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.

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

For **TAMU degree plan requirements** in the Graduate Student Catalog, go to: http://catalog.tamu.edu/ and use search function to select Master of Science. Or from the howdy portal (https://howdy.tamu.edu), select the Graduate Student Tab, then Degree Plan Submission System and Information (or Degree Requirements for catalog requirements checklist).

- **Department requires 2 hours of AERO 681-Seminar** on the degree plan; take one during the first semester in Master of Science program. (Seminar only offered fall and spring terms.)
- Degree plan will be **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). Complete the degree plan online at: https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu or from the link on the Graduate Tab in howdy. MS-NTO and MENGR may not include 691-Research hours. MS-THO may list a maximum of 8 hours AERO 691-Research or a combination of 12 hours of 691 and 685 (Directed Studies).
- Research hours are listed as a total on one line in the plan.

Note: Additional course or research hours may be taken but do not include in the degree plan. TAMU has limits on how many additional hours beyond 99 can be used without incurring nonresident tuition rates. MS coursework expires after 7 years.

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### Research Proposal


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

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### Coursework

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

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### 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.
## Years 2-3 (continued)

### 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://ogaps.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students](http://ogaps.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students).
- 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 defense can be announced.
- A few days before the defense, your professor will 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, professor returns the result form to the Graduate Advising Office for approval and a copy is made. The form is forwarded to OGAPS.
- Upload the final pdf version of thesis to the Thesis Office and submit the signed approval page (download from [http://thesis.tamu.edu/](http://thesis.tamu.edu/) ) and copyright release form. Order **library-bound hard copy** for department, deliver or mail to 750C HRBB.

### 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!