# Master of Science in Analytics

The Master of Science (MS) curriculum is designed to develop new understanding through research and creativity. Students have the option to pursue a thesis or non-thesis Master of Science degree.

## Steps to Fulfill Master’s Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meet with departmental graduate advisor to plan course of study for first semester.</td>
<td>Before first semester registration.</td>
<td>Graduate advisor or chair of the intercollegiate faculty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Establish advisory committee. Submit a degree plan.</td>
<td>Prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college and no later than 90 days prior to final oral or thesis defense.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>If thesis is required, submit thesis proposal to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.</td>
<td>At least 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Apply for degree; pay graduation fee.</td>
<td>During the first week of the final semester, see OGAPS calendar.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Check to be sure degree program and advisory committee are up to date and all ELP requirements (if applicable) and coursework are complete.</td>
<td>Well before submitting request to schedule final examination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Complete residence requirement.</td>
<td>If applicable, before or during final semester.</td>
<td>OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Submit request to schedule final examination.</td>
<td>Must be received by OGAPS at least 10 working days before exam date. See OGAPS calendar for deadlines.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Successfully complete final examination.</td>
<td>The Report of the Final Examination Form should be submitted to OGAPS within 10 days following the exam.</td>
<td>Advisory committee and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>If required, upload one approved final copy of thesis as a single PDF file (<a href="http://ogaps.tamu.edu">http://ogaps.tamu.edu</a>) and submit signed approval form to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.</td>
<td>See OGAPS calendar for deadlines.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty and OGAPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Graduation; arrange for cap and gown.</td>
<td>For more information, visit <a href="http://graduation.tamu.edu">http://graduation.tamu.edu</a>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The online Document Processing Submission System is located on the website https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu.

2 Complete the application for degree form via the student's Howdy portal.

Please note that the thesis option does not apply to the MS in Analytics program.

Due to our cohort model, the MS in Analytics program does not accept transfer of credit or substitutions.

The MS in Analytics curriculum includes courses from the Mays Business School along with the courses from the Department of Statistics. The program is geared toward professionals with strong quantitative skills; that is, bachelor's degree holders in the sciences, mathematics, business and engineering fields. The program revolves around a work-based capstone project where students apply what they have learned in their classes to solve a business problem within their organization. The student develops a hybrid of the most sought after skills in every industry: statistics, technological expertise and business analysis.

## Program Requirements

### Program Requirements

- Student’s Advisory Committee
- Degree Plan
• Credit Requirements
• Transfer of Credit
• Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses
• Thesis Option
  • Thesis Proposal
  • Final Examination
• Non-Thesis Option

Student’s Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) concerning appointment of the chair of his or her advisory committee. With the exception of the Mays Business School non-thesis option, the Master of Science in Economics with a concentration in financial economics or financial econometrics, the Master of Science with a major in Educational Human Resource Development, HRD option, and the Master of Science in Nursing with a major in Nursing Education, the student’s advisory committee for the master’s degree will consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty, representative of the student’s fields of study and research. The chair or the co-chair of the advisory committee must be from the student’s major department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department. The outside member for students in an interdisciplinary program must have an appointment to a department different from the chair of the student’s committee.

The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The student will interview each prospective committee member to determine whether he or she is willing to serve. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student’s advisory committee. Other graduate faculty members located off campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair) with a member as the chair. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student’s research and thesis, has the responsibility for calling required meetings of the committee and for calling meetings at any other time considered desirable.

If the chair of a student’s advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty, from the student’s academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of Intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student’s advisory committee without a co-chair for us to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

If the chair of the student’s advisory committee is unavailable for an extended time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, thesis or professional paper, and is registered for courses such as 5V98, 5V99, 684, 691, 692 or 693, the student may request, in writing, that the department head appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the research proposal, the thesis and the final examination. In addition, the committee as a group and as individual members are responsible for advising the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

The committee members’ approval on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign en masse.

Degree Plan

The student’s advisory committee, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable, and no later than 90 days prior to the date of the final oral examination or thesis defense.

A student should submit the degree plan using the online Document Processing Submission System (http://ogsdpss.tamu.edu).

A student submitting a proposed degree plan for a Master of Science degree should designate on the official degree plan the appropriate program option.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the advisory committee to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Credit Requirement

A minimum of 32 semester credit hours of approved courses and research is required for the thesis option Master of Science degree with the exception of the Master of Science in Visualization, which requires 48 hours and Master of Science in Athletic Training, which requires 60 hours. A minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved coursework is required for the Non-Thesis Option.

Ordinarily the student will devote the major portion of his or her time to work in one or two closely related fields. Other work will be in supporting fields of interest.

Transfer of Credit

A student who has earned 12 hours of graduate credit in residence at Texas A&M University may be authorized to transfer courses in excess of the limits prescribed below upon the advice of the advisory committee and with the approval of the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater may be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Otherwise, the limitations stated in the following section apply. Coursework in which no
formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades
(A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted
for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of
D, F or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for thesis research
or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for coursework submitted for
transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit
hours or equated to semester credit hours. An official transcript from
the university at which the transfer coursework was taken must be sent
directly to the Office of Admissions.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for
graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the
conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar
at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward
the degree must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional
Studies.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in
computing the GPR.

Limitations on the Use of Transfer,
Extension and Certain Other Courses

Some departments may have more restrictive requirements for transfer
work. If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward
meeting credit-hour requirements for the master’s degree under the
following limitations.

1. The maximum number of credit hours which may be considered for
transfer credit is the greater of 12 hours or one-third (1/3) of the total
hours of a degree plan. The following restrictions apply:
   • Graduate and/or upper-level undergraduate courses taken
     in residence at an accredited U.S. institution, or approved
     international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be
     considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were
     completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas
     A&M University, or the student was in degree-seeking status at
     the institution at which the courses were taken; and if the courses
     would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student
     in degree-seeking status at the host institution.
   • Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for
degree plan credit.

2. The maximum number of credit hours taken in post-baccalaureate
non-degree (G6) classification at Texas A&M University which may be
considered for application to the degree plan is 12.

3. Not more than 12 hours may be used in any combination of the
following categories:
   • Not more than 8 hours in the combination of 5V98, 5V99, and 691
     (research) or 684 (Professional Internship) may be used.
   • Not more than 8 hours of 685 (Directed Studies) may be used.
   • Not more than 3 hours of 690 (Theory of Research) may be used.
   • Not more than 3 hours of 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be
     used.

4. A maximum of 2 hours of Seminar (681).
5. A maximum of 9 hours of advanced undergraduate courses (300- or
   400-level).
6. For graduate courses of three weeks’ duration or less, taken at other
   institutions, up to 1 hour of credit may be obtained for each five-day
   week of coursework. Each week of coursework must include at least
   15 contact hours.

7. Continuing education courses may not be used for graduate credit.
8. Extension courses are not acceptable for credit.
9. For the Degree of Master of Science in Medical Science, students
   with a first professional degree (MD, DDS or DVM) may take up to
   20 hours of 691 (research). For the remaining hours, a maximum
   of 2 hours can be Seminar (681) and a maximum of 3 hours can be
   Directed Studies (685).

Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by
the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Office of Graduate
and Professional Studies.

Thesis Option

An acceptable thesis is required for the Master of Science degree for a
student who selects the thesis option program. The finished work
must reflect a comprehensive understanding of the pertinent literature
and express in clear English, the problem(s) for study, the method,
significance and results of the student’s original research. Guidelines for
the preparation of the thesis are available in the Thesis Manual, which
is available online at the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
website.

After successful defense (or exemption) and approval by the student’s
advisory committee and the head of the student’s major department (or
chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), the student must submit
his/her thesis in electronic format as a single PDF file. The PDF file must
be uploaded to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website.
Additionally, a signed approval form must be brought or mailed to the
Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The PDF file and the signed
approval form are required by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting the thesis are announced each semester
or summer term in the “Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
Calendar” (see Time Limit statement). These dates also can be accessed
via the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website.

Before a student can be “cleared” by Thesis and Dissertation Services,
a processing fee must be paid through Student Business Services. This
processing fee is for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After
commencement, dissertations are digitally stored and made available
through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A thesis that is deemed unacceptable by the Office of Graduate
and Professional Studies because of excessive corrections will
be returned to the student’s department head (or chair of the
intercollegiate faculty, if applicable). The manuscript must be
resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin
again. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal
process to graduate that semester.

Thesis Proposal

For the thesis option Master of Science degree, the student must
prepare a thesis proposal for approval by the advisory committee and the
head of the major department or chair of the interdisciplinary faculty, if
applicable. This proposal must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and
Professional Studies at least 20 working days prior to the submission of
the request for the final examination.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing
research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards
and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research
should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety.
Development, HRD option, the Master of Science in Nursing with a major in Nursing Education, the Master of Science Program in the Mays Business School and the Master of Science in Economics with a concentration in financial economics or financial econometrics do not have final examination requirements. Otherwise, exemptions from final examinations are not allowed. The final exam cannot be held prior to the mid-point of the final semester if questions on the exam are based on courses in which the student is currently enrolled. If a student has completed all required degree plan coursework, the student is not required to be registered for classes in the semester the final examination is administered (unless he/she holds an assistantship).

Exam results must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must also be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Non-Thesis Option

For the non-thesis option, a thesis is not required. A final comprehensive examination is required for all non-thesis Master of Science programs except the Master of Science programs offered by the Mays Business School, the Master of Science in Economics with a concentration in financial economics or financial econometrics, the Master of Science with a major in Educational Human Resource Development, HRD option, and the Master of Science in Nursing with a major in Nursing Education. No exemptions are allowed. The requirements as to level of courses and examinations are the same as for the thesis option Master of Science degree. The final examination cannot be held prior to the mid-point of the final semester if questions on the examination are based on courses in which the student is currently enrolled.

A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 5V98, 5V99, or 691 (research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. A maximum of 4 credit hours of 684 (Professional Internship), 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the non-thesis option Master of Science degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

Additional Requirements

Additional Requirements

- Residence
- Continuous Registration
- Time Limit
- Foreign Languages
- Application for Degree

Residence

In partial fulfillment of the residence requirement for the degree of Master of Science, the student must complete 9 resident credit hours during one regular semester or one 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. Upon recommendation of the student’s advisory committee, department head or Chair of the Interdisciplinary Program, if appropriate, and with approval of the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, a student may be granted exemption from this requirement. Such
a petition, however, must be approved prior to the student’s registration for
the final 9 credit hours of required coursework.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree
may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full
time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the
student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along
with verification of his/her employment to the Office of Graduate and
Professional Studies.

See Residence Requirements.

Continuous Registration

A student in the thesis option of the Master of Science program who
has completed all coursework on his/her degree plan other than 5V98,
5V99, and 691 (research) is required to be in continuous registration until
all requirements for the degree have been completed. See Continuous
Registration Requirements.

Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within a period of seven
consecutive years for the degree to be granted. A course will be
considered valid until seven years after the end of the semester in which
it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework which is more than seven
calendar years old at the time of the final examination (oral or written) may
not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

A student who has chosen the thesis option must have the final corrected
version of the thesis cleared by the Office of Graduate and Professional
Studies no later than one year after the final examination, or approval of
a petition for exemption from the final exam, or within the seven-year time
limit, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will result in the degree not
being awarded.

Foreign Languages

No specific language requirement exists for the Master of Science degree.

Application for Degree

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation
section.