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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIL 675</td>
<td>Advanced Study in Plant or Animal Sciences</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIL 678</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biological Research</td>
<td>1</td>
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At times these course numbers are used by professors to teach
a new course or a special topics course, in which case the
corresponding credit hours can be counted as a non-independent
study credit hour. Course selection requires committee approval.

- 6 research credit hours (BIL 810); no more than 6 M.S. research
credit hours are allowed.
- The minimum acceptable grade average in all coursework
towards the degree is a "B (3.0)" and no grade may be below a "C."

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.
   - Committee meetings are required at least once a year
(recommended at least once a semester); the student is
responsible for arranging meetings; the student should consult
with the committee about major changes in research goals and
about problems. Memos summarizing each meeting should
be in the student’s file and emailed to the Graduate Director
(graddirector@bio.miami.edu).

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 indicated dates form firm deadlines. A student’s committee,
however, may submit a written petition to GAAC for an extension
of time detailing reasons for the request. An extension will be
granted only under extraordinary circumstances and will be
effective upon written approval by GAAC.
   - Proposals to change the schedule for any reason should be
preceded by a study of the graduate bulletin sections on leaves
of absence, full time student status and recency of credit hour and
explicitly address how the proposed change of schedule relates
to these matters. The memo requesting the change also should
address 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.