

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Master's Degree Options Policy

The following general regulations are minimum requirements. The professor or committee in charge of a student's work may require more than the specified minimum in order to achieve a well-rounded program. All programs require a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate courses, 6000-level or above.

The Thesis Option

The master of arts, master of science and master of industrial design are offered under the thesis option. Thesis students register for 7990 Research and Thesis in semesters when working on the thesis, when submitting, defending or awaiting final approval of the thesis, and when taking final examinations.

Major and minor subjects

A student under the thesis option must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours, of which at least 21 semester hours must be in a major area of concentration. Depending on departmental requirements or the wishes of the student's advisory committee, the remainder of the course work may be taken within the major field or in a separate but closely related area. Specific requirements are set forth in this Bulletin.

If a student has not met all undergraduate pre-requisites in any field chosen for major or minor work, these should be scheduled as soon as possible, preferably before graduate work begins. The major professor will indicate these on the student's Plan of Study.

The topic selected for the thesis must be approved by the student's major professor and advisory committee. The student conducts the research and prepares the thesis under the direction of the major professor. The course, Research and Thesis, is number 7990 in all departments. The student must register for a minimum of four credit hours of this course but may register for as many hours as desired. No more than six hours may be counted toward meeting degree requirements. The student may register for one or more hours at a time. No grade is assigned for this course.

The Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Guide, which contains information about requirements for the thesis, is available on the Web at www.grad.auburn.edu/etd_guide.html. Submission of a thesis is defined as the time at which the first complete draft of such is submitted to the major professor for review. The Graduate School accepts only theses prepared according to the Guide. Refer to the Approval Process section in the Guide to have a final format check done. The Graduate School Calendar lists the deadline for acceptance of final approved theses by the Graduate School each semester. If the electronic thesis needs corrections, the student's graduation may be delayed at least one semester. Auburn University reserves the right to make copies of the thesis, but the student retains all publication rights. Effective Summer 2005, all theses must be published electronically through AUETD.

At the discretion of the program, students may be required to pass a comprehensive examination independent of the required thesis defense. If a program requires a comprehensive examination, the program will publish and submit to the Graduate School a description of the scope and form of the assessment (e.g., comprehensive oral or written examination) and the process for appeal or re-examination should the student fail the examination.

The major professor will schedule the thesis defense not later than the deadline indicated in the Graduate School calendar. The thesis defense should be open to members of the Graduate Faculty as visitors. Successful completion of the thesis defense requires the unanimous support of all members of the advisory committee. If a student fails the thesis defense, one re-examination may be given on recommendation of the advisory committee and approval by the dean of the Graduate School. Further examinations will be allowed only under exceptional circumstances and with approval of the Graduate Council.

The Non-Thesis Option

At the discretion of the program, students may be required to pass a comprehensive examination. If a program requires a comprehensive examination, the program will publish and submit to the Graduate School a description of the scope and form of the assessment (e.g., comprehensive oral or written examination) and the process for appeal or re-examination should the student fail the examination. Non-thesis graduate students who complete a special project must register for 7980 in semesters when working on the project. Non-thesis students requiring only a final examination register for GRAD 7000 in the semester when the exam is taken. Credit hours for 7990 Research and Thesis cannot be counted toward graduation requirements for non-thesis degree programs.