REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
(DPA)

(See also General Regulations)

Admission requirements

DPA1 To be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the degree of Doctor of Public Administration, candidates shall

  (a) comply with the General Regulations;

  (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with honours and a taught Master's degree in Public Administration or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;

  (c) demonstrate a record of at least 8 years' professional experience in public administration or other related disciplines as may from time to time be judged appropriate by the Programme Committee; and

  (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

Qualifying examination

DPA2 (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' ability to pursue the research project proposed. A qualifying examination shall consist of one or more invigilated written examination papers; additionally, the invigilated written paper(s) may be supplemented by other forms of examinations.

  (b) Candidates who are required to sit a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until all examination requirements are satisfied.

Registration

DPA3 Successful candidates shall in the first instance be granted provisional registration for the DPA degree, such registration to be confirmed only when successful candidates satisfy the requirements set out in regulation DPA 10. below.

Award of degree

DPA4 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Public Administration, candidates shall

  (a) comply with the General Regulations; and

(b)   complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the
regulations set out below.

Length of curriculum

DPA5 The programme shall begin in September of each year that a cohort is admitted to the
programme with admissions made in alternate years.   The length of study shall normally extend
over a period of not less than 48 months and not more than 72 months on part-time basis.

Leave of absence

DPA6 A candidate who wishes to be absent from the approved course of study or research shall
be required to submit a written application for leave of absence.   Study leave may be granted for
the purposes of study or research outside Hong Kong and non-study leave may be granted when a
candidate is best advised for personal, health, or other reasons to have time completely away from
his/her academic responsibilities.   Unless special circumstances warrant an exception, leave of
absence under both categories shall not normally be granted for a cumulative period of more than
twelve months for the entire period of study.   Any period of study leave granted shall be counted
towards the period of study and any period of non-study leave granted shall result in the extension
of the period of study by the period of absence.

Completion of curriculum

DPA7 To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

(a)   satisfy examiners in the coursework requirements for the degree as set out
in the syllabuses;

(b)   complete, to the satisfaction of the examiners, a thesis as specified in
regulation DPA 12. below; and

(c)   satisfy examiners at the oral examination.

Coursework requirements

DPA8   Candidates shall be required to take courses and satisfy the coursework requirements
as prescribed in the syllabus.   The approved course of study and research includes a compulsory
coursework component with formal requirements relating to such coursework being determined,
from time to time, by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education.   The coursework
requirements must be fulfilled before the candidate is permitted to submit a thesis.

Supervision and progress

DPA9   Candidates are required to submit a progress report at six-monthly intervals, and may be required to give one or more seminars on any part of their course of study and research.

Probation and confirmation of candidature

DPA10

(a)   Candidates whose applications are accepted shall be subject to a probationary period, which shall not normally exceed 24 months. By the end of the probationary period, candidates must have

(i)   completed the required proportion of coursework as set forth in the programme's curriculum;
(ii) demonstrated capability in research by completing a Research Proposal to the satisfaction of the supervisor and Programme Director;
(iii) attended a probation interview; and
(iv) presented a research seminar.

(b)   At the end of the probationary period, a decision shall be made on whether the candidature shall be confirmed or terminated.

Discontinuation

DPA11 A candidate may be discontinued

(a)   if academic progress is not satisfactory; or

(b)   if the student has failed to meet the requirements as stipulated in this set of Regulations.

The Thesis

DPA12

(a)   The thesis should be between 50,000 and 60,000 words long (exclusive of tables of cases and statistics, notes, appendices containing material and bibliographies).   The thesis must represent an original contribution to knowledge and contain material worthy of publication.

(b)   Candidates shall submit four copies of his/her thesis for examination, in accordance with the regulations governing the format, binding and presentation of theses, together with a written statement that the thesis represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

(c)   Candidates shall serve written notice of intention to submit a thesis for examination at least 3 months prior to the expected date of submission.   The notice shall be accompanied by a provisional thesis title.

(d)   Candidates shall not be permitted to submit a thesis until all coursework requirements have been satisfied.

(e)   Candidates shall be examined by examiners appointed for this purpose both on the thesis itself, and at an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and/or the approved course of study and research. Candidates may also be examined by other means.

Thesis examination results

DPA13

(a)   Candidates who have satisfied the examiners shall be recommended for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Public Administration.

(b)   Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in the thesis component:

(i)   may be required to resubmit the thesis after making corrections and amendments as required by the Board of Examiners, without a new examination; or

(ii)   may be required to revise and resubmit the thesis for a new examination within a specified period, and may also be required to satisfy the examiners at a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate, on the subject of the revised thesis and/or the approved course of study and research; or

(iii)   may be required to attend a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate; or

(iv)   may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.

Coursework examinations results

DPA14

(a)   Coursework shall be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

(b)   Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in respect of the Coursework requirements at the first attempt shall normally be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the same course. Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners in such re-examination may be required to discontinue their studies.

(c)   Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following semester or academic year. Any such application shall be made in written format within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

Publication based on thesis

DPA15   Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
(DPA)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Year I
Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:
POLI6601   Governance: politics, policies and networks
POLI6602   Policy analysis: skills and practice
POLI6603   Workshop in governance research
POLI6604   Collaborative management

Candidates are also required to attend methods training workshops, offered over the summer, to enable them to critically evaluate and apply research methods relevant to their dissertation research.

Year II
Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:
POLI6605   Ethics and public affairs
POLI6606   Supervised reading in specialty of public administration
POLI6607   Seminar on governance and public affairs in China
POLI6608   Seminar on governance and public affairs in East Asia

Year III & IV
Candidates shall complete the course from the following list:
POLI9609   Thesis

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

POLI6601   Governance: politics, policies and networks

A comparative examination of new modes of governance that have emerged globally; the course considers alternative ways of delivering policy outputs and the manner in which policy networks operate. It explores the relationship between governance and the law through analysis of existing regulatory frameworks.   It focuses on the current context of public-private interface and the interface between government and society, ways in which this has changed, and ways in which it might be expected to change.   Examples will be drawn from the best practice experiences of international academics.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6602   Policy analysis: skills and practice

Conventional policy analysis has a strong connotation of rational planning and is anchored in the concept of efficiency.   New modes of governance have challenged the adequacy of looking at policy analysis simply as a means to achieving efficiency.   Policy analysis within new modes of

governance requires appreciation and knowledge of designing institutions to harness the dynamics of collective action in multiple scales and levels, as well as the necessary skills to juggle the concerns of efficiency, transparency, accountability, and democracy.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6603   Workshop in governance research

The workshop is devoted to the continued development of students' knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and the ethics of research. Students receive training in advanced methodologies such as models for discrete outcomes, model assessment and fit, survey research, comparative case studies etc. in the context of social sciences. Through this workshop, students will gain a thorough understanding of not only research design and methodologies, but also the practice of action research.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6604   Collaborative management

A governance perspective focuses our attention on the management of the "extended state."   The course examines various issues involved in the more complex nature of managing public services straddling the great divides between the state, markets, and civil society.   In particular, the course focuses on inter-jurisdictional collaboration, third-party governance, network governance, collective action in multiple scales, and the engagement of civil society in policymaking and governance.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6605   Ethics and public affairs

New modes of governance raise ethical issues that may have been less important or non-existent under traditional public administration systems.   These include, for example, conflict of interest, influence or sensitivity issues arising from greater interaction with the private sector and from the greater interchange of personnel between the public and private sectors. One question that will be addressed is whether national integrity systems are able to cope with, or have adapted to, the changing circumstances arising from new governance systems.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6606   Supervised reading in specialty of public administration

The course is tailor-made for each student through one-to-one supervision and designed to familiarize students with particular bodies of literature that are relevant to their specialties and research interests.   Through intensive reading and a focus on research methods to support students to critically evaluate the research literature, one important end product of this course is a robust literature review of major theoretical and policy issues on which the students will formulate and conduct their dissertation research.   The course will enable students to fine-tune their dissertation writing and rhetoric skills and build up their research methodology skills.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6607   Seminar on governance and public affairs in China

The course is focused principally on governance experience in China, including Hong Kong. The coordinator will invite senior practitioners from government, policy advocates, and political actors to discuss critical policy issues on the understanding that Chatham House rules apply. Departmental members would also make significant contributions to the seminar based, for example, on their research, such as on civic engagement and participatory governance.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6608   Seminar on governance and public affairs in East Asia

The course provides an opportunity for students to learn the latest developments in public governance and policy in East Asia, and will be organized in a workshop format emphasizing intensive learning and active participation of students.   Distinguished scholars from various East Asian countries will be invited to contribute to the teaching of the course. The topics to be covered may vary each year, but they will cover governance issues, such as hybrid public-private partnerships, transnational linkages, civic engagement, and network governance.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI9609   Thesis

Candidates will complete a thesis of 50,000 to 60,000 words. The thesis will be assessed on the basis of being (i) an original contribution to knowledge and/or the understanding of educational practice and, (ii) containing material worthy of publication. Candidates will also participate in thesis seminars commencing after confirmation of candidature which will contribute to their research programmes and will serve as forums for presenting their work in progress on a regular basis.
Assessment: 100% coursework