

Plant Pathology Graduate Student Programs – A Summary

MASTERS PROGRAM

Time – **Two years** (4 semesters) of full GSSP provided by the Graduate School. Advisory committee and Plan of Work (POW) developed before the beginning of the 3rd semester (completion of 18 class hours). 1) outline thesis project with major advisor; 2) discuss potential committee members with major advisor based upon thesis project, major advisor then submits names to DGP and final approval of the advisory committee membership is made by Department Head. 3) develop POW with major advisor and committee -- **POW should be submitted for DGP approval by the end of the 2nd semester.**

Membership of advisory committee – minimum of 3 members of the graduate faculty.

Plan of Work (POW) and core curriculum – minimum of **30 credit hours** for degree.

Proposal seminar: Optional, but no later than end of 2nd semester.

Master's Symposium – fall semester for all MS students who are in at least their 2nd semester and subsequent fall semesters, register for 1 credit hour of PP601 (seminar).

Teaching – assist in one (1) course – can receive credit by registering for PP685 (supervised teaching).

Final Exam – exit seminar and thesis defense (not in POW).

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Time – **Four years** (8 semesters) with an incoming MS, and **five years** (10 semesters) without an incoming MS, of full GSSP provided by the Graduate School. Advisory committee and Plan of Work (POW) developed before the beginning of the 3rd semester (completion of 18 class hours). 1) outline thesis project with major advisor; 2) discuss potential committee members with major advisor based upon thesis project, major advisor then submits names to DGP and final approval of the advisory committee membership is made by Department Head. 3) develop POW with major advisor and committee -- **POW should be submitted for DGP approval before the beginning of the 3rd semester.**

Membership of advisory committee – minimum of 4 members of the graduate faculty (chair or vice-chair of committee must have full graduate faculty status).

Plan of Work (POW) – the POW includes a tentative dissertation research title, committee members, and proposed courses. The POW must include **72 credit hours**, 18 of which can come from a previous masters program. The preliminary POW is developed in discussions with the major advisor. This plan should then be discussed with the Advisory Committee at the first meeting and should be submitted by the end of the 2nd semester. At this meeting there also should be a general discussion of the proposed research topic.

Students should have completed everything listed on their POW by the end of their 6th (entering with MS) or 8th semester (entering without MS).

Doctoral dissertation proposal seminar – no later than 3rd semester, presented to advisory committee and other students & faculty (not part of the Departmental seminar series). Student registers for 1 credit hour of PP801 (seminar).

Exams – Doctoral preliminary written and oral examinations should be conducted within the academic year immediately following the second academic year (4 semesters) of PhD study.

PhD Symposium – One (30-minute) presentation (update seminar) in Spring semester no sooner than the 6th semester of enrollment (more than 50% of research completed). Register for 1 credit hour of PP801 (seminar).

Teaching - Assist in two courses, at least one course with a lab – can receive credit by registering for PP885 (supervised teaching).

Final Exam – Dissertation seminar and defense. Do not include this seminar on POW.

MASTERS AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Thesis/dissertation submission – All theses/dissertations are submitted electronically. Attend a Graduate School Workshop semester prior to expected submission. Paper copy is required for the Departmental Library and possibly for Committee Members. Guidelines are at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/etd/>

Departmental seminar attendance – Students are expected to attend the Monday afternoon (4-5pm) seminar unless there is a class conflict.

Graduate Student Support Plan (GSSP) - <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/support-plan/docs/gssphdbk.pdf>. Students that receive a minimum of \$8,000 stipend as assistantship or fellowship are automatically entitled to coverage under GSSP. GSSP provides tuition and health insurance for these eligible students as long as they are registered full-time (**9 credit hours/semester** - refer to GSSP Pocket Chart provided for schedule of minimum GSSP credit-hour requirements per program). **Research credits (PP 695/895) may be used to bring total hours/semester to minimum GSSP required levels.**

Continuous enrollment – Once the graduate program starts, students must enroll each subsequent Fall and Spring semester. Summer registration is NOT required, with no loss of Health Insurance coverage under GSSP (however, unregistered students are required to pay a special fee to use the Student Health Center). The GSSP does NOT cover tuition for Summer sessions. Upon request, Summer registration can be completed with approval from the major advisor and DGP.

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