

Ph.D. Regulations - 2022



Adichunchanagiri University

B.G. Nagara - 571448

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Ph.D. Degree

Ph.D. program in Adichunchanagiri University (ACU) covers all its constituent colleges and research Centers.

Complete and updated information on Ph.D. and Doctoral training program will be available at all times in the ACU website acu.edu.in

This information will be useful for Supervisors, Academic staff and administrative support staff. Also, members of Expert Evaluation Committees and support staff involved in organizing the public defence of Ph.D. thesis will find these regulations useful. The rules of the program focus on the Ph.D. candidates and the program is therefore structured to meet their needs.

The following documents are maintained:

1. Application form
2. Format for Ph.D. Protocol submission
3. Coursework grade sheet
4. DAC meeting proceedings
5. Progress reports
6. Synopsis
7. Thesis format
8. Certificates
9. Declaration regarding plagiarism
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1. Designation of the Course: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The degree awarded by the University conferred upon a candidate after having satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of study and meeting with other conditions laid down by the University, qualifies for the award of Ph.D.

2. Admission Eligibility

A candidate seeking admission to the Ph.D. program must have:

- A postgraduate degree or equivalent from Universities/Institutions approved and recognized by AICTE / PCI / UGC / NMC / DCI / INC / CSIR/ AYUSH / Institution of national importance.
- Eligibility to write ACU Ph.D. entrance test is minimum 55% [For SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) / Differently-Abled is 50%] marks in the respective PG-courses.
- Applications for Ph.D. program will be called bi-annually/annually.
- In case of foreign nationals, their Master's degrees from a recognized university from abroad have to be approved by the ACU Committee of the Academic Council (CAC) for equivalence in accordance with AIU and UGC guidelines.
- Ph.D. Admission is only through Adichunchanagiri University Entrance Examination. Except category 2,3,4 & 5.
- The syllabus for ACU entrance test in respective subjects shall be displayed in ACU website.

3. Categories of candidates

3.1. Full time candidates

Category 1:

- Candidates who have passed ACU Entrance Examination and drawing a monthly fellowship.

Category 2:

- Candidates with GPAT/ UGC-CSIR-NET-JRF/ ICMR- JRF/ DBT- JRF/ GATE/ DST-INSPIRE Fellowships are exempted from ACU Entrance Examination.
- Candidates having qualified other UGC recognized National/State level eligibility test with a valid fellowship are exempted from ACU Entrance Examination.

Category 3:

- Candidates with M. Phil degrees from the recognized Universities/Institutions are eligible to take direct admission as Full Time / Part Time Research Scholars and are exempted from ACU Entrance Examination.

Category 4:

- Candidates working in the funded Major Research Projects of a minimum 2 years duration are eligible to register immediately as Full Time Research Scholars and are exempted from ACU Entrance Examination for Ph.D. program.

Category 5:

- Foreign candidates possessing the Master's degree with a good CGPA (7.5 and above) with excellent academic track record from a UGC recognized University within India are eligible to take direct admission as Full Time Research Scholars and are exempted from ACU Entrance Examination.
- Foreign candidates possessing the Master's degree from a well reputed Universities abroad with English proficiency are exempted from the ACU Entrance Examination. However, their degrees have to be approved by the equivalence Committee of ACU (CAC). The foreign nationals are permitted only as Full Time Research Fellows.

Note: Foreign nationals are permitted to join ACU-Ph.D. program as Full Time Research Scholars only.

3.2. Part time candidates

Category 1: The candidates who are the faculty/employees of non ACU/SACST institutions are also eligible for ACU PhD Programme after passing ACU entrance examination and PhD Programme interview are eligible to register for PhD Programme. However, Institution where the candidate is working preferably be recognised by ACU.

Category 2: Candidates who are the faculty/employees of ACU including institutions belonging to Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust (SACST) in pursuit of advancing

their academic qualification are eligible for the Ph.D. program after passing the ACU Ph.D. Entrance Examination and the Ph.D. Program Interview.

Note: The Part Time candidates should have a regular permanent position and completed a minimum of 1-year service whose probation has been declared in the respective cadre in ACU or SACST institutions.

- If the candidates from ACU/SACST Institutions are not successful under general category, they can opt under 20% reservation for the ACU / SACST Institutions faculty / employees subject to the availability of research supervisors in the subject concerned.

Ex: If ACU selects 50 candidates for Ph.D. programme and the ACU/SACST faculties are in the waiting list / in the lower level of merit list, then, 10 seats (20% of the total selected seats) be allotted to such candidates in the waiting list.

- The admission is subject to the availability of vacancy and the recognized research supervisors. This provision is made for those candidates who shall give an undertaking from the Heads of their respective institutions that their routine responsibilities would be duly attended and under no circumstances compromised. The university shall reserve the rights to reconsider the Ph.D. registration of candidates who do not adhere to ACU guidelines.

Category 3:

Candidates from a reputed industry/corporate/research institution with a minimum of 5 years research/professional experience are eligible to be considered as part time candidates and are exempted from ACU PhD Entrance Examination. However, the candidates must appear for ACU Ph.D. program interview. But these candidates can be registered subject to the availability of vacancy and Research Supervisors in ACU provided the institution should be recognised by ACU.

Category 4: Candidates with M. Phil degree from the recognized Universities/ Institutions are eligible to take direct admission as Part Time Research Scholars without ACU Entrance Examination.

Condition: The part time candidate should have a compulsory attendance of not less than 120 days in the respective Department of ACU.

4. Fellowship

Full Time Ph.D. Fellows of ACU are eligible to get a monthly fellowship for a period of 3 years and may be extendable for one more year depending on the merit of the case as advised by the DAC. These Full Time Candidates, who opt for the ACU monthly fellowship, should give a Declaration that they are not getting any financial support in any form from any other sources while they are ACU Ph.D. Fellows.

Sl. No.	Nationality	Fellowship Amount/month	Duration
1	Indian Nationals	15,000/- + HRA or Accommodation	3 Years
2	Foreign Nationals	15,000/- + HRA or Accommodation	3 Years*

*Subject to fellowship laws and availability.

5. Duration of the Program

The duration of the program will be from the date of provisional registration till the submission of Ph.D. thesis.

- 5.1. The minimum duration for the post-graduates qualified for Full Time Ph.D. shall be 3 years from the date of provisional registration. The registration is valid for 5 years. Extension beyond 5 years period will be based on the recommendation of the Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC). The maximum duration shall not exceed 6 years.
- 5.2. The minimum duration for the post-graduates qualified for Part Time Ph.D. shall be 4 years from the date of provisional registration. Extension beyond the minimum period will be based on the recommendation of the Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC). However, the maximum duration shall not exceed 7 years.

6. Admission to the Doctoral Program

Admission to Ph.D. program will be undertaken on the following basis:

- 6.1. Research Scholars sponsored by funding agencies must submit their application along with a synopsis of the project and details of funding. This refers to individual Junior Research Fellowship holders (UGC/ CSIR/ ICMR/ DBT/ Inspire Fellowship) selected on the basis of interview.
- 6.2. Whenever ACU faculty members have research grants like major research projects of minimum of 2 years duration with a provision for appointing research scholars, the selection of candidates will be based on the guidelines of funding agency and ACU.
- 6.3. ACU/SACST employees who seek admission to Ph.D. program must submit their applications through proper channel.
- 6.4. Candidates intending to carry out research in collaborative research center(s) (recognized by ACU) must submit a No Objection Letter from the appropriate authority of such a research center.

7. Registration Procedure

- 7.1. Every candidate has to register in Adichunchanagiri University.
- 7.2. There must be one registered Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) at ACU and other Institutions / Centers recognized by ACU (Procedure for recognition of Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor is given in Section 10).
- 7.3. The candidate has to prepare a research proposal highlighting clearly the following:
 - i. Introduction of the proposed research work
 - ii. Literature survey
 - iii. Research gaps identified in the field
 - iv. Objectives proposed
 - v. Detailed methodology
 - vi. Expected outcomes and societal relevance
 - vii. Importance of the proposed research work
 - viii. Research plan schedule

- ix. Any preliminary research work done by the candidate if already
- x. References

- 7.4. The research proposal should be explanatory running to about 20 pages, printed on A4 size paper, 1-inch margins on all the sides. Font size for headings should be 14 Bold, subheadings should be 12 Bold and text should be in Times New Roman Font size 12 normal with double line spacing. The references should follow a standard Vancouver format and all the references should be cited in the text.
- 7.5. If the proposal involves the use of animals or human subjects/materials, appropriate ethical committee's approval should be submitted before the provisional registration.
- 7.6. The Dean, Research, ACU in consultation with HOD will constitute the Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) for each Ph.D. candidate (Organization of DAC is given in Section 10). Dean of the respective faculty will be the Chairman of this DAC.
- 7.7. The Head of the Department (HOD) and Head of the Institution will arrange for a protocol presentation by the candidate at the institution before the DAC. It is advisable to have an external member to be a part of this meeting in order to get an outsider's perspective and feedback.
- 7.8. Once the proposal is accepted by the Research Supervisor, HOD, Principal / Dean of the faculty will forward the following documents to The Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, through The Dean, Research, ACU:
- i. Covering letter from the HOD and Principal of the Institution
 - ii. Copy of the signature sheet of DAC members
 - iii. Recommendations of the DAC
 - iv. List of DAC members with address, phone number and e-mail ID
 - v. Sanction letter from the funding agency (if any)
 - vi. **TWO** copies of the research proposal (15-20 pages)
 - vii. Plagiarism check/similarity index report has to be signed by the Candidate, and the concerned Supervisor (if the proposal is found to

have more than 10% plagiarized material, then the University can reject this proposal for registration. If this plagiarism data comes to the notice of the University, even at a later stage, the University keeps the right to cancel the registration of the candidate and initiate disciplinary action against the Research Supervisor concerned).

- 7.9. If the proposed research work is approved by DAC, the date of Pre-Ph.D. registration presentation at the concerned institution will be the date of provisional registration. The regular registration will be issued after the successful completion of the Ph.D. Coursework.
- 7.10. If modifications are suggested by the DAC, then the submission of revised proposal incorporating all suggestions of DAC will be considered as the date of provisional registration. Submission of the revised proposal has to be within a period of one month from the date of Pre-Ph.D. registration presentation.

8. Coursework

Every Ph.D. candidate of both Indian and Foreign Nationals have to undergo a Ph.D. Coursework for a Semester.

In the coursework, the candidate has to study mainly the research methodology including data actuation, data analysis, data interpretation along with latest tools employed for the same besides the subject of his/her thesis topic in a duration of 16 weeks.

8.1. Coursework Examination

The coursework exam pattern is as follows:

- (i) Research methodology is for **4 credits**
- (ii) Thesis topic-based studies is for **4 credits**
- (iii) Oral presentation is for **4 credits**

In all the faculties, the Ph.D. candidate has to clear his/her coursework examination within a year from the date of provisional registration. Otherwise, their eligibility for Ph.D. program will lapse. Candidate has to clear all the papers within TWO attempts in a span of ONE year. An option for MOOC program with an equal credit on a

subject of research topic if available in the UGC MOOC programs list can also be considered in lieu of Paper 2, i.e., Thesis Topic Based Studies - 4 Credits. The minimum passing marks is 55% or equivalent grade or CGPA in each paper/oral presentation. Results of the Ph.D. coursework will be announced by the University at the earliest from the date of completion of the Oral Presentation. The Oral Presentation examination is held only after clearing the theory papers. Once the coursework examination is cleared by the candidate, the University will regularize Ph.D. registration of the respective candidate.

9. Recognition of the Department to offer PhD Programme.

The Department should have the following minimum facilities.

- a) Department should have minimum of two years of its existence.
- b) Should have handled the research projects/publications of national international standards.
- c) The department should have a full-fledged faculty.
- d) The requisite research facility as specified by the apex bodies.

10. Recognition of Ph.D. Supervisor

10.1 Eligibility:

Eligibility criteria required for a Research Supervisor/ Co- Supervisor are as follows:

- Only Teaching/Research faculty working full time in ACU or Constituent Colleges of ACU can be a Ph.D. Supervisor or Co-Supervisor.
- All Professors and Associate Professors are automatically entitled to be the recognized Ph.D. Research Supervisors in their respective subjects. If these Professors and Associate Professors want to be recognized as Ph.D. Research Supervisors in the interdisciplinary subjects, then they require the recognition as Research Supervisors by the joint faculty of ACU.
- The Assistant Professors need to get the approval of the Board of Studies in the respective subjects to be recognized as Ph.D. Supervisors as per the above procedure. Same procedures apply to get recognition as Ph.D. Supervisors in the interdisciplinary subjects.
- The Co-Supervisors from other departments of the same institute or from other institutions recognized by ACU or Senior Technical or R&D Personnel

from reputed industries can be allowed as Co-Supervisors in the interdisciplinary research activities with the approval of the Ph.D. Doctoral Advisory Committee headed by the Dean of the respective faculty.

The Research Supervisor should have

- (i) A minimum of 3 years teaching experience after obtaining Ph.D. degree or MD/MS/MCh with 8 years of Post-graduate teaching experience or a total research experience of 10 years including the Ph.D.
- (ii) Should have successfully guided 3 Post Graduate Students' Dissertations or published a minimum of 5 high quality Research publications as 1st author/corresponding author in Scopus/Web of Science /PubMed publications/UGC and other regulatory body approved journals.

10.2 The Completed application must be submitted to the Head of the Institution of the respective institution through proper channel along with

- (i) Attested copies of the Degree Certificates.
- (ii) Copies of Five original research articles in SCOPUS/ Web of Science/ PubMed/ UGC and other regulatory body approved journals.

10.3 Dean of the concerned Faculty has to submit the recommendation letter along with the application to **The Registrar, Adichunchanagiri University, B.G. Nagar-571448 through the Dean, Research, ACU, B.G. Nagara.**

10.4 A faculty can get recognized as a Ph.D. Supervisor in an interdisciplinary subject other than his/her subject. The faculty has to submit his/her credentials (along with the list of publications and at least the hard copies of 5 best papers in the interdisciplinary subject in which the guide ship is sought) to the Registrar (Evaluation) through Dean, Research, ACU.

The Interdisciplinary Board consists of:

Vice Chancellor	Chairman
Dean, Research	Member
Deans of Concerned Faculties	Members
BOS Chairpersons (Concerned Subject in which recognition is sought)	Member
Registrar (Evaluation)	Convener / Member Secretary

10.5 A formal letter will be sent to the Ph.D. Supervisor by the Registrar, ACU.

11. Guidelines for Research Supervisors:

11.1 A recognized Supervisor should have not more than EIGHT Ph.D. students (including the scholars under his/her co-supervision) under a Professor; SIX Ph.D. students (including the scholars under his/her co-supervision) under an Associate Professor; and FOUR Ph.D. students (including the scholars under his/her co-supervision) under an Assistant Professor can register with an exception for Foreign Ph.D. candidates.

11.2 The Supervisor and Co-supervisor should not be closely related (maternal or paternal) to each other and to the candidate.

11.3 In case of long absence or superannuation of the Supervisor (not willing to continue to guide till the completion of the thesis), accidental death of the Supervisor or ill health of the Supervisor or due to serious incompatibility between the student and guide, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint another equally qualified Supervisor with the recommendation of the DAC headed by the Dean of the Faculty concerned.

11.4 Obligation of the Research Supervisor

The Research Supervisor is expected to supervise the progress of the student at every stage of the program. He is expected to inculcate research ethics and good conduct. The other responsibilities include:

a) Organization of Thesis Pre-Submission Colloquium of the Candidate before the DAC.

12. Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC)

12.1 A separate Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) shall be constituted for every Ph.D. thesis consisting of the following:

Chairperson : Dean, concerned Faculty

Members :

- BOS Chairperson of the concerned subject
- Head of the Department
- Research Supervisor

- Co-Supervisor (if there is any)
- Two Subject Experts*

*Subject experts should have Ph.D./MD/MS degrees and are nominated by the Dean Research from the respective or interdisciplinary subjects, out of the panel of names recommended by BOS Chairperson. The DAC shall have one external member.

12.2 The candidate has to make a Power Point Presentation of the research proposal /the synopses of the research program before the DAC.

This DAC shall have the following responsibilities:

12.2.1 Review of the research proposal and finalize the research topic.

12.2.2 Guide the research scholar to develop a study design, methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to undertake.

12.2.3 Undertake any function; exercise any powers entrusted in this statute or any work assigned to it.

12.2.4 The committee may recommend/suggest modifications including the change of title/reject the research proposal.

12.2.5 If recommended, the application of the candidates along with the supporting documents (given in section 7.8) has to be sent to The Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, through Dean, Research, ACU.

12.2.6 At the end of research work, the candidate has to present the complete work to the DAC, called Pre-Submission presentation.

12.2.7 In case the progress of the research candidate is unsatisfactory, the DAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures.

12.2.8 If the research candidate fails to implement the suggested corrective measures, the DAC may recommend to the University with specific reasons for the cancellation of Ph.D. registration of the candidate.

12.2.9 All the copies of the DAC recommendations should be sent to the Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, through Dean, Research, ACU.

12.2.10 The DAC has to meet to finalize the research topic and synopsis within six months from the date of admission.

13. Progress Report of the Research Candidate

13.1. The candidate has to submit the progress report of the research work undertaken through proper channel to the Registrar (Evaluation), ACU every SIX months through Dean, Research, ACU.

13.2. The progress report must contain the details of the work carried out in the previous six months. It should be explanatory in about 10 to 15 pages with all references and illustrations. Also, the report should match well with the proposed objectives of the Thesis and give the pending work to be carried out. The Dean, Research, ACU along with other members such as Dean, Faculty, Head of the Department, Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) shall review the progress of the Ph.D. candidate every six months.

14. Fee Structure

Notified Separately in the ACU Website (www.acu.edu.in).

Prescribed Fee should be paid on time to avoid the cancellation of the registration.

15. Extension of Program Duration

15.1. Two months grace period will be given for thesis submission after the due date for submission. This grace period is not applicable to the candidates, who are already under the extension period.

15.2. The program duration may be extended beyond 3 years (for full time)/ 4 years (for part time) on the recommendation of DAC if there are genuine reasons. The women candidates and persons with disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave / Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. program for up to 240 days.

15.3. Additional course fee has to be paid by the candidate for the extended period.

16. Cancellation of Registration

16.1. Registration will be cancelled if there is no progress in the research work proposed as evidenced by the non-submission of TWO Consecutive SIX months progress reports or recommendations of the DAC.

16.2. Registration will be cancelled if the candidate failed to submit the thesis before the maximum stipulated period.

16.3. Candidate has to pay the prescribed fee in full at the beginning of each year within 30 days from the joining date. A fine shall be imposed for late payment.

17. Synopsis Submission Guidelines

17.1. The candidate has to give a Pre-Thesis Submission synopsis presentation at the institution before the DAC members.

17.2. A minimum of THREE publication in Scopus / Web of Science/ PubMed indexed / UGC and other regulatory body approved journals by the candidate as the first author in the field of research undertaken are mandatory for submitting the final synopsis. The research supervisor should be the corresponding author in all the three papers. The patents on the thesis topic either published or granted can be considered for the submission of the final synopsis. The research supervisor should be the corresponding author for the patents. Conference Proceedings Papers published in the Special Editions or Volumes of the journals or books are not considered. The research articles must be published /accepted for publications before submission of Ph.D. thesis Synopsis OR before the Pre-Submission Ph.D. Thesis Colloquium.

17.3. Ph.D. scholars must make two papers presentations (Oral or Poster) in National or International Conferences/Seminars before the Pre-Submission Ph.D. Thesis Colloquium and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.

17.4. The DAC must approve the synopsis by analysing the contribution of the research in the form of visible outputs like accomplishing all the Objectives

(which were proposed in the synopsis submitted at the time of Ph.D. Registration), Publications, Patents if any, etc. or suggest modifications.

- 17.5. The candidate has to incorporate all the suggestions if any by DAC before the submission of the final synopsis.
- 17.6. The following documents are to be sent to The Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, B.G. Nagara, through HOD/ Dean, Research, ACU:
 - (i) DAC recommendations with signatures of all the members.
 - (ii) Copies of THREE publications having ACU affiliation and the Ph.D. Candidate as the first author and the guide as co-author/corresponding author.
 - (iii) Copies of Conference/Seminar Attendance Certificates.
 - (iv) Four hard copies of the synopsis with signatures of the Supervisor, Co-Supervisor (if any), Head of the Department, and the Principal/Dean of the institution and a soft copy.

18. Thesis and Examination

- 18.1. Each candidate for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall submit FOUR (04) copies of the thesis and THREE numbers of Pen drive - the soft copy in PDF format (one or more files of less than 10 MB size each), along with the Plagiarism Check Certificate endorsed by Chief Librarian, ACU, not earlier than the prescribed minimum period and not later than the prescribed maximum period after the Pre-Submission Colloquium. The thesis has to be hard bound and typed in double line spacing with Times New Roman 12 Font size. The thesis should contain all the necessary certificates about the authenticity of the thesis, Declarations both by the Candidate and Supervisor, Certification from the Head of the Department and the Dean / Principal of the College / Research Center. Also the thesis should contain a copy of the DAC approved synopsis and copies of the papers published, list of papers published and Conferences/Seminars attended.

- 18.2. The Ph.D. candidate has to enclose Plagiarism Check Certificate duly endorsed by Chief Librarian, ACU. This certificate is the proof of the originality of the research work carried out by the Candidate as per the research proposal approved by DAC. Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) will not accept the thesis if the Plagiarism Check Certificate is not enclosed along with other documents while submitting the thesis. ACU will allow only up to 10% of the data from others work with appropriate citations in the thesis. Violation of this rule will attract serious action against both the Research Supervisor and Candidate. Plagiarism check will be carried out at ACU using the software approved by UGC and other scientific bodies in the country. This service is provided to the Ph.D. candidates for some nominal charge by ACU.
- 18.3. Candidates have to submit "No Dues Certificates" from the ACU Library, Hostel, Head of the Department and Principal of the institution through which the candidate has registered and also the Examination Section of ACU whether the entire prescribed fee has been paid without any dues.
- 18.4. BOS of the faculty concerned prepares a Panel of Examiners for each candidate in consultation with the respective Research Supervisor, shall submit to The Registrar (Evaluation) and maintain confidentiality. The panel shall include TEN examiners from India out of which FIVE from within the state and FIVE from outside the state.
- 18.5. The examiners must be the acknowledged leaders with a rich experience in the field of study undertaken by the candidate.
- 18.6. A board of three examiners (ONE internal, ONE within the state and ONE from outside the state) shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for the adjudication of the thesis based on the panel suggested by the HOD/BOS and recommendation of the Dean Research. The University reserves all the rights to select suitable examiners from the panel of examiners recommended by BOS. The Research Supervisor of the Candidate shall be one of the examiners (internal) out of three examiners. Also as a convention, the Research Supervisor shall be the Chairman of the Ph.D. Board of

Examination for that particular thesis adjudication. If the Research Supervisor has some allegations related to the examinations and serving any punishment by the ACU or any other university within India, then the Vice Chancellor has a right to appoint another examiner from the same field and also appoint him or her as the Chairman of the Board of Ph.D. Examination of that candidate.

- 18.7. The University shall ascertain from the external examiners their willingness to offer themselves as examiners for a particular thesis. A copy of the synopsis of the thesis shall be sent to the external examiners either in soft copy or hard copy as desired by the examiner. On acceptance of the willingness, copies of the thesis will be sent to them.
- 18.8. All three examiners appointed by the Vice Chancellor for a particular thesis and the Ph.D. Candidate will abide by the rules and regulations of the examination of ACU. If anyone (either the candidate or the examiners appointed or any other third party either directly or indirectly indulging in influencing the examiners) is found involved in the malpractice, the ACU will take action as per the ACU Malpractice norms.
- 18.9. The examiners shall submit a detailed critical report on the Ph.D. thesis. Their recommendations for acceptance of the thesis must accompany a precise certificate that the candidate's work has advanced the existing knowledge on the subject and is a standard research work suitable for publication. In case, anyone of the examiners is of the opinion that the thesis has failed to achieve the desired standard or fail to fill the existing gap in the field of research, then precise reasons for such rejection must be stated by the examiner. If the examiner feels that the thesis can be accepted after revision, he/she shall state the points on which revision is needed. The revised copy of the Ph.D. thesis will be sent to the same examiner for further adjudication.
- 18.10. In the event that the thesis is rejected by only one examiner, it will be referred to another external examiner from the same panel. The Vice Chancellor is authorized to take decision in this regard. In case, the thesis is approved by this additional examiner, it will be considered as unanimously approved.

- 18.11. If one or more examiners recommend re-submission of the thesis after modifications, it shall be done within a maximum period of SIX months from the date on which the candidate is so informed by the university.
- 18.12. In case of re-submission/ rejection/ modifications, the candidate has to submit TWO numbers of hard copies and two numbers of soft copy of the revised or resubmitted thesis in PDF format (one or more files of less than 10 MB size each).
- 18.13. If the Ph.D. thesis is rejected by both the external examiners, it will stand rejected and shall not be referred to any other examiner.
- 18.14. The examiners may be requested to send some questions to be asked to the candidate at the time of viva voce examination to seek clarifications. These questions/ comments shall be made available to the examiners on the day of viva-voce examination.
- 18.15. After the thesis has been approved by the examiners, an Open Defence of the thesis will be held, as well as the Viva Voce examination to adjudge the general proficiency of the candidate in the field of research undertaken by the candidate. Viva Voce examination board has to submit the Proceedings of the Open Defence and Viva Voce examination along with the original reports of the concerned examiners of the Ph.D. thesis. Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, will send all three reports of the thesis to the concerned Supervisor (Chairman, BOE of that Ph.D. thesis) in advance before the Open Defence and Viva Voce Examination.
- 18.16. The candidate shall be entitled to appear at the Open Defence of thesis and viva voce examination only if the thesis is unanimously approved by the Board of Examiners. The HOD, Supervisor and the advisory members along with one external examiner in the concerned subject will constitute the Viva voce examining committee.

- 18.17. If the report from any one of the external examiners is not received within six weeks, the thesis will be sent to another examiner from amongst the BOS already recommended panel of examiners. The Vice Chancellor can exercise the power to appoint another examiner.
- 18.18. The board of examiners for the viva voce examination shall consist of one external and one internal examiner. Ordinarily, the Supervisor/ Co- Supervisor(s) of the thesis / any expert appointed by the university will be the internal examiner. One of the external examiners, who assessed the thesis of the candidate, will be the external examiner at the viva voce-examination and the Vice-Chancellor will nominate that examiner. Also, the Head of the Department and Principal of the College or Director of the Research Center will be the Members of the Viva Voce Examination Board.
- 18.19. The topic, date and the time of the thesis defence shall be announced by the concerned institutions of ACU well in advance so that the faculty members and others interested in the topic of the thesis can attend.
- 18.20. At the viva voce examination, the candidate's general proficiency in the subjects allied to the field of his study shall also be evaluated.
- 18.21. Those attending the Open Defence, who are not members of the board of examiners, can participate by asking relevant questions with the permission of the examiners.
- 18.22. The board of examiners shall take into consideration the views and criticism, if any, of the faculty members and others participating in the Open Defence of the thesis.
- 18.23. However, the result of the viva voce examination shall be decided solely by the members of the Board of Examiners.
- 18.24. The Proceedings of the Open Defence and Viva Voce examination should be sent along with the names and signatures of all those attended the Open

Defence and viva voce examination to The Registrar (Evaluation), ACU, through HOD / Dean, Research, ACU, B.G. Nagara.

18.25. In case, the examiners are not satisfied with the performance of the candidate in the above examinations, the candidate shall be required to reappear for another viva-voce examination after a period of six weeks provided such specific recommendation is made by the board of examiners with appropriate reasons for it.

19. Results

19.1. The candidate shall be declared eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), only on the unanimous recommendation of the members of the board of examiners after the viva voce examination.

19.2. With the approval of the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar (Evaluation), ACU shall issue a Notification on the declaration of the results to the Candidate by mentioning the Title of the Ph.D. Thesis, Candidate's name and also name(s) of Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any), so that the candidate can affix Ph.D. as a suffix to his name henceforth. A copy of this Notification has to be sent to all the statutory officers of the University; Secretary, UGC; Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of Karnataka, Commissioner, Dept. of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Karnataka, local press and media.

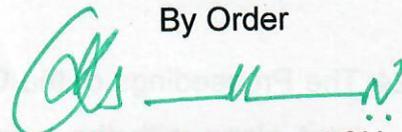
20. Award of Degree

20.1. Candidates who qualify for Ph.D. are eligible to receive the degree at the subsequent convocation under the seal of ACU duly signed by the Vice Chancellor.

20.2. The title of the thesis will be indicated in the Ph.D. degree certificate. The Ph.D. Degrees will be awarded in the respective subjects.

Date: 30.01.2023
Place: B.G. Nagara

By Order


The Registrar, ACU