

**GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.S. DEGREE  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE - DRAFT**

**Adopted by Faculty Vote: 5/14/2004**

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER'S DEGREE**

**Note: All students are bound by the rules and requirements outlined in the Graduate Catalog corresponding to their year of enrollment in the program.**

**Overview:** The Master of Science degree is offered in Animal Science, with supportive instruction in biochemistry, environmental health, physiology, food chemistry and microbiology, nutrition, statistics and related fields. All prospective students should have a strong academic background in the biological sciences. In addition to the credit requirements described below, all M.S. students must complete 1 credit of ANSC 397, and 1 credit of ANSC 390. All graduate students receiving assistantship support are also required to assist in teaching one course per year of enrollment. The M.S. degree in Animal Science offers students the opportunity to emphasize study in animal behavior, food science, nutrition, growth, physiology of lactation, physiology of reproduction, environmental health, or production management.

There are two Master of Science programs offered by the department, Plan A (with thesis) and Plan B (non-thesis). Due to the strong research emphasis of the department, students are encouraged to enroll in the Plan A program, which requires the completion of a laboratory-based research project, submission of a thesis, and satisfactory completion of a cohesive curriculum of courses. The Plan B Master's Degree Program requires the student to attain a comprehensive understanding in one of the subject areas outlined below, primarily by enrolling in courses. This Master's degree program is frequently referred to as a "coursework" masters, but actually entails additional elements, described below.

**Plan B (Non-thesis) Master's of Science Degree in Animal Science:**

The Plan B program of study must include a minimum of 24 credits of formal course work, with at least two, but not more than four credits devoted to a special research project. Although Plan B students may or may not be involved in laboratory research projects, they are expected to assemble a Graduate Advisory Committee to oversee their selection of coursework and to administer a final examination to assess the student's overall level of comprehensive knowledge of their discipline. In general, the Plan B Master's student should assemble his/her Graduate Advisory Committee during their first semester to help map out a cohesive plan of study. The Committee should consist of at least three members of the graduate faculty within the department, but can involve faculty from other departments. Once the major advisor and Committee agree on the coursework requirements, a Plan of Study Form must be submitted to the Graduate School for final approval. The research component of the Plan B program can involve library research, assistance on laboratory-based projects, computer or data analysis, or any form of scholarly activity approved by the major advisor and the committee. This component of the program is generally taken for credit and graded by the instructor-of-record. After completion of all required courses and the research component, the student's major advisor will convene the Committee for administration of the final examination. The format of this examination is at the discretion of the major advisor/advisory committee, and its purpose is to assess the student's understanding of the area that they have emphasized. The examination is open to all faculty members in the department, however only the Advisory Committee is required to participate.

## **Plan A (Research/Thesis) Master's of Science Degree in Animal Science**

Plan A programs of study must include a minimum of 15 credits of formal course work, exclusive of research and independent study credits.

### **GRADUATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Graduate Advisory Committee is charged with guiding the student through all matters pertaining to graduate study, and the student's progress through the program. All Plan A Master's degree students in the Department of Animal Science must assemble their Graduate Advisory Committee, in consultation with their major advisor, within their first year of enrollment. The committee must be headed by a major advisor who is a member of both the Department of Animal Science (including jointly appointed faculty) and a member of the Graduate Faculty. The committee must also include at least two associate advisors whose expertise complements the area of anticipated research, including one member external to the department. In some instances, experts from outside of the University can be included on the committee (See Graduate Catalog). Students are encouraged to schedule annual committee meetings to discuss their research and academic progress.

### **PLAN OF STUDY**

An approved Plan of Study form must be submitted to the Graduate School prior to completion of 12 credits of graduate coursework. The Animal Science department is diverse, with a large variety of student and faculty interests. As a result, each student's program is quite flexible, and is shaped by the student in consultation with their major advisor and Advisory Committee.

**ANIMAL SCIENCE COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS:** Students must successfully complete the Animal Science Seminar (ANSC 397) once, and Graduate Presentation Skills (ANSC 390) once. The thesis defense may not be scheduled to coincide with the required ANSC 397 presentation.

**FINAL EXAM—THESIS DEFENSE:** Students must defend their thesis at a public seminar. After the public presentation, interested faculty and the advisory committee will remain for in-depth discussion, followed by the committee alone. After discussion, the committee will determine the outcome of the exam. The student must distribute a final "draft" of the thesis to the committee members at least two weeks in advance of the defense date. A "working" copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School at least 7 days in advance of the defense with a "Tentative Approval" form signed by the Advisory Committee. The student is required to make all suggested revisions to the thesis, in consultation with their major advisor, prior to final acceptance.

**PUBLICATION:** Students must submit at least one first-author manuscript, suitable for publication, to their major advisor prior to defending their thesis. In some circumstances, the major advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, may waive this requirement.

**DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANTSHIPS:** Partial or full assistantship support may be offered to students by their faculty advisor, based upon the availability of funding. Funding can come from independent research grants, Hatch projects, or departmentally funded faculty projects awarded through an annual competition. Regardless of the funding source, all students accepting assistantship support are required to assist with course instruction ("T.A") at least one course per year. The Chair of the Graduate Committee makes course assignments in late August. Students may not assist in teaching the same course more than twice. Students will be given written instructions regarding their duties and responsibilities prior to the first day of class. Each student will be evaluated on their performance by the course instructor, and possibly by the students in the class (at the discretion of the course instructor), and satisfactory performance is required. If a student's performance is judged to be

unsatisfactory by the course instructor and the Graduate Committee, future assistantship support may be withheld (at the discretion of the Graduate Committee, in consultation with the Department Head). Students in the Plan A Master's program may not receive Departmental assistantship support for more than 2 years. [This requirement was adopted by faculty vote on 10/15/97 and 9/22/00].

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**Plan A Master's Degree: REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

- \_\_\_ SELECTION OF GRADUATE COMMITTEE. See requirements above.
- \_\_\_ PLAN OF STUDY. See requirements above.
- \_\_\_ SUBMISSION OF THESIS. A preliminary or "working" copy of the thesis must be distributed to the Advisory Committee at least two weeks in advance of the oral defense. In addition, a copy must be submitted to the Graduate School at least 7 days before the oral exam.
- \_\_\_ FINAL ORAL EXAM—THESIS DEFENSE. Notification must be sent using a special form issued by the Graduate School, submitted no later than 7 days in advance of the oral exam. The exam should be well advertised (e.g. flyers posted in G. White, ATL, PVS, Nutrition, MCB – email notification, etc.)
- \_\_\_ APPLICATION FOR DEGREE. Formal application must be filed on official form at the Graduate School.
- \_\_\_ Successful completion of ANSC 397 (once) and ANSC 390 (once).
- \_\_\_ SUBMISSION OF FIRST-AUTHOR MANUSCRIPTS, SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION, TO MAJOR ADVISOR PRIOR TO THESIS DEFENSE.

**NOTE:** GRADUATE STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR CLASSES OR "CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION" THROUGHOUT THEIR COURSE OF STUDY TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM.

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*Minor revisions to this document may be made by the Chair of the Graduate Committee for the purpose of clarity and correctness. Please check the Departmental Website for the most up-to-date version.*