

Department of Biological Sciences
Richard A Henson School
Of Science and Technology

Guide to MS Program

2016-2017

(file dated August 2016: Latest guide)

5. All applicants (thesis and non-thesis) must make contact with prospective graduate advisor(s) in the department prior to submission of an application for admission to the program. **M.S. thesis students must make such contact and will not be admitted without the endorsement of a graduate advisor for their research.** A letter from the graduate advisor must accompany the application.
6. International students are referred to additional guidelines described in the current Salisbury University catalog.

Application materials must be received by the Director of the Biology Graduate Program by March 1, and October 1 for full consideration for admission into the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively.

B. General Program Requirements

1. Departmental Graduate Committee

The Departmental Graduate Committee is a departmental committee consisting of the Graduate Program Director

from the SU Department of Biological Sciences and a third member whose graduate faculty appointment may be outside the SU department or university. Additional non-voting members may be added in consultation with the Director of the Graduate Program and the student's Graduate Advisor.

Once assembled, the Graduate Advisory Committee, in consultation with the student, will be responsible for advising the student in the completion of the program. These responsibilities include setting requirements for specific course work, defining and evaluating the "Allied Professional Skill" requirement

C. Requirements for the MS degree:

1. MS in Applied Biology

The MS in Applied Biology addresses the growing need for a

Core Courses – At least 2 of the 4 Core Courses below (6 credit hours)

Biol 501: Modern Concepts in Biology (3 credits)

B.S. Biology and M.S. Applied Biology degree programs in approximately 5 years.

Students currently enrolled as undergraduates at SU are eligible to apply for the accelerated program during their Junior year provided that they:

- a. have a 3.30 GPA at the end of the semester during which they apply,
- b. have engaged in significant undergraduate research with a faculty advisor who can endorse their application for admission to the program,
- c. meet all the requirements, including pre-requisite course work, for post-graduate admission to the program by the end of the semester in which they are applying for admission to the accelerated program.

For students accepted into the accelerated program, up to 9 credits of graduate course work may be taken during the senior year and applied to both the BS and MS degree programs. Six of these credits may include the graduate core classes offered during the student's senior year. The remaining three may include research.

Note: 4+1 students, although allowed to enroll in graduate courses, are not formally admitted as graduate students until they have successfully completed their undergraduate degree. Upon graduation with the B.S. degree, 4+1 students will be matriculated in the graduate program provided that: they have maintained a 3.0 GPA, they have a faculty advisor willing to serve as a mentor for their research and their academic record is "clean". A record of past

violations of academic integrity, for example, will preclude continued participation in the program at the graduate level.

* **Graduate Electives:**

Students who take a 400 level elective course co-listed at the 500 level at Salisbury University will not be allowed to receive credit at the graduate level (500+) for retaking the same course. If a 400-

Students whose performance in the oral exam is unsatisfactory may retake the exam once on a date no later than the end of the following semester. For all such second exams, an additional examiner will be appointed by the Department Graduate Committee. Students may also be required to complete an additional course if their knowledge in the subject matter appears lacking.

3. Degree Candidacy

Students may petition for candidacy to the MS degree when course work is within one semester of completion, the Allied Professional Skill Requirement has been met and a research plan (for thesis students) has been approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee.

4. Thesis Preparation and Thesis Defense

Students writing a thesis should register for Biol 601: Thesis Preparation, during the semester in which they plan to graduate. Permission to register for the course must come from the student's graduate advisor. Subsequent to registration for Biol 601, the graduate advisor will see that the student receives guidelines for thesis preparation. Prior to scheduling the thesis defense, students must allow at least 10 working days for review of the completed thesis by members of the advising committee.

The student must provide their advisory committee with a copy of their thesis two weeks prior to their defense. The student must give a seminar presentation, which is formally open to the public and may be attended by other interested faculty, students or friends, to be followed by the thesis defense (not open to the public). The advising committee is responsible for administration of

January: Meet with the Departmental Graduate Committee to review their progress.

1 March: The Graduate Advisory Committee should be presented with a complete picture of planned research if this has not already been done. Students starting the program in the spring are strongly advised to present their research proposal to their advisory committee before the end of their first semester.

Second Year:

1 October: Meet with the Graduate Advisory Committee to review progress.

1 November: Oral Exam (thesis and non-thesis students)

January: Meet with the Departmental Graduate Committee to review progress.

1 February: Meet again with the Graduate Advisory Committee for review.

15 February: Petition for candidacy to the degree.

1 March: Schedule Thesis defense and Final exam (thesis students only)

MS students who find it necessary to continue past a second year in the program must convene their Graduate Advisory Committee at least once a semester. After each such meeting, the Committee should report on progress to the Director of the Graduate Program.