

Title : Factors Related to the Graduation of Graduate Students of Chiang Mai University

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Abstract

This study aims at investigating factors affecting the late graduation of graduate students of Chiang Mai University. The approaches used include : comparison of the students' and lecturers' goals in graduate education with actual situation, reviewing the students' and lecturers' comments on learning and teaching activities, the influences of the university's rules and regulations, and availability of the university's academic services. Significant factors and problems related to the graduation were studied and recommendations made.

The sampled population include 537 students enrolled between 1978 to 1988, and 96 lecturers and administrators involved in graduate study of Chiang Mai University.

Statistical analysis applied includes : frequency distribution, percentile rank, arithmetic means, t-test, correlation, and content analysis of the open-ended questionnaires.

The overall research findings are :

1. The goals of graduate education most desired by the students are : gaining of knowledges through the course works and research works; competent and able lecturers, good advices from thesis supervisor, and good library services.

2. The goals most desired by the lecturers are good quality students and opportunity to do research.

Comparison shows that both groups of population have significantly higher rank of their desired goals than the actual situation.

3. Both students and lecturers indicate that problems exist regarding curriculum, thesis supervisor, students' performance, rules and regulations, and availability of facilities and services.

4. Factors causing late graduation of students listed in order of significance include : the amount of time spent in doing research works and finishing course works ; grade point average, students' occupation, age, and marital status.