

Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Sciences, Non-Thesis Track

The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) is adding a non-thesis track to the existing Master of Science in Agricultural Sciences. In a process similar to the present MS in Agricultural Sciences, students will be permitted to concentrate in one of several fields, with the only difference being the present requirement of completing a thesis. In the non-thesis track, students will replace the thesis requirement with additional course work and a research project, and a demonstrated degree of program proficiency.

The non-thesis track would differ from the existing MS degree program by replacing the six (6) hours of thesis with a research project and two directed electives and administering written and oral comprehensive exit exams designed and administered by the student's graduate committee. The replacement courses will not include supervised research or thesis and will be selected by the student with the approval of their graduate committee and the Graduate Coordinator. These additional courses will permit students to further focus their graduate training in specialties they and their committee believe are important to their professional development. The only exception to this is that students will be required to take one (1) hour of supervised research in their final semester of enrollment for the expressed purpose of taking their written and oral exit exams. The exit exam will permit the committee to assess the student's overall level of professional competency and assure that graduates leave the program with a consistent level of proficiency. At the discretion of the student's graduate committee and the Graduate Coordinator, the written and oral exit exams could include a multiple-semester research project designed to allow students following the non-thesis option an opportunity to conduct applied research.

Program of Study

At the beginning of the first semester, the student indicates an area of concentration and begins with general coursework (Statistics, Professional Seminar, Colloquium, and one course from the student's proposed area of concentration). The student will also seek a Major Professor and then a Supervisory Committee who will, in conjunction with the student, finalize the student's program of study.

The student will meet with his/her Major Professor to complete a preliminary Program of Study and turn in a signed copy to the Graduate Coordinator's Office no later than end of first semester. As soon as a Supervisory Committee is formed, the Committee should approve the Program of Study with signatures of Committee members. The revised plan of study should be filed in the Graduate Coordinator's Office and at the School of Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR). Any subsequent changes to the student's program must be approved by the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate Coordinator, and filed with the Graduate Coordinator and SGSR.

Supervisory Committee

- i. The Supervisory Committee members will be recommended by the student, with the advice of the Major Professor and shall consist of at least three (3) members:
 - (1) Major Professor, as Chair;
 - (2) One (1) faculty member from the same program;
 - (3) One (1) faculty member from another program area;
 - (4) All members of the Supervisory Committee must hold graduate faculty status;
 - (5) If a proposed member of the student's Supervisory Committee is not a regular FAMU faculty, then he/she first must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School according to University Policy.
 - (6) The student must submit the list of recommended members of the Supervisory Committee to the Graduate Coordinator.

The Supervisory Committee should be appointed at the **beginning of the first semester** but no later than the midpoint of the second semester of study.

- ii. The Supervisory Committee is responsible for:
 - (1) approving the student's coursework/plan of study,
 - (2) checking the students progress throughout their studies,
 - (3) approving the students progress report,
 - (4) supervising and approving the research project (if any), and
 - (5) evaluating the student during the research project presentation.
- iii. The Supervisory Committee should meet at least once a semester for a progress report and to make suggestions relative to the student's plan of study. The student will take the initiative in setting up these meetings. An annual report is prepared by the student's Major Professor and reviewed by the Committee members and the Graduate Coordinator. This report should determine if the student is making timely progress toward degree completion.

Number of Credits Required

The non-thesis track will not require additional course offerings. Instead, the present requirement of six (6) hours of thesis will be replaced with two additional directed electives selected by the student and approved by the student's Supervisory Committee and the Graduate Coordinator.

The Master of Science Non-Thesis will include concentrations in Agribusiness, Animal Science, Entomology, Food Science, Soil and Water Science and Plant Science. Candidates are required to successfully complete at least thirty-six (36) semester hours including the six (6) hours of course work and a research project, MS candidates in all concentrations are required to take AGR 5825 (Fundamentals of Research Design) or Statistical Methods in Research 1 and 2, AGG 5931 (Professional Seminar) and AGG 5920 (Colloquium) and three (3) to five (5) courses (varying by concentration) in their

major field of study and several electives approved by their Supervisory Committee. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to remain in the graduate program.

Change from a Thesis to Non-Thesis Option and Vice Versa

Students who wish to change from a thesis to a non-thesis option (and vice versa) must obtain the permission of the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate Coordinator. A petition requesting the change must be forwarded through the Graduate Coordinator and the Associate Dean/Dean of CAFS to the School of Graduate Studies and Research at least two full semesters (not including summer semester) prior to the intended graduation date. The student must meet all requirements of the non-thesis option. At the discretion of the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate Coordinator with the approval of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, a revised plan of study of the student must be developed by the supervisory committee. A petition written by the Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee must demonstrate that the change from a Thesis to Non-Thesis Option (and vice versa) was absolutely necessary and critical to the ability of the student to earn a MS degree. The petition must be addressed to the School of Graduate Studies and Research and approved by the Graduate Coordinator, the Division Director and the Associate Dean/Dean of CAFS. Failure to meet the deadlines as described above will result in the denial of the petition to change from a Thesis to Non-Thesis Option and Vice Versa.

Exit Seminar and Final Examination

The students must give an exit seminar and pass a final examination administered by the Supervisory Committee. The exam will have both written and oral components and each member of the committee will participate in both exams. The oral portion of the exam will be administered by the student's full committee. The Graduate Coordinator and a representative of the Graduate Council with questioning and voting privileges must participate in the oral exam. The examination cannot be taken earlier than the term before the degree is to be awarded.

Exit E-mail to Associate Dean

All students must either send an e-mail to the Associate Dean (copied to the Graduate Coordinator) with a short statement of the quality of her /his experience as a student in the College and information regarding plans for the immediate future regarding employment (Academia or Industry) or continued education.

Financial Assistance

Students enrolled in the Master of Science degree program with Non-thesis option are not eligible for financial assistance (tuition waiver and assistantship).

Students who are already enrolled in the Master of Science degree program with thesis option, but switch to a non-thesis option will immediately become ineligible for financial assistance.

**PROGRAMS OF STUDY FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (NON-THESIS OPTION)**

The following courses are required by all concentrations:

	Hours
a. AGR 5825 Fundamentals of Research Design or AGG 5825 and AGG 5827 Statistical Methods in Research 1 and 2	4-6
b. AGG 5931 Professional Seminar	3
c. AGG 5920 Colloquium (repeated)	<u>0</u>
Total	7-9

AGRIBUSINESS

i. Select one of the following courses	
a. AGR 5442 Advanced Plant Sciences	3
b. ANS 5205C Advanced Animal Production	3
c. SOS 5217 Soil and the Environment	3
d. PMA 5407C Integrated Pest Management	3
e. FOS 5314 Advanced Food Processing & Sto.	3
ii. Core classes	
a. AEB 5307 Agricultural Marketing and Fin.	3
b. AEB 5335 Advanced Agricultural Price Anal.	3
c. AEB 5555 Econometrics	3
d. AEB 5375 Market Research and Survey	3
e. AEB 5185 Advanced Ag. Production	3
iii. Approved electives in concentration:	11
iv. Graduate exit exam (Supervised Research)	<u>1</u>
Total	37-39

FOOD SCIENCE

- i. Select one of the following courses
 - a. AGR 5442 Advanced Plant Sciences 3
 - b. ANS 5205C Advanced Animal Production 3
 - c. SOS 5217 Soil and the Environment 3
 - d. PMA 5407C Integrated Pest Management 3
 - e. FOS 5314 Advanced Food Processing & Sto. 3

- ii. Core classes (select a minimum of 15 hours)
 - a. FOS 5314 Adv. Food Processing & Storage 3
 - b. FOS 5315 Adv. Food Chemistry 3
 - c. FOS 5325 Adv. Food Analysis 3
 - d. FOS 5930 Seminars in Food Science 3
 - e. FOS 5226 Adv. Food Microbiology & Safety 3
 - f. FOS 5906 Directed Individual Study 1 - 6
 - g. FOS 5940 Practical Food Experience 3
 - h. FRC 5808C Enology 4
 - i. FOS 5245 Meat Science and Meat Research 4

- iii. Approved electives in concentration: 11

- iv. Graduate exit exam (Supervised Research) 1
- Total 37-39

PLANT SCIENCE

- i. Select one of the following courses
 - a. AGR 5442 Advanced Plant Sciences 3
 - b. ANS 5205C Advanced Animal Production 3
 - c. SOS 5217 Soil and the Environment 3
 - d. PMA 5407C Integrated Pest Management 3
 - e. FOS 5314 Advanced Food Processing & Sto. 3

- ii. Core classes
 - a. AGR 5322 Plant Breeding 3
 - b. AGR 5445C Advanced Plant Science 3
 - c. ARG 5616 Seed Science and Technology 3
 - d. BOT 5506 Advanced Plant Physiology 3
 - e. BOT 5937 Selected Topics in Plant Biotech. 3

- iii. Approved electives in concentration: 11

- iv. Graduate exit exam (Supervised Research) 1
- Total 37-39

ANIMAL SCIENCE

i. Select one of the following courses	
a. AGR 5442 Advanced Plant Sciences	3
b. AEB 5185 Advanced Agricultural Production	3
c. EVR 5063 Elements of Environmental Bio.	3
d. SOS 5217 Soil and the Environment	3
e. PMA 5407C Integrated Pest Management	3
f. FOS 5314 Advanced Food Processing & Sto.	3
ii. Core classes	
a. ANS 5202 Monogastric Farm Animals	3
b. ANS 5202C Advanced Animal Production	3
c. ANS 5447 Ruminant Nutrition	3
d. ANS 5454 Animal Science Exp.	3
e. ANS 5446 Advanced Animal Nutrition	3
iii. Approved electives in concentration:	11
iv. Graduate exit exam (Supervised Research)	<u>1</u>
Total	37-39

ENTOMOLOGY

i. Core courses	
a. ENY 5155C Systematic Entomology	3
b. ENY 5355 Insect Morphology	3
c. ENY 5204 Insect Ecology	3
d. ENY 5407 Integrated Pest Management	3
e. ENY 6821 Insect Pathology	3
ii. Select one of the following courses.	
a. AGR 5185 Advanced Agriculture Prod.	3
b. AGR 5445C Advanced Plant Sciences	3
c. ANS 5205C Advanced Animal Production	3
d. FOS 5314 Advanced Food Processing & Sto.	3
e. SOS 5217 Soil and the Environment	3
f. BOT 5937 Selected Topics in Plant Biotech.	3
iii. Approved electives in concentration:	11
iv. Graduate exit exam (Supervised Research)	<u>1</u>
Total	37-39