

## Guidelines for pursuing a concurrent MS degree en route to PhD

Obtaining an MS degree in Chemistry en route to a PhD degree in Chemistry at OSU is easy to achieve from a procedural standpoint. For some students it may require taking one or two additional classes, but many students will already have enough classes in their PhD programs to also satisfy the requirements for an MS degree.

To pursue this option, you must file a program of study for the kind of MS degree of interest (either non-thesis or thesis), in addition to having a PhD program of study on file, and make the Graduate School aware that MS and PhD degrees are being pursued concurrently. Below are some notes about requirements for MS degrees and an example program of study for a non-thesis MS degree is attached. Before going ahead, please talk to your advisor about the best option for you, and consult with the Graduate School for any further guidance.

**MS program of study requirements:** <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/forms/-program>  
 fillable Word (.docx) MS program of study form (with full guidelines on p. 3): [\[LINK\]](#)

Key features of a **non-thesis MS** degree program (see p.3 of above form for full details):

- 45 credit hours are required, 9 of which may be blanket numbers *excluding the capstone*
- 3-6 credit hours of CH501-Research, or similar (e.g, CH505) are required for the capstone
- the minimum number of non-blanket credit hours allowable is therefore 30 credits
- thesis credit hours (503 or 603) are not admissible on a non-thesis MS program of study
- non-thesis MS graduate committees number only three faculty members (one of whom must be your advisor), a graduate council representative (GCR) is NOT required
- the format for the final MS oral exam is flexible and determined by your advisor, it can be scheduled to occur on the same day as a PhD candidacy exam ('oral prelim') but it is a distinct examination and should be scheduled for a different time of day (e.g., 2 hours after the oral prelim)

Key features of a **thesis MS** degree program (see p.3 of above form for full details):

- 45 credit hours are required, 9 of which may be blanket numbers *excluding the capstone*
- 6-12 credit hours of CH503 - Thesis are required for the capstone (CH603 may be taken in lieu of CH503)
- the minimum number of non-blanket credit hours allowable is therefore 24; however, divisional academic programs within Chemistry typically call for at least 27 credit hours
- thesis MS graduate committees number four faculty members (one of whom must be your advisor), a graduate council representative (GCR) IS required
- the MS thesis must comply with Graduate School regulations and the standards expected by the Department of Chemistry and your advisor/division. It is allowable for the thesis defense to be scheduled on the same day as a PhD candidacy exam ('oral prelim'); however, it is a distinct examination and it might not be feasible to hold both on the same day.

(Note: the MS thesis defense has the usual public lecture / Q&A component; no part of the PhD candidacy exam is open to the public)