



Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 36

Series of 1998

SUBJECT: POLICIES AND STANDARDS ON GRADUATE  
EDUCATION

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and for the purpose of rationalizing graduate education in the country, the following updated policies and standards in graduate education are hereby adopted and promulgated by the Commission, thus:

SECTION 1  
STATEMENT OF POLICIES

Graduate education is at the apex of the educational system. As such, it shall showcase the best of the academic and intellectual products and processes of the system. Specifically:

1. Graduate education shall be so structured as to enhance quality, efficiency and effectiveness in higher education;
2. Graduate education shall be made more relevant and more responsive to the development needs of the educational system as well as to the regional and national development thrusts; and
3. Graduate education shall take the lead role in enhancing the quality of Philippine higher education towards global competitiveness and world-class scholarship.

## SECTION 2 STRUCTURE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

Philippine graduate education shall, if feasible, be vertically articulated by discipline. Graduate programs shall therefore emanate from strong undergraduate programs across all the higher education disciplines. A graduate program coordinator may be designated by the heads of higher education institutions.

The Commission recognizes that advanced degrees are of two types: practitioner's graduate degrees and research degrees.

## SECTION 3 ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Level III accreditation of undergraduate programs, including arts and sciences, shall be a major consideration in granting permits to open new graduate programs, except for those graduate programs which traditionally do not have undergraduate bases, and in cases where the Commission believes that the opening of such programs will contribute significantly to the development of high-level manpower in undersubscribed and critical disciplines.

## SECTION 4 INCENTIVES FOR QUALITY, RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Commission shall provide incentives for the opening of quality, relevant and responsive graduate programs in disciplines deemed crucial to the attainment of national development thrusts as indicated in the Long Term Higher Education Development Plan. Quality shall be a major consideration in the grant of such incentives.

## SECTION 5 STANDARDS IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

- 5.1 **Administration.** A graduate program shall, if feasible, be vertically structured. The Dean of each program shall be a
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holder of a doctoral degree who has published works in refereed journals in an appropriate discipline. The designated graduate program coordinator shall be a holder of a doctoral degree in any of the graduate fields offered by the institution.

For a Course-Work Master's (CWM) program, the Dean or the designated graduate program director shall be at least a master's degree holder in the field or equivalent as defined in the policies and standards specific to the field.

- 5.2 **Faculty.** For doctoral programs, there shall be at least three (3) full-time faculty who are doctoral degree holders and who have published works in refereed journal(s) in the discipline. For master's programs, there shall be at least one (1) full-time published faculty who is a doctoral degree holder and at least three (3) full-time faculty who are master's degree holders in the discipline. The number of advanced degree holders shall vary with enrollment in the graduate programs in such a manner as to allow for a load of maximum of five (5) active student advisees per graduate faculty.

For professional fields, the faculty of the master's program must be at least master's degree holders, while for doctoral program, doctorate holders. The number of faculty required shall be defined in the policies and standards specific to the field.

- 5.3 **Admission Requirements.** The institution shall have a validated examination. A National Graduate Record Examination (NGRE) score shall be taken into consideration in accepting graduate students for enrollment as soon as this test is developed and implemented by the Commission.
- 5.4 **Curriculum.** The institution is given the flexibility to determine and design its own competency-based curriculum for graduate studies subject to minimum requirements defined in the policies and standards specific to the field.
- 5.5 **Library.** The library requirements for undergraduate programs in the discipline shall be coupled with: a) subscription to at least two (2) peer-reviewed professional
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journals or internationally-refereed journals, and b) at least five (5) titles of graduate reference books on specialized discipline in every subject offered under the program. The use of CD-ROMs, Internet and other education technologies is encouraged. These library requirements shall be accessible to the graduate students.

**5.6 Laboratory and Other Facilities.** The laboratory and facilities requirements for undergraduate programs shall be coupled with: a) provision for research facilities or research equipment in basic sciences, b) instructional laboratories for Course-Work Master's (CWM) Program and, c) extensive information technology facilities that will allow for Internet access.

**5.7 Research.** A master's thesis is generally required for research master's programs while a dissertation is required for all doctoral programs. Evaluation of the research outputs of the students shall be done through an oral examination by a panel of examiners to be attended by at least one (1) external expert. Faculty research advisers shall be chosen on the basis of the quality of their published works in peer-reviewed professional journals.

## **SECTION 6 RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Institutions offering graduate programs are encouraged to provide slots for research and teaching assistantships. Research assistants may be hired for graduate faculty doing funded research.

## **SECTION 7 EFFECTIVITY AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

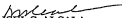
For the opening of new graduate programs, the policies and standards herein promulgated shall take immediate effect. For existing graduate programs, the institutions shall be given three (3) years from the date of this Order to comply with all the requirements set.

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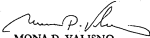
Previous issuances on Graduate Education which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby superseded.

For strict compliance.

Pasig City, Philippines, June 9, 1998

  
ANGEL C. ALCALA


Chairman

  
MONA D. VALISNO


Commissioner

  
ESTER A. GARCIA

Commissioner

  
KATE C. BOTENGAN

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ROBERTO N. PADUA

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