Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Science

Name of the degree to be conferred	Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science
Educational purpose	In this course, interdisciplinary highly specialized professionals shall be trained, who provide comprehensive and fundamental education for the researchers and specialized professionals relating to rehabilitation, acquire international/interdisciplinary research outcomes and methodology in collaboration with other occupations, scientifically/practically/developmentally solve various problems in their workplace and society and contribute to society.
Vision of human resources development	In this Degree Program, the human resources shall be trained who have comprehensive and inclusive ability necessary for correspondence and development in a broad view relating regarding various problems which working individuals in-service encounter at their workplaces and whose solutions are promptly required. In comprehensive and inclusive rehabilitation area, highly specialized professionals and faculty members with high practical R&D ability relating to scientific solution of frontline problems shall be especially trained.

Diploma Policy

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science 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 ability: Ability to set leading-edge research tasks based on up-to-date specialized knowledge and carry out a research plan independently in areas of rehabilitation.	① Can the student set up an advanced research project on rehabilitation and communicate the plan appropriately to others? ② Is the student able to publish the results of their advanced research on rehabilitation in domestic and international professional journals? ③ Can the student complete an advanced doctoral dissertation on rehabilitation and present the results appropriately?

7. Specialized knowledge: Leading-edge and advanced specialized knowledge and command areas of rehabilitation	Can the student acquire advanced, highly specialized knowledge about rehabilitation and gain the ability to disseminate it by themself?
8. Ethical view: Ethical view and ethical knowledge appropriate for researchers areas of rehabilitation and deep ethical knowledge about the specific area of expertise	Is the student able to gain advanced research skills, ethics and in-depth ethical knowledge about rehabilitation?

Dissertation evaluation criteria

1. Based on understanding of research trend in and outside Japan preceding research in relevant area, the significance and positioning of the said research in rehabilitation science field is clearly described.
2. Right amount of original research outcomes that contribute to development in and outside Japan of rehabilitation science field is contained as master's thesis.
3. Reliability of research outcomes have been sufficiently verified based on sufficient knowledge regarding research integrity.
4. Consideration for research outcomes is valid and conclusion is based on objective evidence.
5. Background, purpose, method, results and conclusions etc. of the research shall be summarized in an appropriate form as dissertation of rehabilitation science field.

Level standards required for the degree thesis: Both chief supervisor and sub supervisor(s) can judge that master's thesis has satisfied the above-mentioned 1 to 5.
Review board members: 1 primary examiner, 3 secondary examiners
Examination Method: doctoral dissertation, dissertation presentation, and oral examination, judged comprehensively by primary and secondary examiners.

Curriculum Policy

Along with advanced research skills, expertise, and ethics across the four fields of rehabilitation (Medical Rehabilitation, Special Needs Education, Social Rehabilitation, and Vocational Rehabilitation), education and research guidance will be provided to cultivate interdisciplinary and advanced professionals based on interdisciplinary rehabilitation and general-purpose knowledge and abilities to train teachers of higher education, such as those in professional rehabilitation training schools. Based on a Curriculum Policy of combined coursework and research work optimized for working professionals, the program provides a flexible and organically related instruction in dissertation writing and dissertation review leading up to the degree.

Curriculum organization policy	In order to contribute to the cultivation of basic knowledge, a broad perspective, and versatile knowledge and abilities in related rehabilitation fields, students are required to take Basic Lecture on Rehabilitation Sciences, Seminar of Rehabilitation Sciences, and Special Lecture on Rehabilitation Sciences, as well as one credit from the Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses in the Graduate School of Science to contribute to the acquisition of knowledge in a broader range of related fields, based on the student's field of expertise. Specific subjects to be registered and system to deploy sub supervisor(s) shall be determined based on research plans career plans of individual students etc. As a general rule, students must be enrolled in the program for a total of three years or more. Complete 6 credits of compulsory subjects that build up a conceptual understanding and academic foundation of rehabilitation science, as well as 4 or more credits of elective subjects that are highly elective and suited to the research topic. Complete at least 4 credits of elective courses designated by the advisor and secondary advisor, receive research guidance and training necessary for the preparation of the doctoral dissertation. Pass the preliminary and final examinations for the doctoral dissertation. In the doctoral dissertation review, not only scientific logic, but also practical problem-setting, usefulness, effectiveness, and novelty in the field will be actively evaluated. The degree of "Doctor of Rehabilitation Science" is awarded to those who pass the final exam.

Learning methods・Processes	In the first year, students are required to give a presentation on their research plan, a presentation on research necessary for writing their doctoral dissertation, and to submit a list of references required for the preparation of the doctoral dissertation; (1) Progress report meeting in the second year, (2) Midterm presentation meeting in the third year, and (3) Progress report meeting in the third year to report the progress of doctoral dissertation research. In addition, students are expected to participate in the seminars of their advisors and seek the guidance of their secondary advisors after each report meeting.
Evaluation of learning outcomes	Credit will be granted for each of the first year's research plan presentation and literature review, the second year's progress report (1) and midterm presentation and the third year's progress report (2) based on the report and the submission of a post-report. The originality of the research appropriate to the field of rehabilitation, the structure of the entire dissertation, the appropriateness of the analysis, the appropriateness of the discussion and conclusions, and the consistency of the logic will be comprehensively evaluated through a preliminary review by three faculty members and a final review by four faculty members. The doctoral dissertation must contain at least two peer-reviewed scientific papers as the main dissertation.
Admission Policy	
Desired students	The purpose of this program is to develop individuals who can make full use of their positions and experiences as working adults and who can independently and enthusiastically conduct research and inquiry on practical issues related to rehabilitation science using rehabilitation science techniques. It is particularly desirable to have work experience in medical and health care institutions, welfare facilities, school education (including special needs education), rehabilitation professional training schools, vocational support centers and companies that employ people with disabilities, and government and administrative agencies, and to have a strong interest in the creation of new research and clinical practice.
Selection policy	As the entrance examination will be held in November, information on the examination will be released in May, and the deadline for application is early October. Successful applicants will be announced in early December.