

Department of Animal & Range Sciences

Master of Science Degree in Range Science

Other important stipulations may be in the Graduate Catalog. Final approval of a student's program resides with the Graduate School.

Admission

- GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Completion of the form, "Application to the Graduate Program in Range Sciences," including a brief letter outlining the student's background, career goals, and research interest.
- GRE exam is not required.
- Evaluation for admission will be by consensus of the Range Science Graduate Admissions Committee.
- Prerequisite for admission as a regular graduate student in the department is the completion of a curriculum substantially equivalent to that required of undergraduate students. Therefore, deficiency courses may be required after admission to the program, as determined by the admissions committee and the student's graduate committee and advisor.

General Requirements

- Graduate students need a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average. Students on assistantship must maintain this minimum throughout their program.
- Students with graduate assistantships must enroll in at least 9 graduate credits (450 or above, none audited, & only 3 S/U) per semester, but not more than 15 per semester.

Graduate Program with the Thesis (Research) Option

- Coursework
 - A minimum of 30 credits of graduate work is required to graduate.
 - At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above.
 - At least 15 credits must be from the Range Science program.
 - Not more than 6 nor fewer than 4 thesis credits (RgSc 599) may be counted toward the requirements for a master's degree.
 - Two semesters of RgSc 515 (Seminar) are required. One may be taken from another department with permission of student's graduate committee.
 - At least one advanced statistics course or equivalent is required, as determined by the student's graduate committee.
- Thesis
 - The thesis research project must be approved by the student's graduate committee.
 - Every effort should be made to publish the thesis as a scientific journal article or Experiment Station publication.

Graduate Program with the Non-Thesis Option

- Coursework
 - A minimum of 32 credits of graduate work is required to graduate.
 - At least 15 credits must be in courses numbered 500 or above.
 - At least 15 credits must be from the Range Science program.
 - RgSc 599 (Thesis) may not be taken.

- Two credits of RgSc 598 (subtitled Non-Thesis Report) are required for the written report.
- Two semesters of RgSc 515 (Seminar) are required. One may be taken from another department with permission of student's graduate committee.
- **Written Report**
 - The report will be on a topic approved by the student's graduate committee.
 - Research for the report may involve field work and data gathering, but should also be strongly library- and literature-based.
 - The report should be of graduate quality and content, and should follow graduate school thesis format or the format of an acceptable scholarly journal. Final approval and acceptance of the report will be by the student's graduate committee.
 - Every effort should be made to publish the report in an appropriate outlet (journal article, Experiment Station bulletin or report, Extension bulletin, etc.)
 - Copies of the report will be bound and placed in the university and departmental libraries.

Graduate Committee

- The graduate committee is selected by the student and the student's advisor, with approval of the Department Head and the Graduate Dean. The committee will consist of four or more members, as follows:
 - The committee chair (advisor) and at least one other member must be from the Range Science regular faculty.
 - At least one member must be from another department, and may serve as the dean's representative.

Outline of Required Events to Complete the M.S. Degree

- Enroll for first semester.
- Meet with graduate committee no later than second semester to outline planned coursework and to discuss planned research for thesis or non-thesis topic.
- File the "Application for Admission to Candidacy" (program of study) no later than after the completion of 12 credits of graduate work.
- Complete course work.
- Complete research and prepare thesis or written report.
- File form for taking final oral exam with Graduate School at least 10 working days before exam.
- At least seven working days before the final exam, deliver a copy of the thesis or written report to each committee member.
- Take final oral examination in defense of thesis or written report and course work.
- For the thesis option:
 - Deliver a final copy of the thesis to the graduate editor at least 10 working days before graduation.
 - Take 3 approved copies signed by the adviser to the Graduate Dean for his/her signature.
 - Take these 3 copies with abstracts of not more than 350 words and a receipt for all fees to the librarian.
- For the non-thesis option:
 - Deliver 3 final copies of the approved written report to the graduate committee chair (advisor) prior to graduation.
 - Pay applicable binding fee to the department.