Training Plan, Sample Curriculum, Comprehensive Examination, and Other Requirements at the Doctoral School of Experimental and Preventive Medicine of the University of Szeged

December 10, 2024

Head of Doctoral School: Prof. Dr. Márta Széll, Full Professor

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

General regulations:

- Students must earn no fewer than 20 and no more than 45 credits per semester.
- A minimum of 90 credits must be earned during semesters 1–4 as a prerequisite for admission to the comprehensive examination.
- A total of at least 240 credits must be earned over the course of eight semesters (2 + 2 years).
- A maximum of 8 credits may be earned per semester through teaching activities, with a cumulative total limit of 48 credits.
- For a total of 12 credits, students may submit 1 to 4 work reports, each worth 3 credits.

The training plan consists of 4 parts (modules): Modules I–IV

I) Module I: TRAINING/COURSES (a minimum of 38 credits)

I/A: Core subjects (20 credits)

Core subjects

Name of subject	Department/person in charge	Number of hours	Requirement	Number of credits in specific semesters								Total credits	Form of report
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Computer-Assisted Research Methodology	Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics, Prof. Dr. Ferenc Peták	28	End-of-semester examination	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	B5 report
Research Literature, and Methodology and Ethics of Scientific Publishing	Institute of Medical Biology, Prof. Dr. Ernő Duda	14	End-of-semester examination	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	B5 report
Biostatistics Theory	Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics, Prof. Dr. Krisztina Boda	28	End-of-semester examination	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	B5 report
Biostatistics in Practice	Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics, Prof. Dr. Krisztina Boda	28	End-of-semester examination	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	B5 report
Biomedical Ethics	Institute of Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Habil. Oguz Kelemen	14	End-of-semester examination	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	B5 report
Total credits for core subjects				14	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	**20**	

I/B: Mandatory courses linked to the PhD program (specialization) within the Doctoral School – A minimum of 18 credits to be completed in semesters 1–4 for each program (specialization)

The comprehensive examination must be completed at the end of the second year (semester 4). The **total number of mandatory training credits** – i.e., the sum of credits for core subjects and mandatory subjects for each program (specialization) – is 20 + 18 = **38 credits.**

Each of the seven programs offered by the Doctoral School of Experimental and Preventive Medicine at the University of Szeged, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School (SZTE SZAOK) requires students to earn a minimum of 18 credits in mandatory subjects during semesters 1–4. The mandatory subjects for each program are as follows:

1. Doctoral Program in Neuroscience

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. Gábor Jancsó, full professor, professor emeritus*

Neurophysiology I (Lead instructor: Dr. Péter Sántha; Institute of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1)

Neurophysiology II (Lead instructor: Dr. Péter Sántha, Institute of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2)

Neuroanatomy (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Antal Nógrádi, Institute of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology; 28 hour/6 credits, semester 1 or 3)

2. Doctoral Program in the Regulation, Measurement, and Analysis of Life Processes

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. Ferenc Bari, full professor, professor emeritus*

Modern Information Technology in Medicine (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Ferenc Peták, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

Measurement of Vital Signs (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Ferenc Bari, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1)

Processing of Measurement Data (Lead instructor: Dr. Péter Makra, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2)

3. Doctoral Program in Gastroenterology

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. László Czakó, full professor*

Endocrinology of the Gastrointestinal System (Lead instructor. Dr. János Gardi, Department of Internal Medicine I; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

Molecular Physiology and Pathophysiology of the Gastrointestinal System (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Viktória Venglovecz, Institute of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

Modern Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. László Czakó, Department of Internal Medicine I; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

4. Doctoral Program in Neuroendocrinology

Program Director: *Dr. Habil. Zsolt Bagosi, associate professor*

Neuroendocrinology I: The Role of Neuropeptides in the Central Nervous System (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Zsolt Bagosi; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 1)

Neuroendocrinology II: Function of Neuroendocrine Systems under Normal and Pathological Conditions (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Zsolt Bagosi; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2)

Chemistry of Biopolymers (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Gábor Tóth; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2)

5. Doctoral Program in Medical Genetics and Genomics

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. Márta Széll, head of department, full professor*

Clinical Genetics I (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Márta Széll; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

Clinical Genetics II (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Márta Széll; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

Current Developments in Human Genetics (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Márta Széll; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

6. Doctoral Program in Preventive Medicine

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. Edit Paulik, head of department, full professor*

Epidemiological Methodology (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Edit Paulik; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 1 or 3)

Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Edit Paulik; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 1 or 3)

Environmental Health Science (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Edit Paulik; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

7. Doctoral Program in Medical Microbiology and Antimicrobial Immunity

Program Director: *Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián, head of department, full professor*

Key Pathogenicity Factors in Bacterial and Viral Infections (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

Immune Responses to Pathogens (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

Research Methods in Microbiological Research (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián; 28 hours/6 credits, end-of-semester examination, semester 2 or 4)

I/C: Elective courses within the Doctoral School

1. **The Role of Lifestyle in Population Health Status** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Edit Paulik; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

2. **The Future of Healthcare** (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Norbert Buzás; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

3. **Health Care Marketing** (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Norbert Buzás; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1, 2, 3, or 4)

4. **Bacterial Antibiotic Resistance** (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Gabriella Spengler; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 3)

5. **Molecular Techniques in Clinical Microbiology I/II** (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Ferenc Somogyvári; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 3)

6. **Characteristics, Mechanisms, and Medical Significance of Cell Death Forms** (Lead instructor: Dr. Klára Megyeri; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 3)

7. **Journal Club** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián; 14 hours/3 credits, semesters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

8. **Obligate Intracellular Bacteria** (Lead instructor: Dr. Habil. Dezső Virók; 28 hours/6 credits, semesters 1 or 2)

9. **Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Burián; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 3)

10. **Principles, Methods, and Possibilities of the Therapeutic Application of Viruses** (Lead instructor: Dr. Klára Megyeri; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1 or 2)

11. **Hospital Informatics** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Ferenc Peták, 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

12. **Molecular Neurobiology** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Károly Gulya, Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Medicine; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

13. **Modern Information Technology in Medicine** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Ferenc Peták, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

14. **Current Topics in Life Sciences** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Mária Deli; Institute of Biophysics at the Biological Research Center; 14 hours/3 credits, semester 1, 2, 3, 4)

15. **Theory and Practice of Animal Experiments – Level A (Theory**) (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Mihály Boros, Institute of Surgical Research; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1 or 3)

16. **Regeneration and Transplantation after Central Nervous System Injuries** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Antal Nógrádi, Institute of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

17. **Biostatistical Models in Life Sciences** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Krisztina Stéhlik Jánosné Boda, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1 or 3)

18. **Chapters on the Regulation of Cerebral Blood Flow** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Eszter Farkas, Institute of Medical Physics and Medical Informatics; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1)

19. **Exciting Trends in Molecular Biology** (Lead instructor: Prof. Dr. Sándor Benyhe and Ildikó Karczagi, Institute of Biochemistry at the Biological Research Center; 28 hours/6 credits, spring semester)

20. **Methods of Organic Chemical Synthesis** (Lead instructor: Dr. Lajos Kovács, Institute of Medical Chemistry; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

21. **Synthesis and Applications of Nucleic Acids 1** (Lead instructor: Dr. Zoltán Kupihár, Institute of Medical Chemistry; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1 or 3)

22. **Synthesis and Applications of Nucleic Acids 2** (Lead instructor: Dr. Zoltán Kupihár, Institute of Medical Chemistry; 28 hours/6 credits, semester 2 or 4)

23. **Chapters on Molecular Bacteriology** (Lead instructor: Dr. József Sóki, Institute of Medical Microbiology; 14 hours/3 credits, semester 1 or 3)

24. **Science Communication** (Lead instructor: Dr. Imola Wilhelm, 28 hours/6 credits, semester 1 or 3)

[Not all of the above courses are offered in English. Students are strongly advised to contact the course instructor and the relevant department in advance to confirm language availability prior to enrollment.]

II) Module II: RESEARCH activity

Students must complete a **minimum of 130 credits over 8 semesters**, with each credit corresponding to 30 hours of research work. The **maximum** allowable total in this module is **172 credits over the course of the 8-semester period**.

The module consists of two components:

– Experimental work (research work): Maximum of 20 credits/semester
– Work report: Maximum of 3 credits per submission, with up to 4 submissions allowed

1. Research work

A maximum of 20 credits per semester may be awarded for research work, with a cumulative limit of 160 credits over the 8 semesters.

30 hours of research work = 1 credit

Recommended number of research hours per semester: 600 hours/semester, corresponding to 20 credits

– 150 hours per semester (~7–8 hours per week): 5 credits
– 300 hours per semester (~15 hours per week): 10 credits
– 450 hours per semester (~22–23 hours per week): 15 credits
– 600 hours per semester (~30 hours per week): 20 credits

Recommended number of credits for research:
8 semesters x 20 credits = 160 credits/8 semesters

Additional, *optional* credits that can be obtained through research-related activities:

– Attendance at continuing-education lectures: up to 2 credits per semester
– Active participation in conferences:
- Hungarian conferences: 3 credits each
- International conferences: 5 credits each

2. Work report

Credits: 3 credits/submission
Total: A maximum of 12 credits

Over the course of the four-year program, a work report may be submitted up to four times, preferably at the end of semesters 2, 4, 6, 8.

By completing all the components outlined above, students may earn a *maximum of 172 credits* within the RESEARCH activity module.

III) Module III: TEACHING activity (optional)

Students may earn up to 8 credits per semester for teaching activities.

The minimum requirement is 0 credits, and the maximum allowable total over 8 semesters is 48 credits.

– 1 hour per week for 14 weeks: 2 credits
– 2 hours per week for 14 weeks: 4 credits
– 3 hours per week for 14 weeks: 6 credits
– 4 hours per week for 14 weeks: 8 credits

Important note:
No credits may be awarded for teaching activities for which the doctoral student receives financial compensation. (See Appendix 4, Section 8 of the University's Doctoral Regulations.)

IV) Module IV: PUBLICATION activity

This module includes training criteria not tied to a specific semester. While completion of this module is not a prerequisite for obtaining the certificate of completion of studies, it may contribute toward fulfilling the total credit requirement.

A minimum of one first-authored article published in a D1-ranked journal is required. This article must not be claimed by any of the co-authors to fulfill their own publication requirements.

The total number of credits that may be earned in this module ranges from a minimum of 65 to a maximum of 90 credits.

The responsible author of the article is required to declare in writing whether the candidate may include the paper in their PhD dissertation.

Allocation of credits awarded for publications:

– Articles in Hungarian, without IF: 5 credits
– Articles in Hungarian, with IF: 10 credits
– Articles in English, without IF: 20 credits
– Articles in English, with IF: 45 credits

Poster presentation at a Hungarian conference: 3 credits
Poster presentation at an international conference*: 5 credits
Oral presentation at a Hungarian conference: 3 credits
Oral presentation at an international conference*: 5 credits

* *Including conferences organized within Hungary*

The total number of credits that may be awarded for publication activities – including publications, poster presentations, and conference talks – ranges from a minimum of 65 to a maximum of 90 credits.

Current publication requirements for advancing to the assessment procedure:

- One D1 publication, with no additional publications required
  (However, none of the co-authors may use the same article to fulfill their own requirements.)
- One D1 publication that is also used by another doctoral candidate, plus one additional publication of any classification, in English, which can be co-authored
- One Q1 publication, plus one additional publication of any classification, in English, which may be co-authored
- If the candidate has not published a Q1 article, then two Q2 articles (one first-authored and one second-authored) are also considered acceptable.
- If the candidate has published only one Q2 publication, then they must submit at least two additional publications of any classification, in English, which may be co-authored.
- If the candidate's first-authored publication is classified as Q3, then three additional publications of any classification in English are required, which may be co-authored.

The total number of credits that may be awarded for publication activities – including scientific publications, poster presentations, and oral conference presentations – ranges from a minimum of 65 to a maximum of 90 credits.

Recommended Sample Training Plan

Credit requirements per semester for a 2+2-year full-time program

Semester 1			**Semester 2**		
	Core subjects	6 + 6 + 2 credits		Core subjects	3 + 3 credits
	Mandatory subjects	6 credits		Mandatory subjects	6 credits
	Research activity	20 credits		Research activity	20 credits
				+ Work report	3 credits
	Teaching activity	4 credits		Teaching activity	4 credits
Total		**44 credits**	**Total**		**39 credits**

Semesters 1 and 2 combined may yield a total of 83 credits, provided that teaching activities are performed.

Semester 3			**Semester 4**		
	Mandatory subjects	6 credits		Research activity	20 credits
	Research activity	20 credits		+ Work report	3 credits
	Teaching activity	4 credits		Teaching activity	4 credits
Total		**30 credits**	**Total**		**27 credits**

Semesters 3 and 4 combined may yield a total of 57 credits, provided that teaching activities are performed.

Comprehensive examination requirement:

To be eligible for the comprehensive examination, doctoral students must earn a **minimum of 90 credits**, which may be obtained during semesters 1 to 4.

- If the doctoral student **performs teaching activities** (2 hours per week), a total of **140 credits** may be earned during semesters 1 to 4.

- If the doctoral student **does not perform teaching activities**, the maximum attainable credits during semesters 1 to 4 is **124 credits** (i.e., 140 credits – 16 credits).

Semester 5			**Semester 6**		
	Research activity	20 credits		Research activity	20 credits
				+ Work report	3 credits
	Teaching activity	4 credits		Teaching activity	4 credits
Total		**24 credits**	**Total**		**27 credits**

Semesters 5 and 6 combined may yield a total of 51 credits, provided that teaching activities are performed.

Semester 7			**Semester 8**		
	Research activity	20 credits		Research activity	20 credits
				+ Work report	3 credits
	Teaching activity	4 credits		Teaching activity	4 credits
Total		**24 credits**	**Total**		**27 credits**

Semesters 7 and 8 combined may yield a total of 51 credits, provided that teaching activities are performed.

Summary: Number of credits that may be earned (compared to the minimum required)

Semesters 1–4				
	If teaching: '+ teaching'		If not teaching: '– teaching'	If not teaching: '– teaching'
		140 credits > 90 credits		**124 credits** > 90 credits
Semesters 5–8				
	If teaching: '+ teaching'		If not teaching: '– teaching'	
		102 credits		**102 – 16 = 86 credits**
Total in semesters 1–8:		140 + 102 = **242 credits**		124 + 86 = **210 credits**

The above credit totals are supplemented by publication-related credits, which are independent of the semester and range from a *minimum of 65 credits* to a *maximum of 90 credits*.

V) OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. PREPARATION OF AN ANNUAL WORK REPORT

Full-time students are required to prepare and submit a one-page annual report at the end of each academic year, providing a summary of their work for that year. The formal requirements for the annual report are outlined in Appendix 1. Students enrolled in individual training are required to write their annual report for as many semesters as they have taken, prior to receiving their certificate of completion of studies. However, if such students have already fulfilled the publication requirements at the time of enrollment and defend their dissertation within six months, they are exempt from submitting the report. Students in individual training may receive a maximum of 2 × 3 credits for their work reports.

The report must include the following:

- General student information and program information, including the student's name, Neptun code, email address, year of study, training status (full-time or individual), name of the doctoral program, name of the supervisor, name of the institute
- List of courses taken and completed, including grades and credits earned
- Details of teaching activities, specifying the number of hours taught and the number of credits earned, along with the name and course code of the subject(s) taught
- Summary of key research results
- List of presentations given, including the title of the presentation; the name, date, and venue of the event; as well as proof of presentation, such as the congress program booklet
- Detailed information on scientific papers, including those published, accepted, or submitted

The report must bear the signatures of both the student and the supervisor and is deemed accepted once signed by the Head of the Doctoral School.

One copy of the report must be submitted to each of the following: the supervisor, the Head of the Doctoral School, and the PhD Secretariat, by September 15 of the given year. For cross-semester students, the submission deadline is January 31 of the same academic year.

2. FOREIGN-LANGUAGE SKILLS

1. Students must demonstrate English language proficiency at the B2 (intermediate) level, as evidenced by a 'C' type (complex) state language examination certificate or an equivalent internationally recognized language exam certificate. The equivalence of language examinations is regulated by government decree. In cases not covered by the government decree, the expert opinion of the University's Foreign Language Center must be relied upon.

2. Instructors involved in the education of medical and dentistry students in German may fulfill the intermediate language requirement with German instead of English.

3. For foreign nationals whose native language is not Hungarian, the native language itself may be accepted as fulfilling the foreign language requirement, provided the doctoral school's language criteria are met. For these individuals, Hungarian is also recognized as a foreign language.

3. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

Applicable requirements for full-time 2+2-year training programs and individual training:

The comprehensive examination that concludes the first phase of doctoral training must be conducted by an **examination board** composed of at least three members, one-third of whom must be external members (i.e., not employed by the University of Szeged – SZTE).

1. Chairperson: A full professor from SZTE
2. Internal member: An SZTE-affiliated instructor holding a scientific degree
3. External member: An instructor not affiliated with SZTE, holding a scientific degree

The Doctoral School announces **one or two examination dates** per year. It is advisable for the comprehensive examinations to be held in the second half of May or the first half of June, ensuring they conclude before the entrance examinations for applicants to the full-time program.

Examination components and retakes:

The comprehensive examination, held at the end of semester 4, consists of two parts, each contributing 50% to the overall assessment:

a) *Theoretical part*

The theoretical part constitutes a **professional examination**, serving as a replacement for the former doctoral complex examination.

If not passed, the examination may be retaken once during the examination period.

The supervisor may select two subjects or topics – based on mandatory courses – from the designated examination list, which will serve as the basis for the student's exam.

In cases where the student's research area significantly diverges from the available examination topics, the student will take exams in two specific medical subjects, as determined by the Program Director and the Head of the Doctoral School.

b) *Dissertation part*:

The dissertation part of the comprehensive examination involves the submission of a dissertation report outlining the research conducted during the first two years of the doctoral program, as well as the planned research for the remaining two years.

Considerations, requirements, and recommendations for the organization of the comprehensive examination:

- The student is expected to either present a PowerPoint presentation (approximately 10–15 slides) or submit a written report (1.5–2 pages). This material must also be included in the examination records.
- The supervisor is required to submit a written evaluation or recommendation (approximately one page in length) regarding the joint work carried out with the student. This document must be provided to the examination board in advance for review.
- The candidate must submit their dissertation report in writing approximately one week before the examination. This report must also be sent to the examination board in advance for review.
- The supervisor may be present during the dissertation part of the comprehensive examination but may not serve as a member of the examination board.

Regulations regarding the records of comprehensive examinations:

Government Decree 87/2015 (IV. 9.) on the implementation of certain provisions of Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education

Section (4)110: The records of the comprehensive examination must include the following information:

a) Name and institutional identification number of the higher education institution
b) Name, identification number, previous level of education, and professional qualification of the doctoral candidate or student
c) Name and academic identification number of the supervisor
d) Field and discipline relevant to the intended degree
e) Questions posed during the comprehensive examination, along with the assessment of the candidate's answers
f) Final evaluation or grade obtained by the candidate at the comprehensive examination
g) Respective names, academic identification numbers, and signatures of the chairperson and members of the examination board

4. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The doctoral dissertation must be written in English. Its total length must not exceed 50 pages, including all figures, tables, and charts; the bibliography is excluded from this page count. The dissertation must be formatted on A4-sized paper, using Times New Roman font, 12-point size, with 1.5 line spacing, standard margins, and must be printed on one side of the page only.

The final version must be submitted in one leather-bound hard copy and in electronic format.

In addition, a summary booklet of approximately 10–15 pages must be submitted in A5 size, in PDF format (printing is not required). The summary must be prepared in both English and Hungarian. For international students, submission in English only is sufficient.

For detailed specifications, please refer to the document titled *"Formal Requirements Regarding the PhD Dissertation and Summary Booklet at the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School (2024)."*

5. SUBMITTING THE DISSERTATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

The candidate must submit their doctoral dissertation within three years following the comprehensive examination, in accordance with the stipulations outlined in the University's Doctoral Regulations and the Operational Regulations of the Doctoral School of Experimental and Preventive Medicine.

The complete submission, including the dissertation and the summary booklet, must be uploaded to the University's Doctoral Repository after plagiarism screening and submission of the signed Plagiarism Declaration Form. For detailed instructions, please refer to SZTE's Doctoral Repository Uploading Guide, 2024.

The dissertation and the summary booklet must be uploaded by the candidate to the Doctoral Repository. The candidate is required to inform the defense coordinator at the PhD Secretariat and the Doctoral School via email once the upload is complete.

The submission date of the dissertation is the date of upload to the Doctoral Repository. This date is publicly posted on the Repository's website.

6. THE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Once the assessment board has been approved by the Disciplinary Doctoral Council (DDC), the defense coordinator invites the two official assessors to review the doctoral dissertation. Along with the dissertation, the coordinator provides the assessors with the Repository link, the Plagiarism Declaration Form, and the D-Q validation. The assessors are given a period of two months – within the teaching period of the semester – to complete their review.

The PhD dissertation must be submitted in one leather-bound copy to the defense coordinator at the PhD Secretariat, no later than the date of the PhD defense.

Once two positive reviews are received, the defense date may be scheduled (the announcement can proceed regardless of whether the candidate's responses are available at the time). The dissertation must be submitted for public defense within two months during the teaching period of the semester.

The defense coordinator, with the assistance of the candidate and supervisor, prepares the invitation and sends it to the assessment board and DDC members. The composition of the assessment board must be indicated in the invitation for the public debate.

Based on the invitation, the administrator of the Doctoral School announces the defense on the Hungarian Doctoral Council's website. The defense invitation is also published in the upcoming Faculty Newsletter.

7. APPROVAL OF THE PHD DEGREE

Following a successful defense, the DDC first votes to approve the dissertation, after which the University Doctoral Council decides on the conferral of the doctoral degree. The PhD title is officially granted upon the University Doctoral Council's decision. Within 30 days from that date, the University of Szeged issues and delivers the doctoral certificate to the holder.

Appendix 1

Provisions from the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Szeged, approved on April 29, 2024

MANAGING CREDIT POINTS IN THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM

1) Throughout the doctoral training, all learning outcomes shall be measured in credits (study credit points).

2) During the training period – divided into 8 examination periods – a total of 240 credit points shall be earned by students to be eligible for a completion of studies certificate.

3) No fewer than 20 and no more than 45 credit points shall be earned during each examination period.

4) If a student participates in partial studies at a foreign or other Hungarian university, the competent Doctoral School Council may grant an exemption from the above-mentioned requirements. The credit point value of the courses completed at a foreign or other Hungarian university shall be judged by the competent Doctoral School Council.

5) With **research work** – including literature review, library and archival research, article analysis, conference participation (such as poster presentations or oral presentations), and publishing articles in journals – a total of **at least 130 credit points** shall be earned.

6) The credit point value for a theoretical course a two-hour class per week (14 weeks/semester) shall be 3–6 points. The credit point value shall change in proportion to the change in the total number of class hours, e.g., when taking an intensive course with an external lecturer. At least **5 theoretical courses** (each with a duration of 2 hours per week) must be completed.

7) To earn the pre-degree certificate confirming completion of all courses, students must complete **theoretical courses worth at least 15 credit points.**

8) Conducting a 1-hour practice or seminar session per week over a 14-week period is worth 1–2 credits. A maximum of 48 credits may be earned through teaching activities, with no more than 8 credits allowed in a single semester. No credit points shall be granted for classes for which the PhD/DLA student receives compensation.

9) If the Doctoral School requires PhD/DLA students to present an account of their research activities at regular intervals during departmental or research group seminars, one such report may be worth 3–5 credit points. It is recommended that at least one report be required (for example, in the sixth examination period). The Doctoral School Council shall determine the number of reports eligible for credit points.

10) PhD/DLA students may be granted credit points for journal articles and active conference participation, including lectures and poster presentations, if they are published in the conference proceedings. The credit value for these activities shall depend on the student's level of contribution to the outcomes achieved. With the consent of the competent Disciplinary Doctoral Council and the Doctoral Council for the relevant Branch of Science, such credits shall be determined by the competent Doctoral School Council.

    Government Decree Section 11(2)
    For medical residents and medical in-house practitioners who are participating in a specific training program to ensure that there is a succession of academic tutors at medical higher education institutions, the Credit Transfer Committee, in accordance with the doctoral regulations, shall permit the recognition of no more than two semesters or sixty credit points from their completed core training modules and professional practice period.

    From January 1, 2022: Student status may also be established in the doctoral training program upon passing the comprehensive examination, provided the student has pursued their degree in general medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy independently, and the credits earned in a Master's program have been accepted in respect of the comprehensive examination, as per the doctoral regulations of the higher education institution.

    From May 31, 2022: A student may also gain admission to a doctoral training program if they participate in a preparation process that is part of the doctoral training while completing the final year of their Master's program, provided they fulfill the admission requirements after receiving their Master's degree. Credits earned in the Master's program will be accepted in accordance with the doctoral regulations of the higher education institution, simultaneously with the admission decision.

11) Upon the proposal of the Doctoral Council, the recognition of credit points, as permitted by the Government Decree, shall be decided by the DDC. Such recognition shall only apply to PhD/DLA students in the organized training program.

12) The competences related to certifying credits shall be determined by the Doctoral School Council.

13) The completion of each study period shall be certified by the dean of the Faculty hosting the Doctoral School.