

Comparative Health Sciences

GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

For general information consult the [Graduate School](#)

Master of Science (M.S.) Program

See [flowchart](#) for successful MS Degree completion

Thesis Committee and Program Meeting

The [M.S. Thesis Committee](#) consists of 4 members of the OSU graduate faculty. The committee includes a Graduate Council Representative, who serves as advocate for appropriate process. A Program Meeting will be held no later than the end of the second term of work in the thesis lab. The Program meeting will cover two aspects: the proposed coursework (Program of Study) and the proposed research (Thesis Outline). This meeting will include all members of the committee. A [Program of Study](#) form should be completed during this meeting.

Program of Study (45 graduate credits required; i.e., 500 or 600 level):

- 24-33 coursework credits consisting of:
 - a. The required core sequence of 4 courses (3 credit and 1 credit courses).
 - b. 18-27 credits from diverse courses relevant to the thesis research offered by other programs IF agreed to by the thesis committee
- 12 Thesis credits
- *Note: 23 of the 45 credits must be graduate stand-alone courses (500/600 level) that are not derived from the 500 component of 400/500 courses. For example, after the 6 required first year core sequence credits and typical 12 thesis credits, 5 further credits must be graduate only.*
- *Note: Full time enrollment is 12 credits per term in the academic year and 9 in the summer. Maximum load permitted is 16 credits.*

Annual Meeting Requirements

Students are required to meet yearly with their committee to evaluate their progress. The student and major professor must complete the Annual Graduate Student Progress Report form and return it to the assistant to the program.

Other Requirements

1. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and will be notified by the Graduate School if their GPA falls below 3.0 for any term. The cumulative GPA must be at or above 3.0 before the final exam can be taken. Grades C (=2.0) or below cannot be used as graduate credit.
2. Candidates must complete one term of service as a Graduate Teaching Assistant before graduation. This is considered a valuable experience and an integral part of training towards a higher degree.

Final Defense

The Graduate Committee will conduct the final examination. Substitutions may be made if approved by the Program and Graduate School.

The student must contact members of the committee to arrange the date, time, and place of the defense, and then schedule the exam with the Graduate School not less than two weeks before the examination. One copy of the pre-text pages of the thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School. Copies of the thesis should be distributed to **all** committee members, two weeks prior to the exam. All members of the graduate committee should be physically present at the required graduate exam (for exceptions, see [Remote Participation](#) requirements).

The first part of the exam is the thesis presentation portion and is open to anyone. After the thesis seminar and open questions, the committee and student will continue in closed session with the oral examination of the thesis work and its relationship to microbiology.

- The decision on the outcome of the exam will be based on a [Scoring Guide](#) rubric. The committee will use this form to evaluate the student's performance (with specific reference to rubric items) at the conclusion of the defense.
- A copy of the scoring sheet needs to be returned to the office of Comparative Health Sciences.