M.S. IN BIOLOGY WITH
THESIS (THREE YEAR
PROGRAM)

1. Credit hours: a total of 30 credit hours are required:
   • 24 course credit hours, including the two semester departmental
     core courses for graduate students and at least one graduate
     course in statistics. Students are encouraged to take courses
     from more than one conceptual area; they are encouraged to
     select courses and independent studies that will prepare them for
     research, as listed under the Ph.D. requirements. No more than
     9 credit hours from the independent study series may be used to
     fulfill the 24 course credit hours.
   • A well-written and successfully defended thesis of
     publishable quality; a defense is successful if all members of the
     committee sign, and the thesis committee is formed officially when the student is
     admitted to candidacy. It may comprise the same individuals
     as the supervisory committee, or it may be formed anew.
     The student in consultation with the advisor suggests the
     membership of the committee to the graduate school. The
     committee will consist of a minimum of three faculty, one of
     whom must be from outside the department, and one of whom
     must be a member of the graduate faculty. There is no sub-
     disciplinary representation requirement.
   • The thesis committee is nominated by the department, but it
     must be approved and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate
     School. There is a special form that must be filed with the
     graduate school.
   • The thesis committee is formed officially when the student is
     admitted to candidacy. It may comprise the same individuals
     as the supervisory committee, or it may be formed anew.
   • The indicated dates form
     firm deadlines
     for the M.S. degree. No student may receive the degree in the same semester in which
     she/he is admitted to candidacy.
   • the proposed financial support

2. Research Proposal: public presentation and successful defense to
   the committee of a written research proposal. The public presentation
   must be given during regular sessions of the Fall or Spring semesters,
   not during summer sessions, intersessions, reading days or finals
   weeks.

3. Thesis: A well-written and successfully defended thesis of
   publishable quality; a defense is successful if all members of the
   committee sign the grad school form and the signature page of the
dissertation.

4. Other requirements described under "The Master's Degree," including
   but not limited to:
   • a total of at least 30 credit hours (course credit hours plus
     research credit hours). The Graduate School and the Department
     concur in requiring at least 24 course credit hours and exactly 6
     research credit hours (BIL 810) for a thesis M.S.
   • once a student has completed all required credit hours, she/
     he must enroll in "Research in Residence" (BIL 820) status until
     the degree is granted. This course carries 0 credit hours, but is
     considered full-time enrollment. Even though no credit is earned,
     a tuition charge equivalent to 1 course credit hour normally
     applies to this course.

5. About the committee:
   • A single committee will combine the responsibilities of the
     supervisory and thesis committees.
   • The supervisory committee will be determined by the student in
     consultation with his or her advisor. The committee will consist
     of a minimum of three faculty, one of whom must be from outside
     the department, and one of whom must be a member of the
     graduate faculty. There is no sub-disciplinary representation
     requirement.
   • The thesis committee is formed officially when the student is
     admitted to candidacy. It may comprise the same individuals
     as the supervisory committee, or it may be formed anew.
     The student in consultation with the advisor suggests the
     membership of the committee to the graduate school. The
     committee will consist of a minimum of three faculty, one of
     whom must be from outside the department, and one of whom
     must be a member of the graduate faculty. There is no sub-
     disciplinary representation requirement.
   • The thesis committee is nominated by the department, but it
     must be approved and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate
     School. There is a special form that must be filed with the
     graduate school.
   • The thesis committee is formed officially when the student is
     admitted to candidacy. It may comprise the same individuals
     as the supervisory committee, or it may be formed anew.
   • The indicated dates form
     firm deadlines
     for the M.S. degree. No student may receive the degree in the same semester in which
     she/he is admitted to candidacy.
   • the proposed financial support

6. About the time table:
   • A written thesis proposal is due no later than the middle of the
     second semester. Please take note of this deadline. The scope of the M.S. thesis should be in line with the timetable.
   • Analysis of data and a polished draft of the thesis should be
     completed and in the hands of the committee by the middle of
     the sixth semester. Please take note of this deadline. The scope of the M.S. thesis should be in line with the timetable.
   • Defense of the thesis and its submission to the Graduate
     School must meet or precede the deadline for graduation immediately following the sixth semester unless an extension
     has been approved by the Graduate Admissions and Advisement Committee (GAAC) upon recommendation of the thesis
     committee. Notice of the defense must be submitted on a special
     form to the graduate school in advance of the defense and must
     be posted publicly in the department.
   • The oral defense of the thesis must be given during regular
     sessions of the Fall or Spring semesters, not during summer
     sessions, intersessions, reading days or finals weeks.
   • No student may receive the degree in the same semester in which
     she/he is admitted to candidacy.
   • the proposed financial support

7. Completed SACS evaluation forms are required at two points during the course of study. One following the research proposal
   defense and the final following defense of the thesis. The student
   is responsible for providing blank forms to the committee at each
   milestone. The graduate advisor is responsible for forwarding
completed forms to the Graduate Director. The student is responsible for ensuring the Graduate Director receives these forms.