

# **Validation of Degrees Akamai University**

## **Validation of Graduate Program**

To achieve the accredited graduate degree from Akamai University, transfers from other Universities must complete 25% of their coursework at Akamai. To clarify form this process, transfers would complete only the four finishing activities, thereby achieving the needed credits from Akamai. These courses include:

Comprehensive Examination  
Research Proposal  
Research Project  
Oral Review of Research

### **Comprehensive Final Examination**

Akamai faculty will conduct any *one* of the following, as appropriate:

- Review the Q&A from the comprehensive final examination administered by the other University if available, and discuss the results
- Review a published paper written by the student in the field in which the degree is to be awarded and discuss the details of the paper
- Review a formally prepared professional portfolio document demonstrating the strength of the candidate's background and preparation.
- Issue to the student 3-5 questions to the student to be answered in essay format with follow-up by email exchange between the members of the Committee

Once completed, this documentation will serve as an alternative to the normally required comprehensive examination.

### **Research Proposal**

Akamai faculty will review the research proposal completed at the other University. In the case that a research proposal is unavailable, the Akamai committee will review the abstract of the student's completed thesis or dissertation and submit detailed questions to the candidate. The committee will recommend changes, as necessary, to upgrade the abstract. Further, if the approved proposal from the other University is available, members of the Committee may ask for clarifications related to the research methods, the scholarly literature used to support the academic argument, the statistical processes used to assess the data gathered, and the manner in which the student has presented the findings from the research. The student will respond to inquiries from the Committee by written response. Once completed, this documentation will serve as an alternative to the normally required research proposal.

### **Research Project**

Students shall submit an electronic or hardcopy of the research manuscript completed at the other University to each of the Committee members. This document will serve as a draft of the thesis or dissertation at Akamai University. If the document is sufficient without changes the Committee will approve the manuscript. If academic or quality difficulties are found, the Committee may require some degree of rework of the manuscript prior to approval. Once

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approved, the student is required to submit the manuscript to the University for the archival library. The student may then undertake the oral review of research.

### **Oral Review of Research**

Akamai faculty will conduct any *one* of the following:

- Review the Q&A from the oral review administered by the other University, if available
- The committee will issue three primary focus questions for short essay response by the student, relative to the research project, and then conduct an oral dialogue relative to the student responses to these focus questions.

Once the Committee reviews the student's submission, the committee will have the opportunity for brief dialogue with the student. The Committee will make their decision upon completion of their review.

### **Completion of the Process**

Following the finishing activities outlined above, the University will gather documentation relative to the reviews. It is at this point in the process that the student is to provide a formally bound manuscript which will be added to the Akamai University library, completing the process. The entire review process is normally conducted in a period of 12-18 months.