

These doctoral regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available at the Office of Doctoral Affairs is the version that is legally binding.

Faculty Doctoral Regulations
for the School of Business and Economics at the Faculty of
Business, Economics, and Law at
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)
(FPromO WW)
Dated 21 January 2013

amended by statutes of
21 February 2017

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I. General Provisions

Section 1 Scope

¹These doctoral regulations (FPromO WW) supplement the FAU General Doctoral Regulations (**RPromO**) and are structured in a similar manner. ²Therefore some sections do not contain further provisions.

Section 2 Doctoral Degrees

Section 3 Doctoral Titles

Section 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations

(1) ¹The body responsible for administering doctoral degrees is the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ²All full-time university lecturers at the School of Business and Economics belong to the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ³Professors on leave and retired professors according to Section 17 (1)(2), BayHSchG at the School of Business and Economics are eligible to vote at the sessions of the Doctoral Affairs Committee; these votes shall be considered in the calculation of the majority. ⁴The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee is the Dean of Research, the deputy is the school speaker. ⁵The bodies responsible can delegate individual tasks to the chairperson.

(2) The members of the examining committee are as follows:

1. In the case of a 'Disputation', three examiners appointed by the bodies responsible who are members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee or who are eligible to vote on the Doctoral Affairs Committee. Both reviewers of the thesis shall be appointed as examiners. The chairperson of the bodies responsible is entitled to participate as an examiner in the Disputation. The examiners shall elect a member from their peers as a chairperson who shall also take records of the examination.
2. In the case of a Rigorosum, one examiner shall be present for each examined subject with an additional invigilator appointed by the bodies responsible.

Section 5 Reviewers and Supervisors

(1) ¹Full-time university lecturers (Section 2 (3)(1), BayHSchPG) at FAU who are primary or secondary members of the School of Business and Economics are entitled to supervise doctoral degrees. ²The same applies for persons named in Section 5 (2)(1)(2), **RPromO**. ³Part-time university lecturers who are primary or secondary members of the School of Business and Economics and individuals with doctoral degrees who are able to continually supervise the doctoral research due to their employment at FAU or an institution associated with FAU may be appointed as supervisors on request (Section 5 (2) sentences 2 and 3 **RPromO**). ⁴Section 18 of **RPromO** shall remain unaffected.

(2) As a rule, the supervisor of the doctoral research is also appointed as a reviewer.

(3) At least one reviewer must be a full-time university lecturer at the School of Business, Economics, and Society.

II. Admission to a Doctoral Degree

Section 6 Admission Requirements

¹To be admitted to a doctoral degree, the candidate must provide evidence of one of the following degrees in a business or social science-related subject within German jurisdiction:

1. Diplom, Magister or Master's degree from a university or
2. Master's degree from a university of applied science.

²The subject relevant to the doctoral degree must be worth at least 50 ECTS credits.

³At least 5 ECTS credits must be from modules which are closely related to the topic of the thesis. The candidate must also provide evidence of modules worth at least 5 ECTS credits each in the following subject areas:

Business studies and economics

1. Modules from business studies and
2. Modules from economics

Social sciences

1. Modules from sociology and
2. Modules from business studies or economics or social sciences.

⁴The final examination must have been completed with the grade 'gut' (up to 2.5).

⁵Grade averages up to 3.0 without the assessment 'gut' may be considered by the bodies responsible on application from the candidate with a reference from an authorised supervisor from the Doctoral Affairs Committee.

Section 7 Qualifying Examination

(1) On request, the following candidates who have studied a business or social science degree will be admitted to the qualifying examination:

1. candidates who have completed a Diplom degree with at least 'sehr gut' at a university of applied science or
2. candidates who have demonstrated excellent performance in a Bachelor's degree and who have completed an assignment set by a professor of the School of Business and Economics on a topic related to business and economics with at least the grade 'gut' over a minimum duration of three months.

(2) Suggestions for the subjects to be examined in the qualifying examination shall be submitted with the application.

(3) ¹The qualifying examination consists of examinations from three subjects each worth 10 ECTS credits (a total of 30 ECTS credits) according to the Diplom or Master's examination regulations for business administration, economics, or social sciences at the FAU School of Business and Economics. ²The qualifying examination must be completed by four semesters after admission to a doctoral degree according to sub-section 1.

(4) ¹The qualifying examination comprises modules according to Section 6 (3).

²The modules according to sentence 1 are specified by the bodies responsible; the candidate has the right to suggest modules.

(5) The qualifying examination is passed when all written examinations are passed with an average grade of at least 2.5.

Section 8 Admission to a Doctoral Degree

(1) ¹If an application is made for an oral examination in the form of a Rigorosum (Section 12) as an alternative to Section 12 (2)(1), a statement from the supervisor must also be submitted. ²It shall include a suggestion for the subjects to be examined.

(2) The CV according to Section 8 (2)(1), **RPromO** may also be submitted in English.

(3) ¹Admission may be approved subject to conditions. ²The bodies responsible shall specify which achievements provide evidence of a sufficient business or social sciences-related subject in the admissions confirmation letter.

III. The Doctoral Procedure

Section 9 Initiation of the Doctoral Procedure

¹The following documents must also be submitted:

1. For the Disputation: Evidence of participation in a doctoral degree programme of 30 ECTS credits, achievements including participation in national and international conferences or professional training courses may be submitted by the supervisor for the approval of the bodies responsible. ²Achievements which were part of a previous examination may not be considered again.
2. For the Rigorosum according to Section 8 (1): proposal putting forward members of the Examining Committee.

³If the candidate can provide evidence of sufficient preparation in the subject at another university, the bodies responsible may recognise this achievement as such.

Section 10 Requirements for the Thesis

¹If the candidate is to submit several articles as part of a cumulative thesis rather than one written thesis, an agreement must be reached between the supervisor and the candidate on how many articles are required (with a minimum of three). ²The candidate shall be the sole author of at least one article. ³At least two of the individual articles shall have the potential to be published in a prestigious scientific journal, preferably at an international level.

Section 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis

(1) ¹The evaluations shall include a grade. ²The following grades shall apply:

summa cum laude (1.0)	=	an outstanding achievement
magna cum laude (2.0)	=	a commendable achievement
cum laude (3.0)	=	a good achievement
rite (4.0)	=	a satisfactory achievement.

³The grade of rejected work is:

non rite (5.0)	=	unsatisfactory.
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⁴Intermediary grades are permitted at intervals of 0.25, the grades 0.75 and 4.25 cannot be awarded.

(2) Regardless of whether the individual articles have been published according to Section 10 or accepted for publication, the reviewers must assess whether the required quality level is met.

(3) The evaluations should be submitted at least five weeks before the next meeting of the bodies responsible.

(4) The display period according to Section 11 (4)(1), **RPromO** is two weeks.

Section 12 Oral Examination

(1) ¹After initiation of the procedure, the oral examination should take place before the next meeting or before one of the two following meetings of the bodies responsible on request. ²The meeting dates of the bodies responsible and the times of the oral examinations are specified by the bodies responsible. ³The oral examination shall be conducted in German insofar as the Doctoral Affairs Committee has not reached an agreement with the examiners to conduct parts of the examination or the entire examination in English. ⁴The oral examination is usually held in the form of a Disputation, however, the candidate may apply for the oral examination to be held in the form of a Rigorosum with the supervisor's agreement.

(2) ¹The oral examination in the form of a Disputation covers the subject of the thesis and related disciplines. ²The oral examination demonstrates that the candidate is capable of scientific presentation, has in-depth knowledge of the subject of their thesis, is aware of all related areas of the subject and can support their research with links to related disciplines. ³The Disputation shall be opened with a 15-minute public presentation, in which the candidate presents the most important results of their thesis. ⁴This is followed by a non-public scientific discussion which derives from the presentation and covers interdisciplinary aspects; the Disputation should last between 45 and 90 minutes.

(3) ¹The oral examination in the form of a Rigorosum covers three specific subjects selected by the bodies responsible; the duration of the examination is approximately 30 minutes for each subject. ²The subjects of the examination are orientated towards the pursued subject of the doctoral degree according to Section 6 (3). ³Entitled parties of the Faculty may attend the Rigorosum as listeners.

(4) 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

(1) ¹In the Rigorosum according to Section 12 (3), the examiners award a grade in their subject according to Section 11 (1). ²In the Disputation according to Section 12 (3), the Examining Committee award the grade for the oral examination according to Section 11 (1).

(2) ¹Two thirds of the overall result of the doctoral procedure is based on the average grade of the thesis and one third on the average grade of the oral examination (Rigorosum or Disputation). ²The overall grade will be calculated from the arithmetic average and rounded to the nearest whole number. ³If this calculation results in an intermediary grade between two grades (1.5, 2.5, 3.5), the higher grade shall count.

Section 15 Publication of the Thesis and Submission of Mandatory Copies

Section 16 Completion of the Doctoral Degree

¹The doctoral degree certificate will be issued in German and Latin and confirms completion of the doctoral degree, the title of the thesis and the overall grade of the doctoral degree. ²The certificate is signed by the Dean of the Faculty. ³The candidate may request an additional certificate in English; any costs for this must be met by the candidate.

IV. Honorary Doctoral Degrees

Section 17 Honorary Doctoral Degree Certificates

(1) At least two members of the bodies responsible must submit an evaluation for an honorary doctoral degree to be awarded.

(2) The certificate will be presented to the awardee at a presentation ceremony by the chairperson of the School of Business and Economics.

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. Invalidation and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

Section 23 Invalidation of Doctoral Examinations

Section 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

VIII. Concluding Provisions

Section 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions

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

(2) The doctoral regulations of the School of Business and Economics of FAU (PromO FBWiWi) from 24 February 2010 shall no longer apply except when otherwise stipulated in subsection 3.

(3) ¹All existing doctoral procedures initiated prior to the **RPromO** and **FPromO** shall be governed according to the Doctoral Regulations of the School of Business and Economics of FAU (PromO FBWiWi) from 24 February 2010. ²Candidates whose doctoral procedures have already been admitted but have not yet been initiated may choose whether these doctoral regulations or the regulations according to subsection 2 shall apply; the candidate shall inform the Office of Doctoral Affairs by 31 March 2013 at the latest.