

Doctoral Program in Disability Sciences

Name of the degree to be conferred	Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Sciences
Educational purpose	This program trains researchers who can conduct advanced research on various topics related to disabilities and provides leading education in the field of disability sciences from a global perspective.
Vision of human resources development	To prepare professionals who can provide expert solutions to problems related to people with disabilities from a scientific perspective. Specifically, graduates will have a broad knowledge of disabilities and be able to contribute to problem-solving, as well as identify research issues from real-world problems and promote research plans and their implementation with collaborators to solve those issues.
Diploma Policy	
The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Sciences is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Doctoral programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competencies.	
Competencies	Evaluation perspectives
1. Knowledge creation competence: Ability to create new knowledge that can contribute to future society	① Are there any research findings that can be considered new knowledge? ② Can we expect you to create knowledge that will contribute to future society?
2. Management competence: Ability to plan and implement measures to identify and solve challenges from a higher perspective	① Can you make and implement long-term plans for critical challenges? ② Can you identify challenges, even in other areas of expertise, and solve them from a higher perspective?
3. Communication competence: Ability to express the true nature of academic findings positively and clearly	① Can you explain the true nature of research content and specialized knowledge clearly and logically to researchers from different areas and to people other than researchers? ② Do you proactively share your findings with researchers and experts from your field of expertise and accurately answer questions?
4. Leadership competence: Ability to have objectives get accomplished under your leadership	① Can you set attractive and compelling goals? ② Are you capable of building systems to realize goals and accomplish objectives as the leader?
5. Internationality competence: Possession of a high level of awareness and motivation to be internationally active and contribute to international society	① Do you have strong awareness and motivation to contribute to international society and international activities? ② Have you obtained adequate linguistic skills for international information collection and action?
6. Research creativity: The ability to discover issues related to disability sciences and create original research	① Can the student identify and formulate research questions related to disability sciences from a professional standpoint? ② Can the student solve problems related to disability sciences with an original research plan?
7. Ability to plan and execute research: The ability to plan and execute cutting-edge research on disability sciences	① Can the student develop a long-term research plan for an important issue related to disability sciences? ② Can the student research disability sciences based on a research plan they developed and modify it as appropriate?
8. Research dissemination ability: The ability to disseminate research findings related to disability sciences through academic journals	① Can the student present and discuss their own research findings on disability sciences in class or other settings? ② Has the student published the findings of their own research on disability sciences in an academic journal?

9. Ability to understand and communicate about disabilities: Advanced and extensive knowledge of disability sciences and the ability to teach it to others	① Can the student clearly and logically describe the nature of their specialized knowledge in disability sciences?
10. Ethical understanding and attitude: The ability to implement and teach others the ethical procedures necessary for research and practice in disability sciences	① Has the student completed a research ethics application? ② Can the student acquire the ethical values and knowledge necessary for research on disability sciences and communicate them clearly?

Dissertation evaluation criteria

- The Research Guidance Committee, consisting of 1 academic advisor (research supervisor, chairman) and 2 assistant academic advisors (committee members), will guide doctoral dissertations until the dissertation is submitted.
The submitted dissertation will be reviewed and evaluated by a Dissertation Review Committee comprising 1 primary reviewer and 3 secondary reviewers. At least 1 member of the review committee is selected from the faculty not in charge of this program.
- Evaluation of the doctoral dissertation will be made comprehensively from the following perspectives, based on the peer review of the submitted dissertation, the content of the final presentation, and the oral examination results.
 1. The significance and position of the research in the field of disability sciences is clearly expressed based on an understanding of past research and research trends in relevant fields both in Japan and internationally.
 2. The results of original research that contributes to the development of the field of disability sciences are included in an amount appropriate for an academic paper.
 3. The reliability of the research findings has been adequately verified based on sufficient knowledge of research integrity.
 4. The discussion of the research findings is valid, and the conclusion is based on objective evidence.
 5. The research background, objective, method, results, discussion, and conclusion are organized in a format appropriate for a doctoral dissertation in the field of disability sciences.

Curriculum Policy

The Doctoral Program in Disability Sciences fosters researchers or highly skilled professionals with research skills who can independently carry out research to understand the characteristics of people with disabilities and overcome or eliminate the difficulties associated with them, focusing on their respective areas of specialization, and disseminate the results of their research both domestically and internationally.

Curriculum organization policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through major coursework (research in a specialized field), students will acquire ethical understanding and attitude, the ability to plan and execute research, research creativity, and research dissemination ability by participating in activities such as individual and group discussions on research topics with their academic advisor and two assistant academic advisors. • Through the foundational course Disability Sciences Research and Practice, students will acquire the ability to understand and communicate about disability (knowledge and research methods) by assisting in classes in the College of Disability Sciences under the guidance of the faculty member in charge of the class. • Through the foundational course Overseas Research Activities, students will acquire research dissemination ability by presenting research at international conferences and participating in research exchange with graduate students at overseas universities and other partner institutions. • Through research ethics workshops, students will acquire ethical understanding and attitude. • Through presentations regarding their doctoral dissertation, students will acquire research dissemination ability.
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Learning methods · Processes	<p>The degree program curriculum consists of courses for the preparation of a doctoral dissertation. Research courses are structured within specialized fields; graduate students must take one group of research courses (Research I, II, and III) from their chosen specialization as a compulsory subject. In all specializations, students must take part in a design presentation in Research I (October of the first year), submit an academic paper in Research II, and take part in a mid-term presentation in Research III (June of the third year).</p> <p>In the spring semester of the first year, a research ethics workshop is held separately from classes to train attitudes toward research ethics and specific research ethics review procedures. Then, in Disability Sciences Research and Practice in the fall semester of the first year, students develop the teaching skills by working in the research methods for their own specialized field as class assistants for courses in the College of Disability Sciences under the guidance of the faculty member in charge of the class.</p> <p>In addition, through presentations at international conferences and classes for research exchange seminars with graduate students of international partner universities (Overseas Research Activities), students develop the communication ability, international character, and research dissemination ability necessary for a researcher or highly skilled professional with research skills.</p>
Evaluation of learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerning guidance for the doctoral dissertation, after receiving instruction from the academic advisor and assistant academic advisor, a design presentation will be held in the fall semester of the first year with the attendance of all involved faculty, and the research plan will be reviewed. After passing the design presentation, a mid-term presentation will be held in the spring semester of the third year. The conditions for holding a mid-term presentation are: (1) approximately 70% of the doctoral dissertation's main research data have been collected, and (2) part of the research comprising the doctoral dissertation has been submitted to an academic journal. After passing the mid-term presentation and submitting the final dissertation, the final presentation for the preliminary examination in the degree program will be held. The condition for holding the final presentation is that "the research paper of the first author that constitutes the doctoral dissertation must be published in peer reviewed Japanese national academic journals or an international academic journal."
Admission Policy	
Desired students	<p>We are seeking individuals with research skills of disability sciences, possessing a strong interest in cutting-edge research in Japan and abroad, and aiming to become researchers or highly skilled professionals with research skills who have global perspectives in fields such as education, welfare, clinical practice, public administration, or international cooperation in the future.</p>
Selection policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation will be based on the score of the English external examination, the master's thesis review, and an oral presentation on their research plan and oral presentation. Through the entrance examination, the applicant's English proficiency and research skills related to disability sciences will be reviewed.