

**DEFENSE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

The conduct of the dissertation council meeting for the defense of the dissertation includes:

- the speech of the chairman of the dissertation council meeting about the quorum, the competence of the meeting, the presentation of the doctoral student, the specialty, the topic of the dissertation, the scientific advisors and the official reviewers;

- the speech of the Academic Secretary to announce the list of documents available in the doctoral student's personal file and the compliance of the documents submitted to the Dissertation Council with the established requirements;

- the doctoral candidate's speech (he/she presents the main content and the main points of the thesis);

- questions from the participants of the meeting - the doctoral candidate's answers;

- presentation by scientific advisors; in the absence of foreign advisors, presentation of their reviews;

- speeches of official reviewers. The official reviewers are allowed to speak at this meeting of the Dissertation Council on defense in the form of an on-line video conference;

- responses of the doctoral student to the comments of the official reviewers and conclusions on their wishes and recommendations;

- informal feedback (if available, read out by the academic secretary);

- discussion of the participants in the Dissertation Council meeting;

- formation of a counting commission of 3 (three) people from the members of the Dissertation Council and holding a secret ballot;

- speech by the Chairman of the counting commission regarding the results of the secret ballot, approval of the protocol of the counting commission;

- announcement of the results of the defence;

- the preparation and acceptance of the conclusion of the Dissertation Council on the thesis. Acceptance of the conclusion is carried out by open voting, by a simple majority of votes.

The Dissertation Council holds a secret ballot to make one of the following decisions:

1) to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Ph;

2) to send the thesis for revision (only in the case of defending the thesis in the form of a dissertation);

3) send the thesis for a second defense;

4) refuse to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor in Philosophy.

A dissertation is sent for revision if it contains insignificant comments on the text, the correction of which does not change the essence of the work. If the thesis does not comply with paragraph 4 and/or 6 of the Rules and/or partially complies with the principles (with the exception of the principle of academic honesty) specified in paragraph 5 of the Rules, it is sent for a second defense. In case of violation of the principle of academic integrity or non-compliance with the principles of scientific novelty, internal unity, credibility, the decision to refuse to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor in Philosophy is made.

Members of the Dissertation Council, who are scientific advisors, direct supervisors or are closely related to the doctoral candidate, as well as invited specialists do not participate in the voting.

Official reviewers, whose votes are equal to those of the members of the Dissertation Council, take part in the secret ballot.

The decision of the Council to award (or to petition the Committee for awarding) the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor by profile is considered to be made if 3/4 (three-quarters) or more of the persons participating in the voting vote vote for it.

The decision of the Board to refuse to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Philosophy in the profile, to send the thesis for revision or for re-defense is considered to be adopted if it was voted for by 2/3 (two-thirds) or more of the persons participating in the voting. If the indicated number of votes is not reached, then a new secret ballot is held, at which the decision to send the thesis for revision or a repeat defense is made if the majority of those participating in the voting vote for it.

When making a decision to send the thesis for a repeat defense or to refuse to award the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor in Philosophy degree, the Dissertation Council makes a conclusion, which reflects what requirements of this Statute and the Rules for awarding degrees the thesis does not meet.

The second defense of a dissertation is conducted not earlier than six (6) months after the previous defense in accordance with the procedure established by these Regulations. The composition of temporary members of the Dissertation Council and official reviewers is preserved. The thesis is sent for a second defense no more than 2 (two) times.