

These doctoral regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available from L1 – Office of Legal Affairs and Academic Quality Management is the version that is legally binding.

**Faculty Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine at  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)  
for the degree Dr. med. or Dr. med. dent.  
– FPromO med./med. dent. –  
Dated 5 November 2020**

With reference to Section 13 (1) in conjunction with Section 64 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHSchG), FAU passes the following Doctoral Regulations:

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## I. General Provisions

### Section 1 Scope

<sup>1</sup>The valid version of these Faculty Doctoral Regulations (FPromO med./med. dent.) supplements the General Doctoral Regulations of FAU (**RPromO**) for the Faculty of Medicine for awarding a Dr. med. or Dr. med.dent. degree; these Doctoral Regulations are thus structured in a similar manner. <sup>2</sup>Regulations pursuant to these Faculty Doctoral Regulations are stipulated in the relevant sections.

### Section 2 Doctoral Degree

### Section 3 Doctoral Titles

### Section 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations

(1) <sup>1</sup>There is a separate doctoral affairs committee for doctoral degrees in medicine and doctoral degrees in dentistry. <sup>2</sup>The members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee are:

1. The Dean (chairperson) and
2. Two further members appointed by the Faculty Council from the authorised examiners for the examination of doctoral degrees at the Faculty of Medicine.

<sup>3</sup>The Dean may transfer their position as chair or any other of their tasks to the Vice Dean or another professor of the Faculty of Medicine.

(2) <sup>1</sup>For each doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint an examining committee consisting of the chairperson and two other members who are authorised examiners for doctoral degrees. <sup>2</sup>At least two members of the examining committee pursuant to sentence 1 shall be professors. <sup>3</sup>The supervisors and the reviewers shall be appointed to the Examining Committee according to Section 5.

### Section 5 Reviewers and Supervisors

(1) The supervisor is generally also a reviewer.

(2) <sup>1</sup>According to Section 5 (2)(2) **RPromO**, only primary and secondary members of the Faculty of Medicine as defined by Section 5 (2)(1)(1) **RPromO** are entitled to supervise doctoral degrees. <sup>2</sup>Part-time lecturers and individuals with doctoral degrees (who are able to continually supervise the doctoral proposal due to their employment at FAU or an institution associated with FAU) can be appointed as supervisors according to Section 5 (2)(3) **RPromO** on an individual basis.

## II. Admission to a Doctoral Degree

### Section 6 Admission Requirements

(1) The requirements for admission to a doctoral procedure are:

1. Dr. med.  
A pass in the State Examination for medicine (*ärztliche Prüfung*) at a university within German jurisdiction and proof of study at FAU according to (2),
2. Dr. med. dent.  
A pass in the State Examination for dentistry (*zahnärztliche Prüfung*) at a university within German jurisdiction and proof of study at FAU according to (2).

(2) <sup>1</sup>A further requirement for admission to a doctoral procedure for the degrees Dr. med. and Dr. med. dent. is proof of study at FAU (in medicine or dentistry) for at least two semesters or employment as a research associate for at least one year at an FAU institute or department. <sup>2</sup>The Dean can waive this admissions requirement in extraordinary circumstances at the candidate's request and following consultation with a subject representative.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Pursuant to Section 6 (1)(3) **RPromO** and notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the examining committee can admit candidates provisionally to the doctoral procedure for a maximum of six years, provided they have completed the first part of the State Examination in medicine or dentistry. <sup>2</sup>Section 6 (1)(6), Section 8 (1) and 8 (2)(1) **RPromO**, Section 6 (2) and Section 8 shall apply accordingly with the proviso that applicants must provide proof of having passed the first part of the State Examination in medicine or dentistry rather than proof of having completed a university degree. <sup>3</sup>The Office of Doctoral Affairs shall be informed immediately if circumstances that are central to the doctoral procedure change (for example change of supervisor) after an applicant is provisionally admitted to the doctoral procedure; the Office of Doctoral Affairs may reconsider the provisional admission to the doctoral procedure. <sup>4</sup>The period of validity of the provisional admission to the doctoral procedure pursuant to sentence 1 can in justified cases be extended upon the doctoral candidate's request before it expires. <sup>5</sup>Provisional admission is withdrawn if the candidate fails the State Examination in Medicine or in Dentistry at the final attempt pursuant to the Licensing Regulations for Physicians or Dentists (ärztliche bzw. zahnärztliche Approbationsordnung). <sup>6</sup>If no proof is provided of passing the final examination within six years of the provisional admission and if this period is not extended pursuant to sentence 4, the provisional admission shall become invalid and FAU shall be under no obligation to keep, assess or archive documents the doctoral candidate has submitted as part of the admission procedure.

(4) The entitlement to bear a doctoral title for medicine or dentistry or an academic title that is equivalent to one of these doctoral titles precludes the right to graduate in a doctoral degree programme leading to the same title.

## **Section 7 Qualifying Examination**

### **Section 8 Admission to a Doctoral Degree**

<sup>1</sup>The application for (provisional) admission to the doctoral procedure must include the agreement of the director of the academic or clinical institution supervising the doctoral proposal to the use of resources and patient data if applicable. <sup>2</sup>The application for (provisional) admission to the doctoral procedure must also include the Supervision Agreement for the Completion of a Doctoral Degree.

## **III. The Doctoral Procedure**

### **Section 9 Initiation of the Doctoral Procedure**

If the doctoral proposal is administered by another institution which does not belong to the Faculty of Medicine, the agreement of the director of the institution must be submitted to the Faculty of Medicine together with the application for initiation of the doctoral procedure.

## Section 10 Requirements for the Thesis

(1) <sup>1</sup>All theses written in German must be accompanied by an abstract in English. <sup>2</sup>This shall apply to cases according to (2) and (3) accordingly if the articles that have already been published are in German.

(2) <sup>1</sup>A research article of which the candidate is the lead author that has already been published in a recognised scientific journal in the relevant subject with a note indicating that it is to be used as part of a doctoral thesis may be accepted instead of a thesis (alternative written doctoral research). <sup>2</sup>If there is more than one lead author, the article that has been published in a recognised scientific journal may be accepted if the candidate is listed first in the list of authors. <sup>3</sup>Scientific journals shall be considered recognised pursuant to the FPromO med./med. dent. if they are listed in a recognised citation database of the relevant subject, in particular SCI or PubMed, or in lists of recognised scientific journals published by academic societies. <sup>4</sup>The publication that is submitted in place of a thesis must contain 15 to 20 pages of German or English text which make the relevance of the article to the field clear; Section 10 (5) **RPromO** shall remain unaffected. <sup>5</sup>In exceptional cases, instead of confirmation according to Section 10 (3)(3) **RPromO**, the supervisor may submit confirmation of the candidate's contributions in proportion to those of other co-authors.

## Section 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Rejection of the Thesis

(1) <sup>1</sup>The evaluations shall include a grade. <sup>2</sup>The following grades shall apply:

'summa cum laude' = ausgezeichnet (1) = an outstanding achievement;

'magna cum laude' = sehr gut (2) = an excellent achievement;

'cum laude' = gut (3) = a commendable achievement;

'rite' = befriedigend (4) = a satisfactory achievement;

'insufficienter' = unzulänglich (5) = an unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

<sup>3</sup>If both reviewers agree on the grade 'summa cum laude', two additional reviewers shall be appointed for the procedure according to (2); at least one of these reviewers must be a member of another university.

(2) <sup>1</sup>For the grade 'summa cum laude' to be awarded, all reviewers according to (1)(3) must agree to award this grade. <sup>2</sup>Furthermore, in this case the candidate's article must have been published or accepted for publication in a recognised journal as defined in Section 10 (2)(3) in the relevant subject, whereby the candidate must be the sole lead author.

(3) Pursuant to Section 11 (2)(3) **RPromO**, the deadline for submitting evaluations shall be reduced to two months.

(4) If the thesis is accepted, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the grade based on the evaluations and the grades specified in (1).

## Section 12 Oral Examination

(1) The oral examination covers the topic of the thesis and the contextual relationships between the topic of the thesis and research questions in other disciplines, particularly in related disciplines in theory and practice.

(2) <sup>1</sup>In the case of a thesis nominated for the grade 'summa cum laude', the oral examination shall be held in the form of a public Disputation in German or English; the public shall be excluded from discussions concerning the results of the examination and when the results are announced to the candidate. <sup>2</sup>The Disputation consists of a 20-minute presentation of the thesis results by the candidate. <sup>3</sup>An academic discussion lasting up to 40 minutes led by the chairperson of the examining committee shall be conducted after the presentation. <sup>4</sup>The Dean can allow a Disputation to be held in cases other than those specified in sentence 1 at the candidate's or supervisor's request. <sup>5</sup>The Disputation shall be held at the latest four months after the thesis has been accepted by the Doctoral Affairs Committee.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Each member of the examining committee shall assess the performance of the candidate in the oral examination with a grade specified in Section 11 (1)(2). <sup>2</sup>The grade for the oral examination is calculated from the arithmetic average of the individual grades from the examiners; the result is calculated to two decimal places.

(4) If the oral examination is graded as 'insufficenter' by at least two members of the examining committee, the oral examination shall be considered as failed.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Even in cases that do not fall under (2)(1), admitted doctoral candidates and other members of the Faculty of Medicine may be admitted to the oral examination as listeners in restricted numbers by the chairperson of the Examining Committee, if the candidate does not object to their presence. <sup>2</sup>Paragraph 2 (1)(2) shall apply accordingly.

(6) The oral examination may be conducted with the help of audiovisual telecommunication technologies; Section 12a **RPromO** applies.

### **Section 13 Resitting the Oral Examination**

#### **Section 14 Results of the Doctoral Procedure, Notification**

<sup>1</sup>The overall grade for the degree is calculated from the average of the thesis grade and the oral examination. <sup>2</sup>The thesis grade is weighted twice. <sup>3</sup>The overall grade for the degree is calculated on the basis of the average as follows:

- up to 1.17 'summa cum laude' (= ausgezeichnet),
- between 1.18 and 2.50 'magna cum laude' (= sehr gut),
- between 2.51 and 3.50 'cum laude' (= gut) and
- higher than 3.51 'rite' (= befriedigend).

#### **Section 15 Publication of the Thesis and Submission of the Mandatory Copies**

Section 15 (4) sentences 2 and 3 **RPRomO** shall apply accordingly to the publication of doctoral achievements as defined in Section 10 (2) (other written doctoral achievements).

#### **Section 16 Completion of the Doctoral Degree**

<sup>1</sup>The doctoral degree certificate is issued in German; an authorised translation of the doctoral degree certificate may be issued in English on request. <sup>2</sup>A traditional certificate may be issued in Latin on request. <sup>3</sup>The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine shall sign the doctoral degree certificate.

#### **IV. Honorary Doctoral Degrees**

##### **Section 17 Honorary Doctoral Degree Certificates**

<sup>1</sup>A candidate may be proposed for an honorary doctoral degree at the request of at least two thirds of the authorised doctoral degree examiners on the Faculty Council.

<sup>2</sup>The Faculty Council shall decide whether to grant the request.

#### **V. Cooperative Doctoral Degrees**

##### **Section 18 Cooperative Doctoral Degrees**

#### **VI. Doctoral Degrees in Cooperation with Foreign Universities**

##### **Section 19 General**

##### **Section 20 Examination Procedure at FAU**

##### **Section 21 Examination Procedure at the Partner Institution**

##### **Section 22 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate**

#### **VII. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees**

##### **Section 23 Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations**

##### **Section 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees**

#### **VIII. Concluding Provisions**

##### **Section 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions**

(1) <sup>1</sup>These regulations come into effect on the day after their publication. <sup>2</sup>They shall apply to all doctoral procedures initiated after these doctoral regulations have come into effect.

(2) The FAU Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine from 21 January 2013, last revised on 30 November 2016, shall no longer apply according to (3).

(3) <sup>1</sup>All existing doctoral procedures initiated prior to these FPromO med./med. dent. shall be governed by the Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine of FAU from 21 January 2013, last amended on 30 November 2016. <sup>2</sup>Candidates whose doctoral procedures have already been approved but have not yet been initiated may choose whether these doctoral regulations or the regulations according to (2) shall apply. The candidate shall inform the Office of Doctoral Affairs by 31 March 2021 at the latest.

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Erlangen, 5 November 2020

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Hornegger  
President

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