

Master's on the way to PhD

You can arrange to receive your Masters' degree on your way to your PhD with minimal extra work, and with relatively few additional steps. After reviewing these basic steps, you can find more detail in the Graduate Handbook, by talking to your advisor and by consulting with the Graduate School. It is important to do all three in order to ensure that you are following proper protocol for both the Department and the University.

Step 1: Go to <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/forms> and select "Change of Degree/Major/Certificate" under "Current Student Forms."

Fill out this form accordingly and follow up with any necessary signatures.

Step 2: Decide what kind of Masters' you would like to pursue.

In general, the Masters' program includes a total of 45 credits, nine of which can be from blanket-number courses. There are two types of Masters' degrees that you can pursue, including Masters' with thesis and Masters' with research. Some of the major differences are below.

- Masters' with research project must have 3 to 6 credits of CH 501 and CH 505, which should be labeled "in lieu of thesis," as well as at least 33 credits of regular (non-blanket) courses. The student should write a report that would usually be less than 25 pages, and would be reviewed only by his or her advisor.
- Masters' with thesis must have 6 to 12 credits of thesis research (CH 503) and at least 27 credits of regular (non-blanket) courses. The student should write a thesis that would usually range from 75 to 100 pages, and which would be reviewed by his or her committee members.

Step 3: Scheduling

You can schedule your Final Oral Defense for your Masters' degree on the same day as your Preliminary Oral Exam for your PhD.