of the concerned department shall call a committee of 3 to 5 members, composed of teachers from within and without the department to be appointed by the Dean of College. In cases where the Chair has to step aside, the Dean shall appoint a teacher from the department to be the convener. The investigation shall be proceeded in secrecy without disclosing the Identities of the committee members.
 - 7-2. Investigation should be completed within a month after the committee is formed



and whenever necessary, to be extended for another month.

Article 8. Investigation Committee operates by the following procedures:

- 8-1. The Investigation Committee should be made up of 5 to 7 members with the Dean of the College as the convener, teachers from the college and experts or scholars from within and without THU, among which one has to be an expert in law—all to be appointed by the President. In cases where the Dean of College has to step aside, the Dean of Academic Affairs shall be the convener. When both need to step aside, the President shall appoint one of the Vice Presidents to convene the Committee. investigation shall be proceeded in secrecy without disclosing the Identities of the committee members.
- 8-2. Two-thirds and above of the members need to be present for the Investigation Committee to form a quorum, among which another two-thirds of votes is needed to carry any motion.
- 8-3. The Investigation Committee may request the accused to be either present or submit a written statement. If none of the both occurs, it is deemed as giving up one's right, where the advisor of the student in question may be invited for an explanation.

Article 9. The Investigation Committee shall make specific decisions with a report and meeting minutes submitted to the President for final approval before informing both parties (the informer and the accused). Unless there are new evidences, requesting another investigation of an old and settled case will not be processed.

Article 10. If the accusation is found to be valid and the violation of academic ethics is indeed serious, the Investigation Committee upon President's approval will inform the Office of Academic Affairs to revoke the degree and diploma in question and issue a public notice of the invalidation. A letter shall be sent to the National Library and THU Library to remove the accused person's thesis (both hard copies and electronic).

If the offence is minor and remediable, the Investigation Committee shall demand immediate corrections or other measures within a time limit.

Article 11. Any negligence not covered in the above shall be handled pursuant to relevant provisions by the Ministry of Education and the School.

Article 12. The Regulations hereto shall be promulgated and enter into effect after passing the Academic Affairs Council.