# Master of Science Program Guide

## Year 1

The Department expects the Master of Science student to demonstrate core competency in aerospace engineering coursework and maintain a 3.0 or better GPA (TAMU Graduate Catalog). Better GPA may be required for fellowship recipients.

- **Degree Plan and Committee Formation**: Begin in 1st semester and complete in 2nd semester. Graduate faculty committee consists of: Chair plus one other AERO faculty and one faculty member from outside the department.
- **Sign up for the Aero Graduate Student Listserv and computer lab access**. See the registration button “Graduate Listserv” on the Department “Current Students” webpage (http://engineering.tamu.edu/aerospace/current-students); follow instructions for computing lab access for all students at the “About” tab.
- **Attend 5 AESS - Aerospace Engineering Special Seminars** each semester.

### Degree Plan, Committee, AESS Seminar, Begin Coursework

- TAMU degree plan requirements are available in the Graduate Student Catalog under MS description: http://catalog.tamu.edu/ use the Index, find Master of Science, click the page number; more information at the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) website or from “Graduate” tab in the howdy portal.
  - Attend Advising Office meeting prior to submitting the degree plan in 2nd semester.
  - Complete the online form at: howdy.tamu.edu, Graduate Student Tab.
  - Department requires 2 hours of AERO 681-Seminar on the degree plan. One is to be taken during the first semester.
  - Degree plan is 32 hours for a Master of Science Thesis Option (MS-THO) or 30 hours for a Master of Engineering (see the separate MENGR handout) or 36 hours for a Master of Science Non-Thesis Option (MS-NTO). (no more/no less) MENGR and MS-NTO may not take 691-Research hours. MS-THO may have a maximum of 8 hours AERO 691-Research or a combination of 12 hours of 691 and 685.
  - Make a one line item and total research hours on the degree plan.
  - Note: Additional course or research hours may be taken but should not be included in the degree plan. TAMU coursework expires after 7 years.

### Research Proposal

  - Student provides a draft of the proposal to the Committee, obtains signatures on the form and brings form and 10 pages of the proposal to Graduate Advising Office, 750 HRBB, for department approval. Next the packet is taken to OGAPS.

### Coursework

- Student completes majority of coursework for degree plan.
- Student is expected to present papers at professional conferences or publish in professional journals.

## Years 2-3

In the second/third years of the Master of Science program, the department has these expectations:

Complete approved research, compile research results and develop conclusions in a professional publication and thesis. Final oral exam (Final Defense) will be scheduled, thesis completed, thesis submitted to Committee 15 working days prior to defense, defense accomplished and results submitted to OGAPS and the department.

### Research

- **Schedule frequent meetings** with advisor to discuss your progress and receive guidance.
## Writing and Presentation Skills

- Technical writing and observation/participation in seminar help to:
  - Prepare professional quality publications
  - Prepare and make engaging professional presentations

## Academic Experience

Teaching/mentoring experience is available to Master of Science students and can be enhanced for those definitely interested in an academic career. Students should also discuss the possibility of continuing to the PHD with their Committee Chair. A Letter of Intent to Continue to a Second Degree may be submitted in final semester (replaces full application process of a new student).

## Thesis

- Observe deadlines for OGAPS, Thesis Office and Department, obtain required forms, including document template, copyright form and publication release form and read other helpful information.

**Department requirement:** Provide a substantially complete document to your Committee at least 15 days prior to Final Defense.

## Final Defense or Final Oral Exam

- Complete (type the form) and download the Request and Announcement of the Final Examination from the OGAPS website: [http://ogs.tamu.edu/incoming-students/student-forms-and-information/](http://ogs.tamu.edu/incoming-students/student-forms-and-information/).
- Contact your committee and arrange a date that all can attend your defense, complete the form, bring to the AERO Graduate Advising Office for department approval. Afterwards, take it to OGAPS (must be approved before defense).
- Request department defense announcement template, complete and return 2 weeks prior to defense so the department can announce the defense.
- A few days before the defense, come to the Graduate Advising Office to pick up the result of the exam report form. The Committee will complete the form and sign at the defense.
- After signatures, the result form is returned to the Graduate Advising Office for approval and a copy is made. The form is returned to the student to take the form to OGAPS.

## Graduation

Apply to graduate during the first week of your final semester at: [http://graduation.tamu.edu/](http://graduation.tamu.edu/). Order hood, cap and gown if you will attend graduation. Let your Chair know that you wish to be hooded by him or her.

## Exit Interview Form

Complete and return the **Exit Interview Form** to the Graduate Advising Office, 750 HRBB.

## Reception & Graduation

Attend the **AERO Graduation Celebration** hosted in Aerospace Engineering; invite family and friends. Congratulations!