



New Mexico State University  
Department of Animal and Range Sciences

**Requirements for Master of Science Degree  
in Animal Science**

**Admission**

- A. GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- B. Three letters of recommendation.
- C. Completion of the form, “Application for Graduate Admission in Animal Science” including a brief letter (personal statement) outlining the student’s background, career goals, and research interest.
- D. Resume
- E. Favorable evaluation for admission will be by consensus of the Animal Science Graduate Committee and will be contingent on availability of an advisor and research funding.
- F. A requirement for admission as a masters graduate student in the department is completion of a curriculum substantially equivalent to that required of undergraduate animal science students. Therefore, deficiency courses may be required after admission to the program, as determined initially by the Animal Science Graduate Committee.

**General Requirements**

- A. Graduate students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average.
  - B. A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate work is required of which:
    - 1. At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above
    - 2. At least 15 credits must be in Animal Science courses
    - 3. At least 15 credits (exclusive of AnSc 599) must be taken with other than a single professor
  - C. Designated hours to be completed:
    - 1. At least four formal Animal Science courses numbered 500 or above
    - 2. At least six credits in AnSc 599 (Master’s Thesis)
    - 3. At least two credits in AnSc 515 (Graduate Seminar)
    - 4. At least four credits in Experimental Statistics
  - D. **Graduate Assistants**
    - 1. All graduate assistants must enroll as full-time students taking at least 9 graded graduate credits (courses numbered 450 and above). No audits can be taken as part of the 9 minimum credits. Only 3 of the 9 credits may be taken as an S/U option.
    - 2. A graduate assistant may not enroll for more than 15 credits each semester.
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3. If a student needs to take deficiency courses as part of the 9 credits, then a memo from the advisor or department head should be submitted to the Graduate School. If approved, the student can register for 3 undergraduate credits and a minimum of 6 graded graduate credits during their first semester at New Mexico State University.
4. Enrollment during summer sessions is not required.

**E. Additional Requirements**

1. A maximum of six credits in S/U courses may be taken during a Master's program
2. A maximum of six credits (four in a single semester) in AnSc 598 (Special Research Programs) may be taken during a Master's program.
3. If a minor is declared, a minimum of eight credits in this discipline must be completed and approved by that department.
4. In certain instances, deficiency courses may be required.
5. Attendance at graduate seminars is urged.
6. Graduate students are encouraged to adapt their thesis data for submission as a scientific journal article, an Experiment Station Bulletin, or research report.

**F. The Masters Committee**

The Masters Committee is appointed by the student's advisor with approval of the Department Head and consists of four members including three from the animal science area and one representative from the Graduate School.

**G. The Masters Final Examination**

The Masters Final Oral Examination is primarily concerned with the thesis research conducted by the student but it may also extend over the entire discipline. Candidates for a Masters Degree are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of their research topic including how it was conducted, the results that were found, and what the results mean. They should also demonstrate knowledge of the general discipline of Animal Science.

