M.S. in Natural Resource Ecology & Management

Degree requirements

The original Plan of Study for the Master degree must be submitted to the Graduate College prior to the end of your second semester (not including summer semester). You should develop the plan of study with your advisor using the online plan of study application (planofstudy.okstate.edu). The online submission requires approval by the advisory committee, NREM department, and then the Graduate College for final approval. For NREM Departmental approval, our departmental requirements state that you must also submit a research proposal approved by your committee.

(Submit form http://nrem.okstate.edu/GraduateDepartmentalForms.html to Liz Condit), submit your Responsible Conduct of Research module from Institutional Review Board (IRB), and include 1 hour of NREM 5020 (Departmental Seminar: Research and Presentation) on your Plan of Study. Failure to file the Plan of Study results in being locked out of enrolling in classes. Credit for all courses on a graduate Plan of Study must have been awarded within 7 years of completion of all degree requirements.

The MS degree may be earned by one of two plans. Plan I requires a thesis and Plan II requires a report.

Credit Hour Requirements: The Plan of Study must include the following:

**Plan I must include a minimum of 30 credit hours but no more than 36 consisting of:**
1. 23 hours of approved graduate coursework for graduate credit and
2. 1 hour of seminar (NREM 5020 Seminar Research & Presentation) and
3. 6 hours of thesis or report credit hours (NREM 5000)

**Thesis requirement:** Students must write a thesis based on original research.

**Plan II must include a minimum of 32 hours consisting of:**
1. 23 hours of approved graduate coursework for graduate credit and
2. 1 hour of seminar (NREM 5020 Seminar Research & Presentation) and
3. 6 hours of thesis or report credit hours (NREM 5000)

**Report requirement:** A formal proposal is not required for the report, but the advisory committee must approve an outline of the report prior to the completion of 17 credit hours.

For MS students, EXACTLY 6 credits of NREM 5000 are to be included on your Plan of Study.

**Advisory Committee:** Students must select an advisory committee with the help of the major advisor during the first semester of study. The purpose of the advisory committee is to support your research endeavors, help you select appropriate coursework; act as mentors during your graduate program, and to ensure high quality research and Extension programs. You should plan on meeting with your committee in a formal setting at least once a year but should communicate with them on a one-to-one level throughout your program. For M.S. Students: Your advisory committee must be comprised of at least 3 members; all may be within the NREM department. While your advisor is from NREM, your other committee members may either be from within or from outside the NREM department.

**Public Seminar and Thesis or Report Defense:** Students are expected to make a public presentation of findings from the thesis research or report project. This exam is conducted at the conclusion of your program and is conducted by the advisory committee. The defense is required to be preceded by a public seminar during either the NREM Graduate Seminar course or immediately preceding the defense.

**Responsibilities:** It is the student’s responsibility to meet deadlines of both the Department and Graduate College. Students are advised to check with the Graduate College for additional requirements (e.g., changes to the Plan of Study, thesis and report format, scheduling of the final examinations) and the NREM Graduate Student Handbook. Students are expected to participate in departmental activities (e.g., weekly, lunchtime, and NREM Graduate Student Seminar).