

Biology Thesis Masters (MSA) Program Timeline

MSA Coursework requirement (min 30 credit hours):

1. Three 770 seminar credits
2. 12 credits in 600-700 level courses
3. 16 credits in regular (non research or residency) courses
4. 16 credits in BIO prefix courses
5. Up to 14 credits of BIO 795

Year One

First Semester

- Take BIO 770 Seminar in BIO: Biology Graduate Student Orientation (2 credits) & other courses for a total of at least 9 credit hours.
- Take core and topical courses as appropriate in consultation with your MSA thesis advisor.
- Take variable credit BIO 795 Research Credit to fulfill 9 credit minimum.

Second Semester

- Your major professor and at least two additional advisory committee members should be formally appointed by the Graduate School during your first year in the program. This requires completion of the "Advisory Committee Request" form.
- Schedule first committee meeting. With the limited duration of the MS Program, it is best to engage your committee early.
- Continue to be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours.

Helpful Tips....

- Map out important coursework early, as not all classes are offered every year.
- Attend Departmental Seminars.
- Prepare for unpaid time in the summer, start an allotment to save money for 12 weeks of summer.

Year Two

First Semester

- Schedule first committee meeting if you didn't do so during Year 1
- Full-time course load (including BIO 795). Review [MSA course requirements](#) to be sure you are on track to complete them in the desired time.

Second Semester

- Meet with your committee at least once each year.
- Continue to be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours until all required coursework is completed. Afterward, register for BIO 748 each semester for 0 credits.

Helpful Tips....

- Attend Departmental Seminars.
- Prepare for unpaid time in the summer, start an allotment to save money for 12 weeks of summer.
- Begin making post-graduation plans. Many paths require 6-12 months preparation in advance.

Year 3 (if necessary)

- Meet with your committee at least once each year.
- Attend Departmental Seminars.
- If all other coursework is completed, enroll in BIO 748 (0 hrs) each semester.

Thesis Research and Preparing for your Final Defense:

- Apply for degree via myUK by the University's deadline (normally half way through the semester).
- Prepare for your exit exam. Discuss with committee whether you will give a public or private seminar.
- At least 2 weeks before exam: [Schedule exam with the Graduate School](#) after committee approves thesis.
- At least 2 weeks before the exam: send the finalized version of the thesis to your committee.
- [Submit the final copy of your thesis](#) to the Graduate School within 60 days of the exam.

