



## GUIDE FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO M.S. DEGREE PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

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### I. FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY GRADUATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students should consult the Academic Policies and Regulations section in the University Catalog (<http://wise.fau.edu/registrar/universitycatalog/welcome.php>) for University-wide policies, and the Graduate College's Master's Degree Forms and Deadlines website (<http://www.fau.edu/graduate/>). The following regulations apply specifically to the Biomedical Science program.

### II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

M.S. degrees at FAU require at least 30 semester credits beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students must maintain a program GPA of 3.0 as well as a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to remain a student in good standing and meet degree requirements. The following are requirements for the M.S. degrees with Thesis and Non-Thesis options in Biomedical Science.

#### ***Thesis Option***

1. Thirty credits of coursework with the following requirements:
  - A minimum of 15 credits of Biomedical Science course work.
    - 2 credits (2 semesters, 1 credit per semester) in Biomedical Science graduate seminar courses will constitute the core courses.
    - The remaining 13 credits will be made up of Biomedical Science courses that support the student's research plan.
  - The elective courses must be 5000, 6000, or 7000 level courses in biomedical science, biology, chemistry, or approved cognates.
  - Up to 6 credits can be obtained from specific upper division 4000-level courses, but at least one-half of the total credits must be designated as 6000-level courses.
  - A minimum of 3 Thesis-Related Research credits are required for graduation. Students may take up to 6 TRR credits to count towards graduation requirements. The TRR credits must be taken during the first year of study and cannot be counted towards a non-thesis M.S. degree.
  - A minimum of 6 credits of master's thesis are required for graduation. Students may take up to 12 credits of master's thesis.
  - Courses designated as proficiency or remedial may not be used to satisfy the course requirement.
2. Thesis students are required to make a formal research proposal to their committees within their first year prior to enrollment in Thesis credits (Admission to Thesis Candidacy). Thesis Proposal Guidelines and the Admission to Thesis Candidacy form can be found on the program's Student Services page.

3. Upon completion of the research, Thesis students must make a formal thesis presentation and defense in the semester they plan to graduate.
  - The defense must be completed at least one week before the university's thesis submission deadline.
  - Thesis documents must be submitted to committee members two weeks before the scheduled defense.
  - Refer to the FAU Requirements and [Guidelines for Graduate Thesis and Dissertations](#) for specific instructions on how to prepare, format and publish your thesis, as well as how to submit it to the Graduate College.

Students in good standing can apply to transfer from the M.S. program to the Integrative Biology Ph.D. program. If this transfer is approved, up to 30 credits from their M.S. studies can count towards the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

### ***Non-Thesis Option***

1. Thirty credits of course work with the following requirements:
  - A minimum of 15 credits of Biomedical Science course work.
  - The elective courses must be 5000, 6000, or 7000 level courses in biomedical science, biology, chemistry, or approved cognates. The student's major advisor or advisory committee must approve all elective courses.
  - Up to 6 credits can be obtained from specific upper division 4000-level courses, but at least one-half of the total credits must be designated as 6000-level courses.
  - A maximum of 6 DIS credits can count towards the graduation requirements.
  - A maximum of 2 Graduate Seminar credits can count towards the graduation requirements.
  - Courses designated as proficiency or remedial may not be used to satisfy the course requirement.
2. Exit Examination
  - With advice from your advisor, select three faculty to set questions for your Exit Examinations.
  - Questions should be designed so that they can be answered in the form of a short essay a minimum of 2 pages (single spaced) in length. Students have one week from the time they receive the question to submit their answer.
  - If a student fails to provide a satisfactory answer to a question in an Exit Examination, the student is allowed one additional opportunity to answer an alternative question from a different faculty member.
  - The Exit Exams are completed during the student's final semester of study.

**Thesis Track Program of Courses**  
**Non-thesis Track Program of Courses**

## **III. SCHEDULE**

The following is a sample timeline to assist students in making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree. Each student's progress to completion of degree requirements will be unique and is usually dependent on the length of time needed to complete courses and other preliminary requirements and the thesis. Students should try to complete course requirements, apart from thesis credits, within two years of matriculation.

## **Year 1**

- All students should discuss a program of courses with their advisor in the first semester. Elective courses should be chosen to strengthen your background in your selected field of study.
- All students should file their Plan of Study form in their second semester.
- Thesis students:
  - Choose your Thesis Committee in consultation with your advisor.
    - A minimum of three members (including your advisor) two of whom must be members of the Biomedical Science Graduate Faculty.
  - Enroll in Thesis-related Research and begin preliminary research.
  - Complete your Admission to Thesis Candidacy at the end of your first year.

## **Year 2**

- Non-thesis students:
  - Complete coursework.
  - Complete three exit examinations (in your final semester).
- Thesis students:
  - Continue preliminary research.
  - Complete courses, with the exception of Thesis PCB 6971.
  - Generally in semester two of Year 2, plan to write, present and successfully defend your thesis.

## **Year 3 (if necessary)**

- Submit final copies of your thesis to the Office of Graduate Studies