

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Council of Universities' Affairs
General Secretary



مجلس شؤون
الجامعات
Council of Universities' Affairs

**Regulation on Graduate Studies
Issued by Council of Universities' Affairs
Resolution No. (2/9/1444) dated 3/1/1444^H,
corresponding to 1/8/2022^{AD}**

First Edition

1444 H (2022 AD)

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Chapter One: Definitions

Article 1

The following terms and phrases whenever they appear in this Regulation shall have the meanings herein specified unless the context indicates otherwise:

Graduate Studies

A stage of education above the bachelor's, such as a graduate certificate, master's degree, or doctorate.

Classification

The unified Saudi Classification of Educational Levels and Specializations issued by Council of Ministers' Resolution No. (75) dated 27/1/1442 H, and any amendments or updates thereto.

Framework

The National Qualifications Framework in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued by the decision of the Board of Directors of the Education and Training Evaluation Commission at its 1st meeting for the 2nd session held on 6/6/1441 H, and any amendments or updates thereto.

Authorized Vice-President

The university competent vice-president concerned with the affairs of graduate studies at the university according to the organizational structure of the university.

Executive Management

The deanship, department, or unit in the university in charge of carrying out graduate studies-related academic procedures in accordance with the university's approved organizational structure.

Program

The set of courses, the thesis, the graduation research, the comprehensive exam, or those that the student studies during a specified period of time in order to obtain an academic degree or a higher certificate in the field of specialization.

Joint Program

An academic program in which more than one department or college from within the university, or from the educational institutions or research institutions inside or outside the Kingdom participate; and it has specific learning outcomes.

Study Unit

The weekly theoretical lecture, the weekly academic symposium, the clinical lesson, or the exercise lesson of no less than 50-minute duration, the practical lesson of no less than 100-minute duration, or the field lesson specified in the study plan.

Course

The study material in the plan of each program, which includes a number, code and description of the content, is subject to follow-up, evaluation and development in each section. It may be taught independently or have a prerequisite or concurrent requisite. The prerequisite or the concurrent requisite may be waived based on an examination of specific learning outcomes.

Postponement of Admission

Postponing the commencement date of the student's studies following the issuing of his university identification number and prior to course registration. This can only be done once, and it cannot be done after the study has begun.

Postponement of Study

The student suspends the continuance of the period specified - pursuant to this Regulation - for obtaining the academic degree after the commencement of his studies.

Withdrawal

The student permanently terminates his relationship with the university in which he is enrolled before completing his academic program.

Termination of Enrollment

The university terminates its relationship with the student before he completes his academic program for specific reasons stipulated in this Regulation.

Re-enrollment

The university restores its relationship with the student whose enrollment has been terminated.

Comprehensive Exam

A test of the knowledge and skills required for obtaining a graduate program degree (higher diploma/master's/doctorate). The comprehensive exam may be the final qualifier for some of these degrees except for the Ph.D.

Graduation Research

A research requirement that may be completed over the course of one or two semesters. It qualifies for the academic degree and is a subject-specific course within the program's courses.

Thesis

The thesis or dissertation that represents the research and its results, which the student prepares and submits for the purpose of obtaining the degree.

Chapter Two: Objectives and Enforcement of the Regulation

Article 2

Without prejudice to the provisions of Regulations on Studying and Examinations at the University Undergraduate Level, this Regulation aims to organize graduate studies in universities in order to increase the efficacy and quality of the educational process and academic procedures for the graduate studies stages at the university.

Article 3

The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to universities that are subject to the Law of the Higher Education Council and Universities issued by Royal Decree No. M/8 dated 4/6/1414 H and universities that are subject to the Law of Universities issued by Royal Decree No. M/27 dated 2/3/1441 H.

Chapter Three: Objectives of Graduate Studies

Article 4

Graduate studies aim to achieve the following:

1. Maintain advanced studies and research that serve the national goals, expanding them, and endeavoring to publish them.
2. Contributing to the enrichment of all areas of knowledge by means of specialised studies and academic research to gain access to innovative scientific and applied research additions and to reveal new facts.
3. Providing students with the educational opportunities to pursue graduate courses locally.
4. Offering qualifying courses and programs to students to increase their level of qualification and competence in conducting studies and research that benefit the country and contribute to the enrichment of their respective specialisations.
5. Recruiting a group of exceptional students from across the world in the most essential research subjects in order to enhance the outputs of academic research and increase the required cultural diversity in graduate programs.
6. Preparing and developing the academic and professional specialists that society needs.
7. Encouraging creativity and innovation to keep pace with the demands of knowledge and technical development, elevating the level of academic research, and directing it to address issues and

challenges of sustainable development locally in Saudi society, regionally, and globally.

8. Enhancing local, regional, and international cooperation and partnership opportunities.
9. Developing the knowledge economy outputs to contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals of Saudi society.

Chapter Four: Criteria for Graduate Program Approval

Article 5

The University Council shall set the detailed criteria for approving graduate programs in accordance with the following:

1. The university must have obtained institutional accreditation from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission.
2. The bachelor's program - in the same specialization - must have obtained program accreditation from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission or from one of the international accrediting agencies approved by the Commission in order to approve the higher diploma or master's program. For the approval of the doctoral program, the master's program - in the same specialization - must have obtained program accreditation from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission or from one of the international agencies approved by the Commission.
3. The department must have a sufficient number of professors and associate professors who are specialized in the field of the mas-

ter's or doctoral program in addition to the availability of research capabilities such as laboratories, computer facilities, and others in order to ensure the success of the program in terms of teaching, supervision, and research.

4. The number of students expected to be accepted into the program should be appropriate to ensure its continuance, and the maximum number of students in each class should not exceed twenty-five students.
5. When approving its programs, the university shall adhere to the following criteria in the following order:
 - a. The unified Saudi Standard Classification of Educational Levels and Specializations.
 - b. The National Qualifications Framework in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
6. Suspension of admission to master's and doctoral programs that do not obtain program accreditation from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission or one of the international agencies approved by the Commission within two years of graduating the first cohort from the programs.

Chapter Five: Organization of the Standing Committee for Graduate Studies

Article 6

A Standing Committee for graduate studies (the Standing Committee) shall be formed at the university, and it is to be organizationally linked to the authorized Vice-President and chaired by him/her and the membership of the following:

1. Five deans of university colleges and institutes that offer graduate programs, considering the diversity of colleges and institutes' specializations.
2. Dean of Development and Quality at the university.
3. Dean, director, or head of the Executive Management unit, who shall be the secretary of the committee.
4. Three members who are experienced and specialized in graduate studies from inside or outside the university.

The members specified in Clauses (1) and (4) of this Article are appointed by a decision of the University Council upon the University President's nomination for a two-year term that is renewable.

Article 7

Without prejudice to the provisions of this Regulation, the Standing Committee shall undertake the following tasks:

1. Proposing the general policy for graduate studies at the university and supervising its implementation after approval by the University Council.
2. Recommending the approval of the admission requirements for graduate studies programs and updating them upon the request of the councils of competent departments, colleges, and institutes.
3. Supervising joint graduate programs.
4. Recommending the approval and amendment of graduate studies programs, after studying and refereeing, to the University Council based on a proposal from the Department Council, and endorsement of the proposal by the College Council.

5. Recommending the approval of study plans and detailed standards to the University Council, based on a proposal from the Department Council and endorsement by the College Council in accordance with international benchmarks and comparisons.
6. Proposing standards for graduate studies programs for approval by the University Council.
7. Proposing the rules regulating the evaluation of graduate studies programs for approval by the University Council.
8. Supervising the evaluation of graduate studies programs at the university on a regular basis, through specialized committees or bodies inside or outside the university.
9. Reviewing the comprehensive report prepared by the Executive Management on the graduate studies programs at the university and the results of evaluating those programs and submitting them to the University Council.
10. Recommending the approval of the college councils' proposals regarding graduate studies programs that are compatible with the community's needs, the Kingdom's plans and visions, and global trends, for approval by the University Council.
11. Supporting proposals for determining academic degrees and certificates and their names in both Arabic and English, based on the proposals of Department and College Councils.
12. Recommending the numbers of students who can be accepted each academic year in the graduate studies programs to the University Council, based on a proposal from the councils of the

competent departments and the approval of the College Councils.

13. Suggesting the guidelines for forming supervisory committees and thesis defense committees.
14. Setting general frameworks and standards for comprehensive exam and graduation research.
15. Setting the overall framework for research plans and the rules governing writing, printing, producing, and submitting thesis; preparing forms for the thesis defense committee reports; and evaluating thesis.
16. Studying periodic reports related to graduate studies that are submitted by the academic departments at the university.
17. Proposing the offering of graduate studies programs outside the university premises and submitting this to the University Council to take what it deems appropriate.
18. Recommending the approval of the colleges' proposals regarding development initiatives related to graduate studies in order to develop the university's financial resources.
19. Recommending the determination of the fees for applying to graduate programs, the tuition fees for the programs, and the fees for support services related to graduate studies, based on the proposals of the Department and College Councils.
20. Recommending the allocation of scholarships for students, in full or in part, in accordance with the regulations approved by the University Council.

21. Recommending the termination or suspension of graduate studies programs that do not comply with quality standards or with the university's strategy.
22. Reviewing the referrals made by the Chair of the Standing Committee, the University President, or the University Council in order to provide its opinion. The Committee may delegate some of its authorities to its Chair, and it may also form standing or temporary committees from among its members or others to study what they are asked to do.

Article 8

The Standing Committee shall meet upon a call by its Chair at least once a month, and the meeting shall only be valid if attended by at least two-thirds of its members, including the Chair or whomever he deputizes from among the members of the Committee. The Committee's decisions are issued by a majority vote of the members present. In case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote. The decisions of the Standing Committee shall be effective unless contested by the University President within fifteen days from the date of receipt. If contested, they shall be returned with the University President's comments to the Standing Committee. If the Standing Committee maintains its position, the disputed decisions shall be referred to the University Council to be decided in its first ordinary or extraordinary meeting. The University Council may ratify, amend, or cancel the decisions. The decision of the University Council on this is final. The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite whomever he deems necessary to attend some of the Standing Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Chapter Six: Study Programs and Study System

Article 9

Joint graduate studies programs may be established between departments, colleges, or institutes within the university; or between the university and educational or research institutions from inside or outside the Kingdom, in accordance with rules approved by the University Council based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee and after coordination with the colleges and departments or competent entities.

Article 10

The number of study units a graduate student must study at the university that will grant him/her the academic degree shall not be less than fifty percent of the total number of credits required to grant the degree; and the student must complete his graduation research or his thesis, if any, entirely under its supervision. Students of joint programs are excluded from this Article.

Article 11

The study for the higher diploma shall consist of academic courses and field study, applied, and laboratory work, provided that the study period of the program and the number of study units are in accordance with specifications in the Classification and Framework. The University Council, based on a proposal of the Standing Committee, may increase the study period for any program, not exceeding half the specified period.

Article 12

Study options of a master's degree shall be either coursework only, coursework and thesis, coursework and comprehensive exam, or coursework and graduation research, provided that the study period of the program and the number of study units are in accordance with what is specified in the Classification and Framework. The University Council, based on a proposal of the Standing Committee, may increase the study period for any program, not exceeding half the specified period.

Article 13

The University Council, based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, shall approve the method of doctoral study, provided that the study period of the program and the number of study units are in accordance with what is specified in the Classification and Framework. The University Council, based on the proposal of the Standing Committee, may increase the study period for any program, not exceeding half the specified period.

Article 14

The period for obtaining the academic degree starts from the beginning of registration for the graduate courses of the program in which the student is enrolled until the date of completing the requirements of the program or the student's supervisor submitting a report to the Head of Department with a copy of the thesis if any.

Chapter Seven: Admission

Article 15

The Executive Management shall undertake the implementation of academic procedures, including student admission and registration, in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation and the regulations approved by the University Council.

Article 16

Without prejudice to Article (15) of this Regulation, a student may be accepted in a field other than his specialization, based on a recommendation from the competent Department Council and approval from the College Council.

Article 17

The competent department may require for admission of the student to the master's and doctoral level that he pass a number of supplementary courses from a previous stage or pass a related learning outcome assessment in order for the student to become eligible to join the program in accordance with regulations approved by the Standing Committee based on a proposal from the Department Council and endorsement from the College Council.

Article 18

A student may be accepted into two graduate studies programs at the same time provided that the two programs are from the same stage or from a previous stage, in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Article 19

It is permissible to transfer courses previously passed by a student at a university or educational institution inside the Kingdom or from outside the Kingdom provided that these institutions are licensed by the competent authority in the country of study. This should be based on the recommendation of the Department Council and the approval of the College Council. The courses that have been transferred are recorded in the student's academic record. The University Council shall issue the regulations governing this and the possibility of including their grades in the student's cumulative GPA in his academic record.

Article 20:

With the approval of the competent Department Council and the College Dean, the student may postpone his admission one time. The postponement cannot be accepted after the student starts his studies. This shall be in accordance with the regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 21:

Without prejudice to the decisions issued by the Council of Universities' Affairs, the university may charge:

1. Tuition fees or a charge to offer graduate studies programs or courses provided that these programs have program accreditation, and the number of students does not exceed the number of accepted students - for the same programs or courses - without fees or charge. The University Council shall set the regulations governing this based on a recommendation from the Standing Committee.

2. A service fee for graduate studies and their support in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Chapter Eight: Academic Procedures

Article 22

The student may postpone the study at the recommendation of the competent Department Council and the approval of the College Council in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 23

The student may withdraw from one or more courses or all courses of the semester after the end of the registration period upon the recommendation of the competent Department Council and the approval of the College Dean according to regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 24

If a graduate student withdraws from the university and then decides to re-join, the university may apply the admission requirements at the time of the new application.

Article 25

A student shall be deemed to have dropped out if he does not register within the specified period for registration in each semester in which he is allowed to register.

Article 26

1. The student's enrollment shall be terminated in the following situations:
 - a. If he stops studying, in accordance with the provisions of Article (25) of this Regulation.
 - b. If he does not pass the supplementary courses, in accordance with the regulations approved by the Standing Committee.
 - c. If his cumulative GPA falls below (Very Good) in two consecutive semesters.
 - d. If his acceptance is found to be based on his submission of completely or partially incorrect information or documents.
 - e. If he does not obtain the degree within the specified period of the program.
2. The student's enrollment shall be terminated by a decision of the Standing Committee based on the recommendation of the Department Council and the endorsement of the College Council in the following situations:
 - a. If it is proven that he is not in academic good standing at the thesis stage in accordance with the provisions of Article (44) of this Regulation.
 - b. If he does not pass the comprehensive exam after being allowed to repeat it once.
 - c. If the thesis is not accepted by the defense committee as being unsuitable for defense.
 - d. If he violates academic integrity, during the coursework or thesis-writing phases, or if he violates the laws, regulations, or related decisions.

Article 27

A student whose enrollment has been terminated may be re-enrolled if the conditions preventing him/her from continuing his studies are acceptable to the Department and College Councils. Re-enrollment decision shall be made by the Standing Committee in consideration of the following:

1. A student whose enrollment has been terminated for more than three academic years is deemed as a new student in terms of re-studying courses, regardless of what he has previously accomplished from the study stage, and the University Council may except from that in accordance with regulations issued by the University Council based on a proposal from the Standing Committee.
2. A student whose enrollment has been terminated for three academic years or less re-studies some of the courses specified by the Department Council and approved by the College Council. The units he studies after re-enrolling are included in his cumulative GPA, and the period the student spent in the study before terminating his enrollment shall be calculated within the maximum period for obtaining the degree.

Article 28

As an exception to Clause (c) of Item (1) of Article (26) of this Regulation, the College Council may grant the student one exceptional opportunity, not to exceed one academic year, based on the Department Council's recommendation.

Article 29

As an exception to Clause (e) of Item (1) of Article (26) of this Regulation, the Standing Committee may grant the student an exceptional opportunity not to exceed one academic year, based on a report from the supervisor and the recommendation of the Department and College Councils.

Article 30

Without prejudice to Article (15) of this Regulation, based on the recommendation of the Department and College Councils, the Executive Management may accept the transfer of a student to the university from a university or educational institution inside or outside the Kingdom, provided that it is licensed by the competent authority in the country of study, on the condition that he is not dismissed from it for any reason. The transferred courses shall be recorded in the student's academic record, and the University Council shall issue the regulations governing this and the possibility of including their grades in the student's cumulative GPA in his academic record.

Article 31

A student may be transferred from one program to another within the university based on the recommendation of the Department Council to which he is transferred and the approval of the College Council in accordance with the guidelines and conditions approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 32

A graduate student may, based on the recommendation of the Department Council and the approval of the College Council, study some courses at a university or educational institution inside or outside the Kingdom, provided that it is licensed by the competent authority in the country of study. The academic units he studied shall be transferred and recorded in the student's academic record. The University Council shall issue the regulations governing this and the possibility of including their grades in the student's cumulative GPA in his academic record.

Article 33

A graduate student from a non-Saudi university may study some courses at a Saudi university in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Chapter Nine: Assessment Mechanism

Article 34:

Exam in graduate courses shall be conducted and grades shall be recorded in accordance with the Regulations on Studying and Examinations at the University Undergraduate Level, except for the following:

1. The student shall not be considered to have passed the course unless he obtains at least an (above average) grade.

2. The student must pass the supplementary course on the first attempt with a grade of no less than (above average), and his cumulative GPA in all supplementary courses must not be less than (very good).
3. Regarding alternative exams and courses that require more than one semester to be studied, the College Council decides what is considered appropriate based on the Department Council's recommendation.

Article 35

The University Council shall issue the rules regulating the oral and written comprehensive exam for the master's and doctoral stages, based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Chapter Ten: Thesis, Supervision, and Defense

Article 36

The University Council shall issue the rules regulating the registration of the graduation research project, the thesis of the graduate student if any, and the mechanism for determining the thesis supervisor and the assistant supervisor if any, based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Article 37

Thesis are written in the language approved for the program by the University Council, provided that the thesis contains an adequate summary in Arabic if it is in a language other than Arabic.

Article 38

Thesis are supervised by professors and associate professors from the university faculty. An assistant professor may supervise graduation research and master's thesis and assist in supervising doctoral dissertations if he has two published research papers or accepted for publication in a refereed academic journal in his field of specialization.

Article 39

Experienced and specialized individuals in the field of the thesis research who are not faculty member whether from inside or outside the university may supervise or assist in the supervision of thesis based on a recommendation of the Department Council and an approval of the College Council.

Article 40

The University Council shall issue the guidelines for the thesis assistant supervisors based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 41

A faculty member may supervise thesis outside his university, whether inside or outside the Kingdom, without prejudice to his job duties in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 42

The supervisor shall evaluate the student's performance at the end of each semester and determines his progress in the thesis in accordance with the mechanisms approved by the Standing Committee.

Article 43

The number of students enrolled in the class for the graduation research course shall not be less than five, and the College Council may make an exception from the minimum in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 44

If it is proven that the student is not in academic good standing at the thesis stage, based on the report of the thesis supervisor, the student is warned by a letter from the competent department. If the student is warned twice and does not resolve the reasons for the warning, his enrollment will be terminated based on the recommendation of the Department and College Councils.

Article 45

Whether individually or jointly with others, the supervisor can supervise a maximum of seven thesis at one time. The Standing Committee may except from this based on the recommendation of the Department and College Councils in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 46

The supervision load for a faculty member, whether he is a main supervisor or an assistant supervisor for each thesis is included in his teaching load in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 47

After the completion of the thesis, the supervisor shall submit a report on its completion to the Department Head attaching a copy of the thesis, in preparation for completing the defense procedures determined by the College Council.

Article 48

A committee shall be formed by a decision of the College Council based on the recommendation of the Department Council.

Article 49

The University Council shall issue the rules for selecting the members of the master's thesis and doctoral dissertations defense committees and the mechanism for conducting those discussions based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 50

The defense committee shall prepare a report signed by all its members and submitted to the Department Head within a week from the date of the defense, including one of the following recommendations:

1. Acceptance of the thesis and a recommendation to award the degree.
2. Acceptance of the thesis with minor amendments without re-defending it again. A member of the defense committee shall be delegated to recommend the awarding of the degree after ensuring the implementation of the amendments within a period not ex-

ceeding three months from the defense date. The College Council may make an exception to that provided that the period does not exceed six months from the defense date.

3. Completion of deficiencies in the thesis and re-defend it by the committee during the period determined by the College Council based on the recommendation of the competent Department Council, provided that it does not exceed one year from the defense date.
4. Not accepting the thesis.

Each member of the defense committee has the right to present what he has of different views or reservations in a detailed report to the Department Head within a period not exceeding one week from the discussion date, and it is submitted to the College Dean with the report of the defense committee.

Article 51

1. A lump-sum payment of (5000) five thousand riyals will be paid to the master's thesis supervisor from outside the university, and a lump sum payment of (7000) seven thousand riyals to the doctoral dissertation supervisor from outside the university.
2. The standing Committee may approve, based on a request from the student's university, the assignment to temporary secondment of the external supervisor to meet the student whom he is supervising, provided the following:
 - a. The assignment shall not to exceed twice in each academic year for each external university in which students' thesis are supervised.

- b. The number of universities to which they are assigned to temporary secondment shall not exceed two universities in each academic year.
 - c. The duration of the assignment shall not exceed three days each time.
 - d. The total number of assignment days shall not exceed ten days in the academic year for all universities.
 - e. The host university shall bear the expenses of the external faculty member to supervise its students' thesis in accordance with what is legally prescribed according to his academic rank.
3. The university may amend the lump sum payment in Clause (1) of this Article upon an approval decision by the Council of Universities' Affairs.

Article 52

A lump sum payment of (1,000) thousand riyals shall be paid to a defense committee member who participates in the discussion of a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation if he is a faculty member at the same university to which the thesis is submitted.

If the defense committee member is not a faculty member at the university in which the thesis is being discussed whether he is an employee of that university or someone invited from outside it, a lump sum payment of (1,500) one thousand five hundred riyals shall be paid to him/her for a doctoral dissertation and (1,000) one thousand riyals for a master's thesis. The payment shall be increased to (2,500) two thousand five hundred riyals if the defense committee member is from outside the Kingdom.

If the defense committee member is from outside the city in which the thesis is being discussed whether he is from inside or outside the Kingdom, he shall be issued, in addition to the aforementioned payment, a round-trip ticket from his place of residence and appropriate accommodation and subsistence fees, for a maximum of two nights. A ticket is issued for the escort if the discussant is blind and for the guardian if the defense committee member is a female in addition to the appropriate accommodation fee with a maximum of two nights.

The Standing Committee may add one or two nights in certain situations and if the nature of the study so requires based on a recommendation from the competent Department and College Councils, with the justifications for staying for a period of more than two nights.

The university may amend the lump sum payment referred to in this Article after the issuance of a decision of approval by the Council of Universities Affairs.

Chapter Eleven: Graduation and Degree Granting

Article 53

The head of the competent department shall submit the defense committee's report to the College Dean within a period not exceeding two weeks from the defense date to submit it to the Executive Management.

Article 54

The student graduates after successfully completing the graduation requirements according to the program plan, provided that his cumu-

lative GPA is not less than that required by the University Council for each program on the condition that it is below a “very good”.

Article 55

If the student decease before being able to defend the thesis, the degree is awarded in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 56

The authorized Vice-President shall submit the recommendation to award the academic degree to the University Council to take the decision.

Chapter Twelve: General Provisions

Article 57

1. Without prejudice to what is stated in the Classification and Framework, and in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee, the University Council, based on the recommendation of the Department and College Councils and the support of the authorized Vice-President, may grant the student:
 - a. A higher diploma when he passes a number of the master’s program courses, without being qualified to obtain a master’s degree.
 - b. A master’s degree when he has passed a number of doctoral program courses, without being qualified to obtain a doctorate degree.

2. Without prejudice to what is stated in Clause (1) of this Article, the Executive Management, based on the recommendation of the Department and College Councils, may grant the student evidence of passing a number of graduate courses without all of them contributing towards a degree in accordance with regulations approved by the University Council based on the proposal of the Standing Committee.

Article 58

In the event that the student obtains the same academic degree from two educational institutions within the framework of a joint program, a joint graduation certificate may be issued between the two educational institutions or an independent graduation certificate from one or both educational institutions. The University Council shall issue the guidelines and procedures regulating this based on a proposal from the Standing Committee.

Article 59

Health diplomas and health fellowships are excluded from the provisions of this Statute, and the regulations and rules issued by the University Council shall apply to them.

Article 60

The council of each university shall approve the executive rules for this Regulation.

Article 61

Whenever there is no a special provision in this Regulation, the Law of the Council of Higher Education and Universities issued by Royal Decree No. (M/8) dated 6/4/1414 H shall be applied to the universities that are subject to this Law, and the Law of Universities issued

by Royal Decree No. (M/27) dated 2/3/1441 H shall be applied to the universities that are subject to this Law and their Regulations in addition to the effective laws, regulations, and decisions in the Kingdom.

Article 62

This Regulation shall nullify the Unified Statute for Graduate Studies in Universities issued by the Higher Education Council Resolution No. (3/6/1417) dated 08/26/1417 AH, and all provisions inconsistent therewith.

Article 63:

The Council of Universities' Affairs has the right to interpret this Regulation.

Article 64:

This Regulation comes shall enter into force at the beginning of the academic year of 1444H.